

Title: Gentrification in the Wake of Natural Disaster

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My research looks at the institutional response to natural disasters both domestic and abroad as well as the increasing frequency of natural disasters in the world. The research uncovers some of the ways that governments and private entities have responded to disaster events and whether those regions have continued the displacement of its peoples in perpetuity by using existing articles and data. Primarily, the research focuses on predatory capitalism, and how neo-liberal governments work with private entities to gentrify regions and make them profitable for a select few. Using the sociological theories of Emile Durkheim's theory of functionalism and Karl Marx' theory of class conflict, gentrification as a response to natural disasters can be broken down into who benefits as well as the necessity of gentrification for communities as a means of revitalization after their homes and economies are ravaged by natural disaster. Lastly, older examples of natural disaster recovery such as Hurricane Katrina can be developed and used as a pattern to predict the outcome of new disasters such as Hurricanes Irma and Maria depending on the racial composition of a region, its geographical location and the socioeconomic status of its people. My research concludes that gentrification is likely to happen in the event of a natural disaster, and that its displaced people are not likely to return to their homes after the regions have been rehabilitated.

References

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