

A satellite image of a large, swirling cyclone over the ocean, with a prominent eye and spiral cloud bands. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

Cyclone Nargis **vs Hurricane Katrina**

Jasmine, Stephanie, Rene,
Michael, Manny

Characterization: Katrina

- Hurricane Katrina slammed into the U.S. Gulf Coast on [Aug. 29](#), 2005
- The third most destructive storm to strike the United States
- Maximum winds --> stretched to 25 to 30 nautical miles
- Hurricane force winds --> extended to at least 75 nautical miles to the east from the center.
- with winds up to 175 miles per hour.
- With a storm surge of 20 feet (6 meters high)
- An estimated 80 percent of New Orleans was under water, up to 20 feet deep in places.

Characterization: Katrina

- Over 1800 people lost their lives, nearly 750 were reported missing.
- Affected over 15 million people in different factors; economy, evacuations
- 20% of its 500,000 citizens were trapped without power, food or drinking water.
- Caused 81 billion in property damages, but estimated that total economic impact exceeded 150 billion.

Characterization: Katrina

| Characteristic | Scale (1-5) |
|---|--|
| Frequency (Frequent - Rare) | 3 Once every 4 years |
| Duration (Long - Short) | 3-4 Lasted for 8 days, however damage lasted longer |
| Areal Extent (Widespread - Limited) | 3 Affected several states such as Louisiana and New Orleans |
| Speed of Onset (Slow - Fast) | 2 Rains for several days and takes a few days to dissipate |
| Spatial Dispersion (Diffuse - Concentrated) | 2-3 New Orleans was affected badly but it was somewhat diffuse. |
| Regularity (Regular - Random) | 3-4 Atlantic Hurricanes often occur, however not Category 5 hurricanes. |

Characterization: Nargis

- On 2 May, 2008, Cyclone Nargis made landfall in Myanmar, terrorising the country for 2 days.
- 7th-8th deadliest cyclone of all time
- Estimated 84,500 were killed and 53,800 are reported missing
- UN estimates up to 2.4 million people have been affected
- In the town of Bogale alone, 80 thousand people lost their lives
- Primarily affected Ayeyarwadi Region (River Delta= low land and constantly saturated soil)
- Lack of openness and the confiscation of aid to individuals contributed higher casualty rate

Characterization: Nargis

| Characteristic | Scale (1-5) |
|---|---|
| Frequency (Frequent - Rare) | 3 History shows previous Category 4 hurricanes in Burma |
| Duration (Long - Short) | 3-4 1 week. April 27th to May 3rd. |
| Areal Extent (Widespread - Limited) | 3 Mostly affected Burma; Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka too. |
| Speed of Onset (Slow - Fast) | 2 Rains for days and takes a few days to dissipate |
| Spatial Dispersion (Diffuse - Concentrated) | 3-4 Burma was strongly affected (strong concentration especially in south) |
| Regularity (Regular - Random) | 2 Category 4 in past. Next to Indian Ocean (warmest ocean) |

Hurricane Katrina

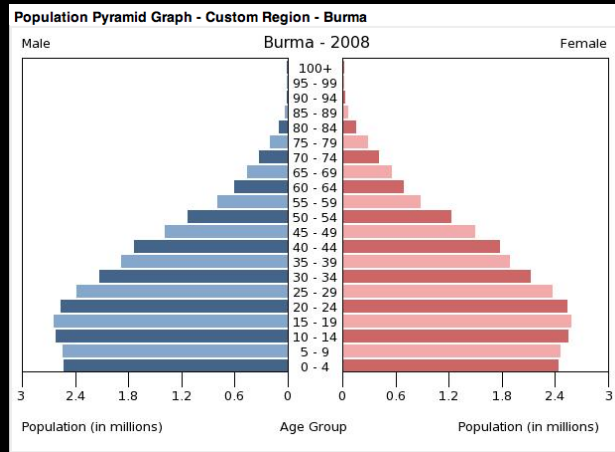
- Government (Democracy)
 - Bottom to top system. Openly accepted aid (not a closed government that restricted access unlike Burma)
- The economic disparity in New Orleans led to the poorer population being much more vulnerable to the Hurricane than the richer population
- More urbanized than Burma, better form of infrastructure and shelter.
- High HDI

Cyclone Nargis

- Government (Military Junta)
 - After Cyclone Nargis, Burmese government actually limited/restricted aid in the areas affected
 - Burmese government confiscated aid and used it for their own military
- Lack of proper facilities and infrastructure led to problems in disaster response
- Individuals affected were poor compared to those affected by Katrina
- Low HDI
- Gender bias
 - Statistics on women are likely to be silenced

