

NEW ORLEANS UNDERWATER

post hurricane katrina flooding in 2005

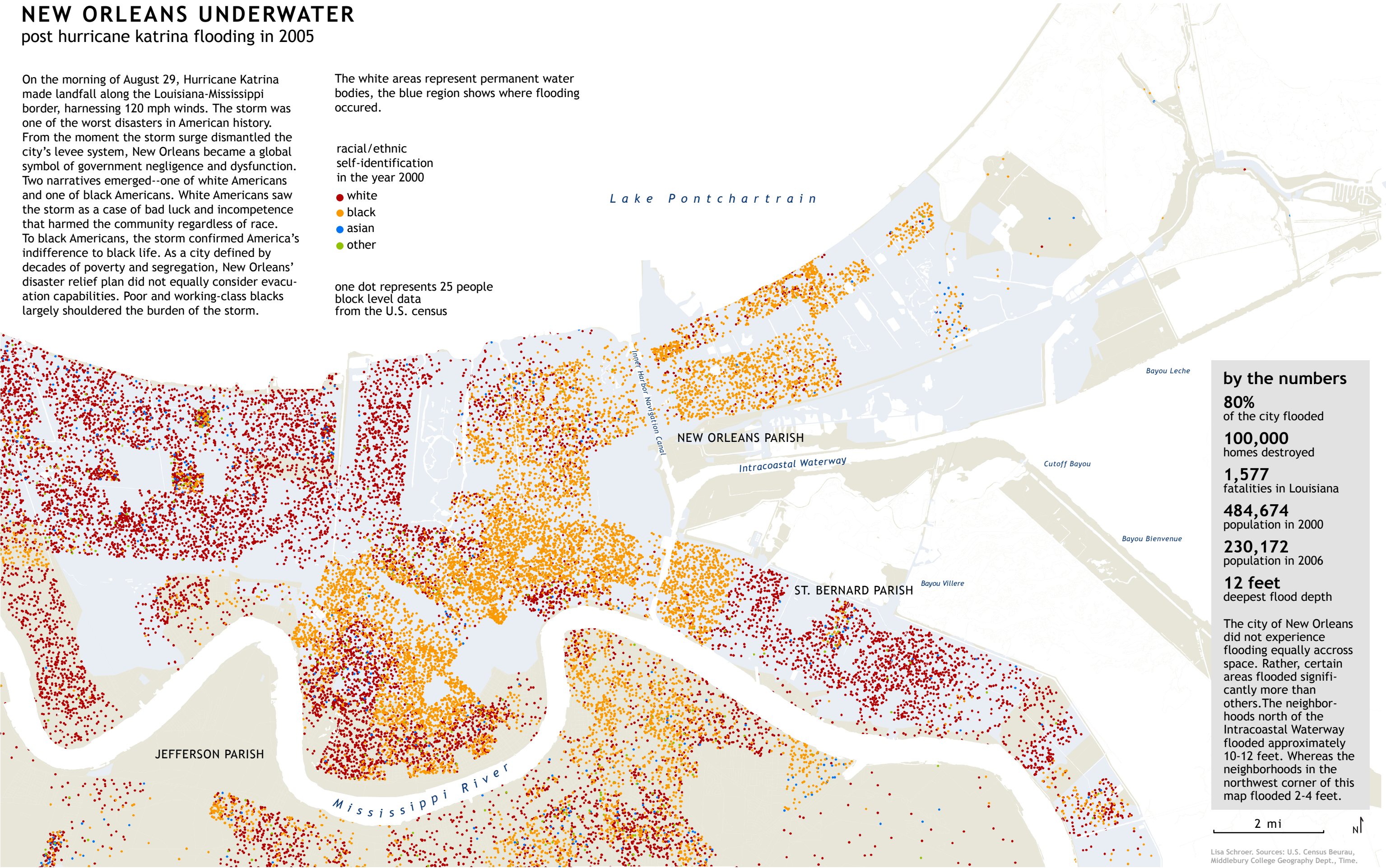
On the morning of August 29, Hurricane Katrina made landfall along the Louisiana-Mississippi border, harnessing 120 mph winds. The storm was one of the worst disasters in American history. From the moment the storm surge dismantled the city's levee system, New Orleans became a global symbol of government negligence and dysfunction. Two narratives emerged--one of white Americans and one of black Americans. White Americans saw the storm as a case of bad luck and incompetence that harmed the community regardless of race. To black Americans, the storm confirmed America's indifference to black life. As a city defined by decades of poverty and segregation, New Orleans' disaster relief plan did not equally consider evacuation capabilities. Poor and working-class blacks largely shouldered the burden of the storm.

The white areas represent permanent water bodies, the blue region shows where flooding occurred.

racial/ethnic self-identification in the year 2000

- white
- black
- asian
- other

one dot represents 25 people
block level data from the U.S. census



by the numbers

- 80% of the city flooded
- 100,000 homes destroyed
- 1,577 fatalities in Louisiana
- 484,674 population in 2000
- 230,172 population in 2006
- 12 feet deepest flood depth

The city of New Orleans did not experience flooding equally accross space. Rather, certain areas flooded significantly more than others. The neighborhoods north of the Intracoastal Waterway flooded approximately 10-12 feet. Whereas the neighborhoods in the northwest corner of this map flooded 2-4 feet.