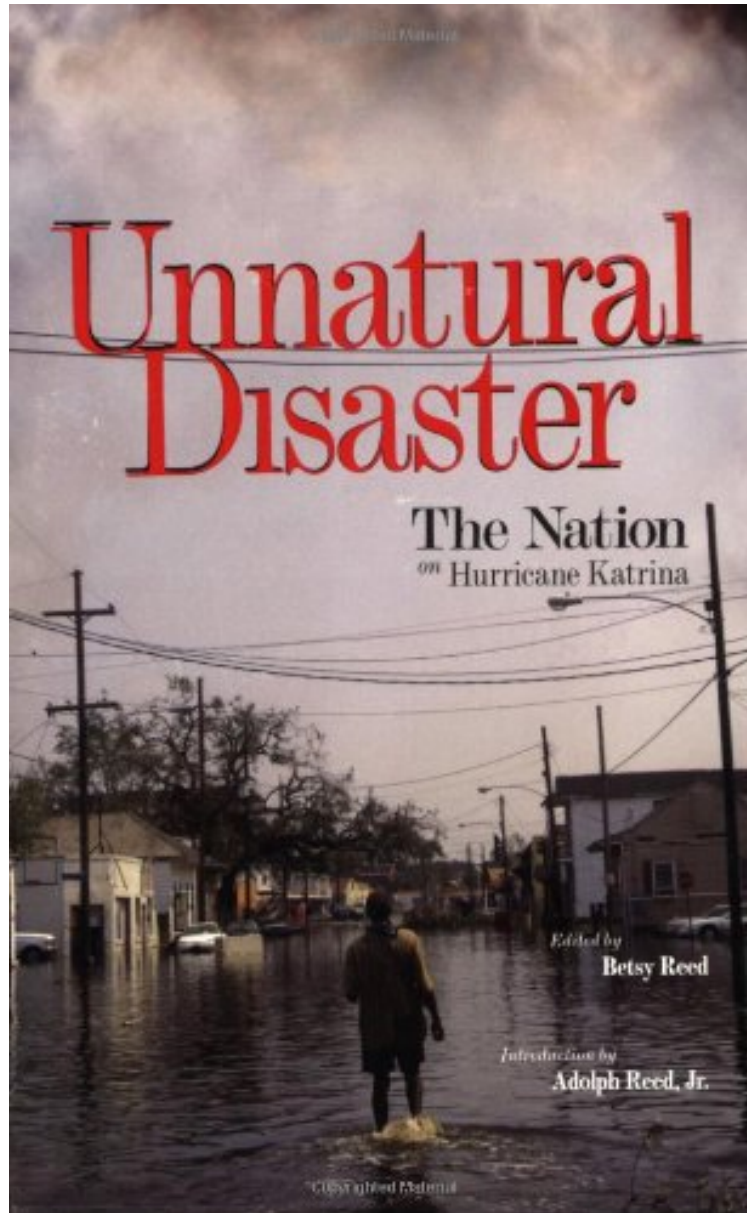


Unnatural Disaster: The Nation on Hurricane Katrina

From Nation Books

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From Nation Books : Unnatural Disaster: The Nation on Hurricane Katrina before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unnatural Disaster: The Nation on Hurricane Katrina:

2 of 15 people found the following review helpful. That dayBy CustomerThe hurricane and flood occurred on August 29, 2005 NOT the 31st. Am anxious to read and review this book as I live in New Orleans and was here to experience

this country's worst manmade disaster. And we are still living it.

Hurricane Katrina was a natural disaster of staggering proportions. The vicious winds and surging seas that lashed the Gulf Coast on August 31, 2005, paralyzed New Orleans and left a scene of utter devastation in their wake. But when the winds and waves abated, they revealed an unnatural disaster a social catastrophe directly caused by the government's callous indifference to the needs of the region's most vulnerable residents. This pattern of near-criminal government neglect did not begin with its response to Katrina, but the hurricane did lay bare its extraordinary depth and horrifying consequences, exposing how race and class can spell life or death in contemporary America. In the months that followed, *The Nation* published a series of articles and editorials documenting the gross negligence of the Bush administration and the heroic effort of community organizers and ordinary citizens to put their city back together again, as well as the attempts of political progressives to push for a 'New Deal.' *Unnatural Disaster* includes riveting on-the-scene reporting, columns, blogs, essays and articles from Mike Davis and Anthony Fontenot, Naomi Klein, Patricia Williams, Jeremy Scahill, Eric Alterman, Adolph Reed, Jr., Eric Foner, Curtis Wilkie, Billy Sothern, among many others.

From Publishers Weekly Following Hurricane Katrina, the leftist *Nation* published a slew of articles and editorials that criticized the Bush administration and the mainstream media, identified with victims and praised the extraordinary efforts of relief workers and ordinary New Orleanians. Patricia J. Williams relates how an African-American MBA candidate noted on the radio how "jarring" it was to hear her neighborhood, the Ninth Ward, described repeatedly in the media as desperate and impoverished; Eric Alterman congratulates the "infamous media whores of cable news" for demonstrating how the relief efforts were affected by race and class. One of the best pieces, by Billy Sothern, tells the harrowing plight of the city's 8,000 prisoners, many of whom fled a flooded prison complex only to be rounded up and left shackled in the sun without water for two days, then parceled out to facilities where they were brutalized by their jailers. Some contributions feel dated; there's considerable overlap among them; and *Nation* executive editor Reed is probably preaching to the converted. Yet there are many eye-opening, worthy nuggets that rightly point the finger at what's wrong with our domestic disaster policy. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

About the Author Edited by Betsy Reed Betsy Reed is the executive editor of *The Nation*, where she has worked since 1998. She edited the anthology *Nothing Sacred: Women Respond to Religious Fundamentalism and Terror*, published by Nation Books in 2003; and co-edited the anthology *Homo Economics: Capitalism, Community and Lesbian Gay Life*, published by Routledge in 1997. She edits articles and speaks frequently on such subjects as women, labor, community organizing, education, civil rights and domestic politics. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.