2008 Burma GDP - per capita
(PPP): \$1,817

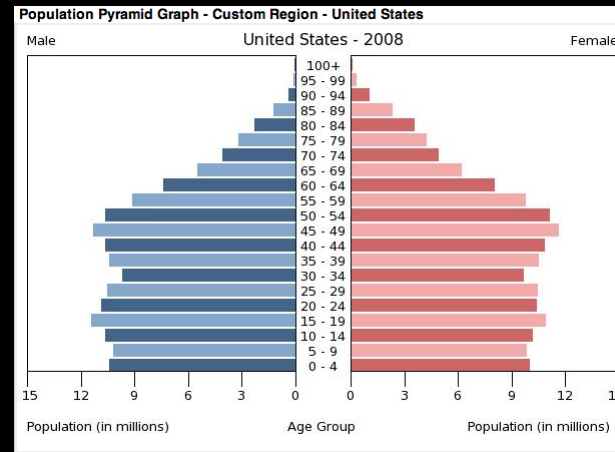
Total Population **48,724.400**



Births 19.3/1000 people
Deaths 8.9/1000 people
HDI Ranking 147

2005 USA GDP - per capita
(PPP): \$43,480

Total Population **315,791.300**



Births: 14.0/1000 people
Deaths: 8.3/1000 people
HDI Ranking 3

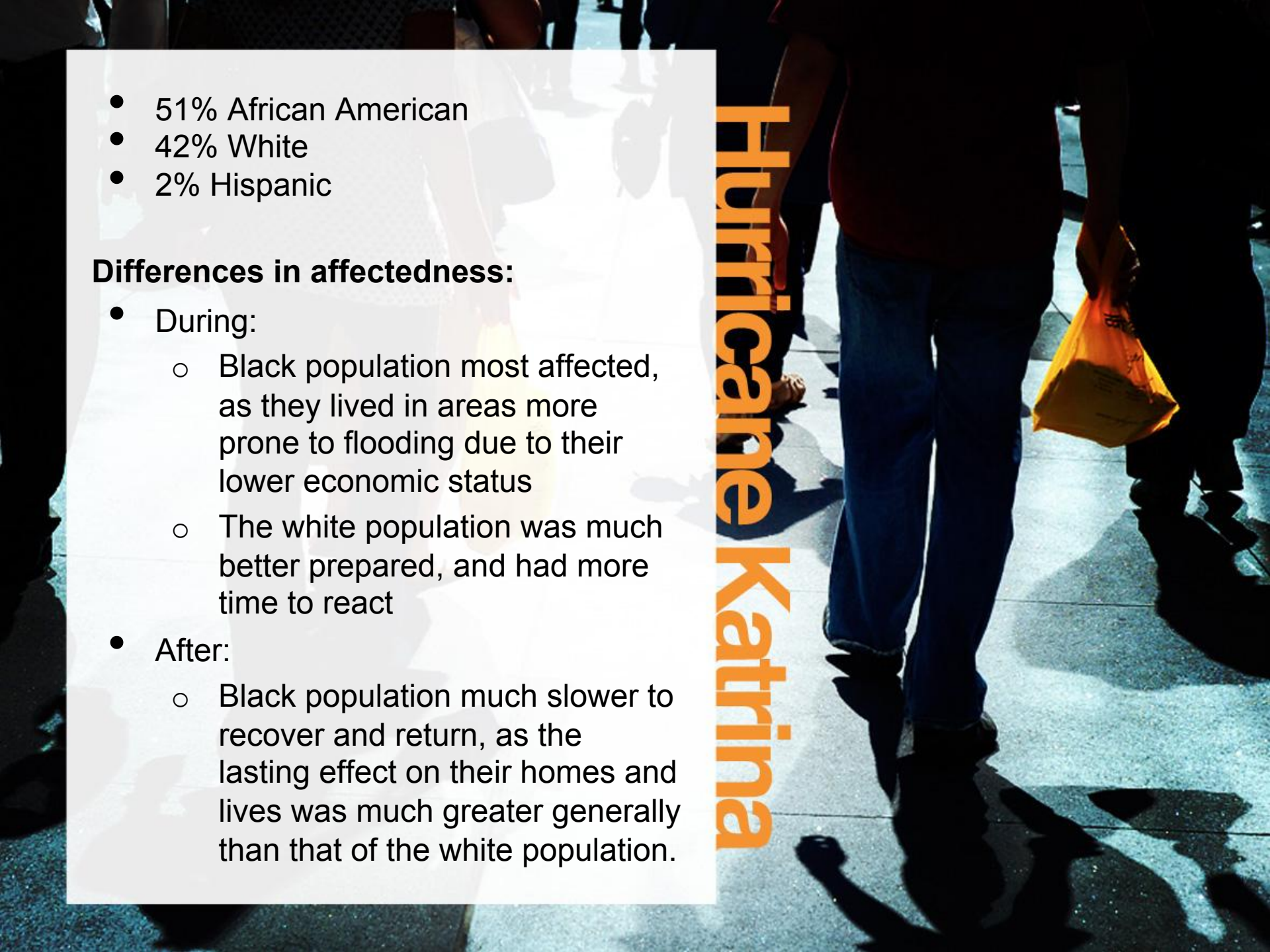


- 51% African American
- 42% White
- 2% Hispanic

Differences in affectedness:

