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Culture of Fear & Victimism

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Katrina stressed what is wrong with our society. We are kept in a permanent state of fear fueled by agenda driven politicians from all sides, special interest groups such as the pharmaceutical industry, and media and lawyers that promote a status of defenseless but entitled victims. People in the Southern states had ample warning of the oncoming hurricane and were told to leave. City officials in New Orleans failed to provide transportation, security or food to those who decided to stay. State officials, in denial, failed to implement good contingency plans (if any) to cope with a long predicted catastrophe. The junk media created and fueled anger and divisive racial issues while inventing a casualty count in the tens of thousand and a possible surge of West Nile virus and other viral epidemics. The weapons of mass deception (WMD) are still being used now that all the shortcomings and the lies have been exposed and the whole thing is still affecting the public, nationwide and internationally. In fact, Katrina has been directly responsible for fewer than a thousand deaths and major physical destructions in three states. New Orleans, the focus of the media and the heart of the racial issue, has fallen victim to inadequate flood protection and levee collapse. The flooding of New Orleans was already a well-documented disaster waiting to happen before Katrina's extra water rushed against frail and aging levees that were surrounding low-income housing. Still the blame game from irresponsible and unaccountable officials and organizations goes on because, at the end of the day, nobody wants to be held responsible for what has happened. But what really happened?

-A major hurricane, like many before, hit states that are prone to hurricanes but decided to maintain their long lasting "head in the sand" policy hoping that this time, like many times before, the storm will just go away. Florida, as an example, goes through them 4 to 5 times a year without a fuss, looting, pan handling, blame gaming or any Katrina-like media attention.

-Ample warning was provided and people were asked to leave. Some decided to stay despite the odds, a fair choice almost everywhere but in New Orleans where the old levees gave up.

-City officials from New Orleans loudly blamed FEMA to hide their own shortcomings while refusing to give food and water to the refugees in the Superdome, or to use school buses for evacuations.

-State officials in Louisiana went around screaming at upper echelons for more buses while rows of neatly parked unused school buses were being flooded in New Orleans. They complained FEMA was not there quickly enough and now complain because FEMA over estimated the needs and is "wasting" big sums of needed money in unused trucks or shelters. Can FEMA win?

-The National Guard, in Louisiana again, failed to alert all its members and to protect its own vehicles from the rising waters.

-Law enforcement agencies, encore in Louisiana, failed to hold some sort of cohesion during the crisis, and to protect the people from various despicable crimes, a real disgrace

for the nation. New Orleans police officers fled the scene in patrol cars or were caught looting on TV.

-Hospitals, nursing homes and neighbors or families failed to help and evacuate the most vulnerable among them: the elderly and the ill.

-The media, endorsed race as an issue, largely backed up by the voices of African American leaders, hinting that low income blacks were left to die in the path of the storm and that federal help was voluntarily delayed by some racist calculations. Soon, to confirm racism, numbers are going to show that 90% of the victims were minorities, conveniently omitting that African Americans make up the majority of these states.

-Income became the other issue and the media and politicians were quick to point out the low income and rampant poverty of the victims... after having ignored these conditions for decades! Still, 11.5% of the low income from New Orleans are white and nobody has really stood up for them yet.

-The mayor of New Orleans, maybe through voodoo, was able to make up a casualty count of 10,000+. This figure was rapidly echoed by irresponsible national and international media for about a week... until the official count barely climbed to the thousands and casualties became a non-issue.

-2 days after the storm and 6 feet in water, citizen reporters (a new concept... no wonder the press is so bad!) started to convey their limited perception of the situation, to report a multitude of floating corpses, to describe despair and abandon, and tell horrible tales of non-assistance or compassionate murder. The media and politicians, again, provided a large forum to these testimonies and following their partisan agenda, quickly put all the blame on the slow response of the federal entities. After all, if the "ambulance chasers" and "jackals" of the media were able to immediately bring us live the horror stories of the destroyed areas, there was no excuse for the US governmental agencies not to be there. But again, it might be easier to report live mayhem, chaos, or a fire, than to actually try to put an end to it!

-The media and the public figures (whatever it means, people like Oprah!) focused mainly on New Orleans. The city was actually a victim of its failing levees, poor flood control, and failing services, but it displayed many unique exciting features other places did not have despite more serious damages from Katrina. The looting, the murders, the rapes, the snipers, the arson, the misery of the overcrowded Superdome, the race and income issues were more "marketable" for the ten o'clock news than flattened but evacuated cities of Mississippi.

-Unable to bring upon us the fear of SARS or Mad Cow Disease, Bin Laden or the flu pandemics, and betrayed by a low casualty count, the media had to resort to the threat of a West Nile virus outbreak, the hovering calamity of cholera, the unavoidable plague that would be soon followed by fire from the sky, locusts and millions of deaths. Actually, the only thing the media does is to instill fear and make us happy to be anywhere but where they are spinning live events.

The list could go on but the main point is that when people are scared and "victimized" (turned into victims), they look up for higher "entities" to protect them, take care of their every need, pamper them and reassure them.

We live in a society where personal responsibility has given way to victimization and entitlement. The fear that is daily instilled in us by our elected officials and media apparatus has long convinced us that we are in danger (conservative conspiracy, loss of our freedoms, SARS, Mad Cow, TB, West Nile, asbestos, global warming, terrorism, war with North Korea, sex predators, drive-by-shooting, fire from the sky, locusts...). Superficial instantly spun news, agenda driven media, politicians and celebrities, shocking images, and horrific testimonies keep us in this state of dependency, of lethargic acceptance of whatever our "leadership" and "opinion makers" spoon-feed us. Gone is the critical thinking! Gone is logic! We now assume that somebody else is in charge of standing for us, and if it does not work to our liking, that this somebody owes us tons of love, care and money.

Today, the same people that refused to evacuate Katrina's path, cry racism, complain that they were abandoned and hold their hands out. Should they not take a low profile, pick up a bucket and do some work to deserve what is given to them? Are they victims, people who are harmed by or made to suffer from an act, circumstance, agency, or condition (victims of war) or are they their own victims: persons who suffer injury, loss, or death as a result of a voluntary undertaking?

Anyway! Who cares anymore? Three weeks later, the whole thing totally deflated, fell out of the front pages while the drooling media switched to a promising "Ophelia". In the meantime, close to a thousand deaths later, a Katrina-desensitized America is also closing the doors after having been kept on the edge for too long. After all, how much of this roller coaster and over inflated real time spun "reality" news can one handle!

Next, please!