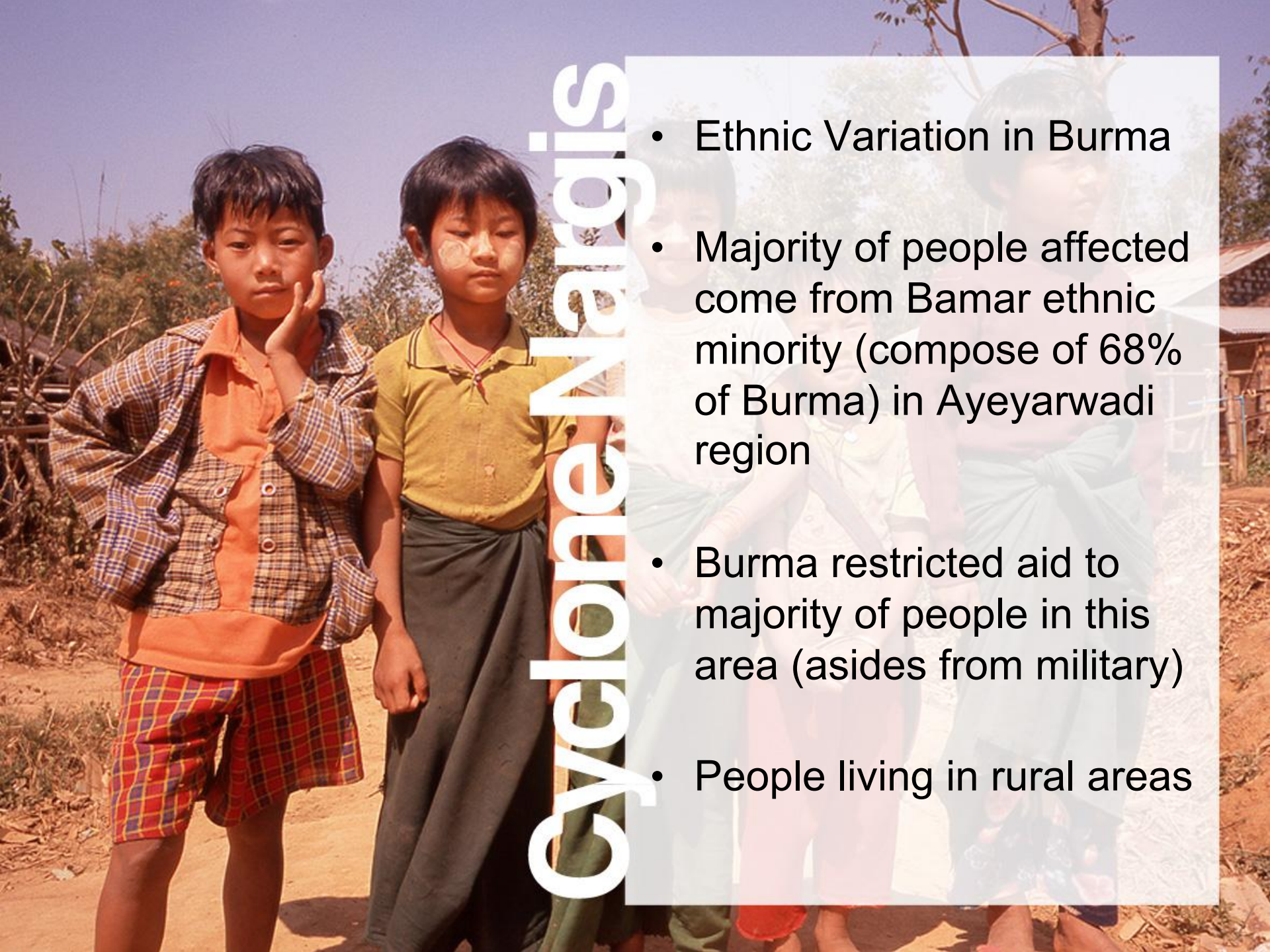
- During:
 - Black population most affected, as they lived in areas more prone to flooding due to their lower economic status
 - The white population was much better prepared, and had more time to react
- After:
 - Black population much slower to recover and return, as the lasting effect on their homes and lives was much greater generally than that of the white population.

Hurricane Katrina



Cyclone Nargis

- Ethnic Variation in Burma
- Majority of people affected come from Bamar ethnic minority (compose of 68% of Burma) in Ayeyarwadi region
- Burma restricted aid to majority of people in this area (asides from military)
- People living in rural areas



- People in Burma more vulnerable than people in USA (economic, and demographic factors)
- Both places affected were densely populated
- USA (more disaster prepared) vs. Burma (less disaster prepared)
 - USA: Good infrastructure, informed citizens, good communication
 - Burma: Relatively poor infrastructure, large uneducated population, poor communication channels
- Democratic govt. (more open) vs. Military Junta (restricted)
- USA: more vulnerable black population (low income)
- Burma: Rural local population greatly affected (low education, low income)

OVERALL EVALUATION