



Testing New Orleans answer to Katrina

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1. New Orleans: flood is a well known hazard;
urban sprawl and manmade infrastructures created the
risk

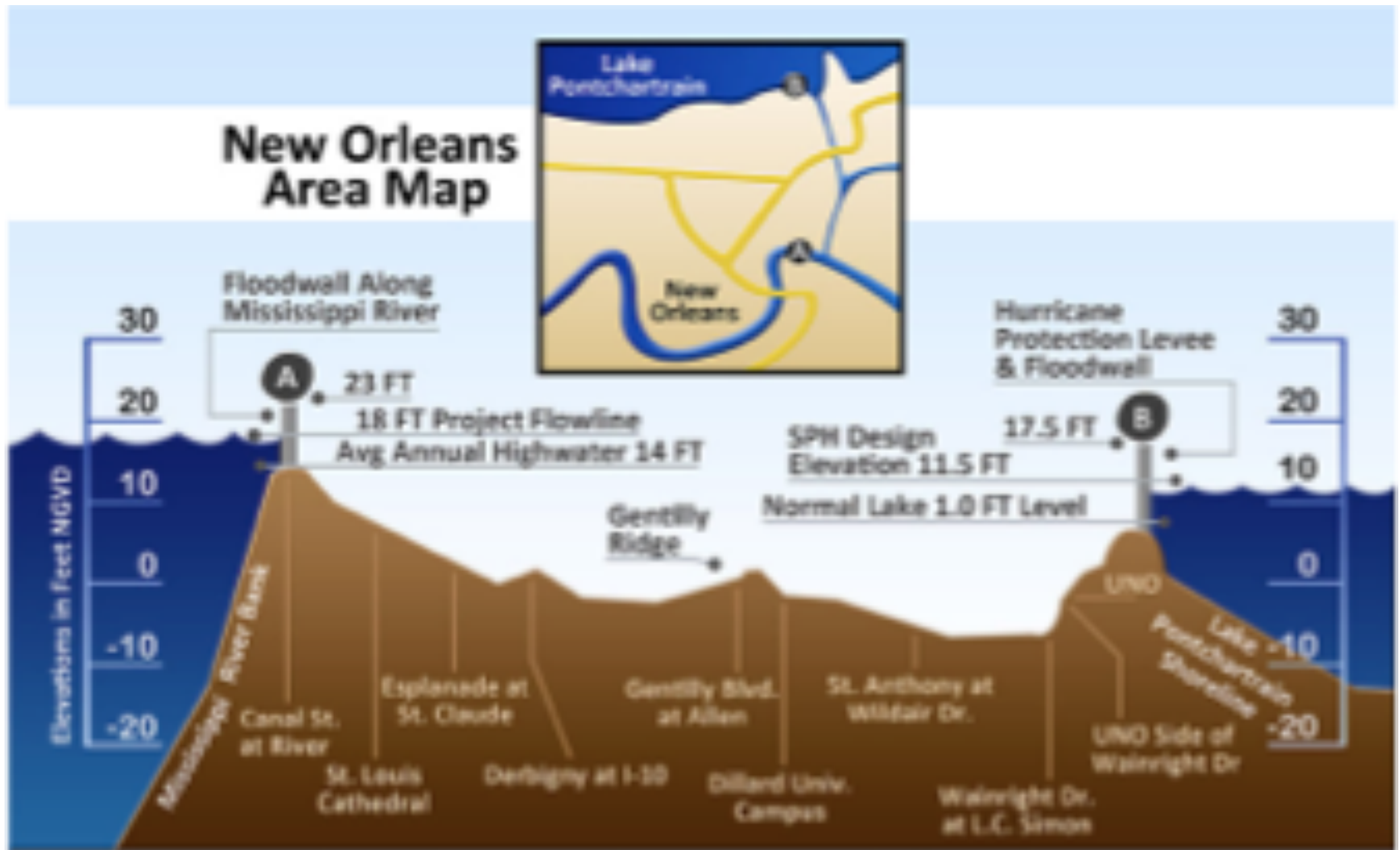
2. Katrina: inequalities at all levels

3. New Orleans did not really benefit from the
« experience effect » to reduce vulnerability

I.I. New Orleans: flood is a well known hazard



I.I. New Orleans: flood is a well known hazard



I.2. New Orleans: urban sprawl and manmade infrastructures created / increased the risk



Floodwall construction at St. Bernard Parish

MRGO Canal,
dikes and
swamps

1.3. New Orleans: social consequences of sprawl

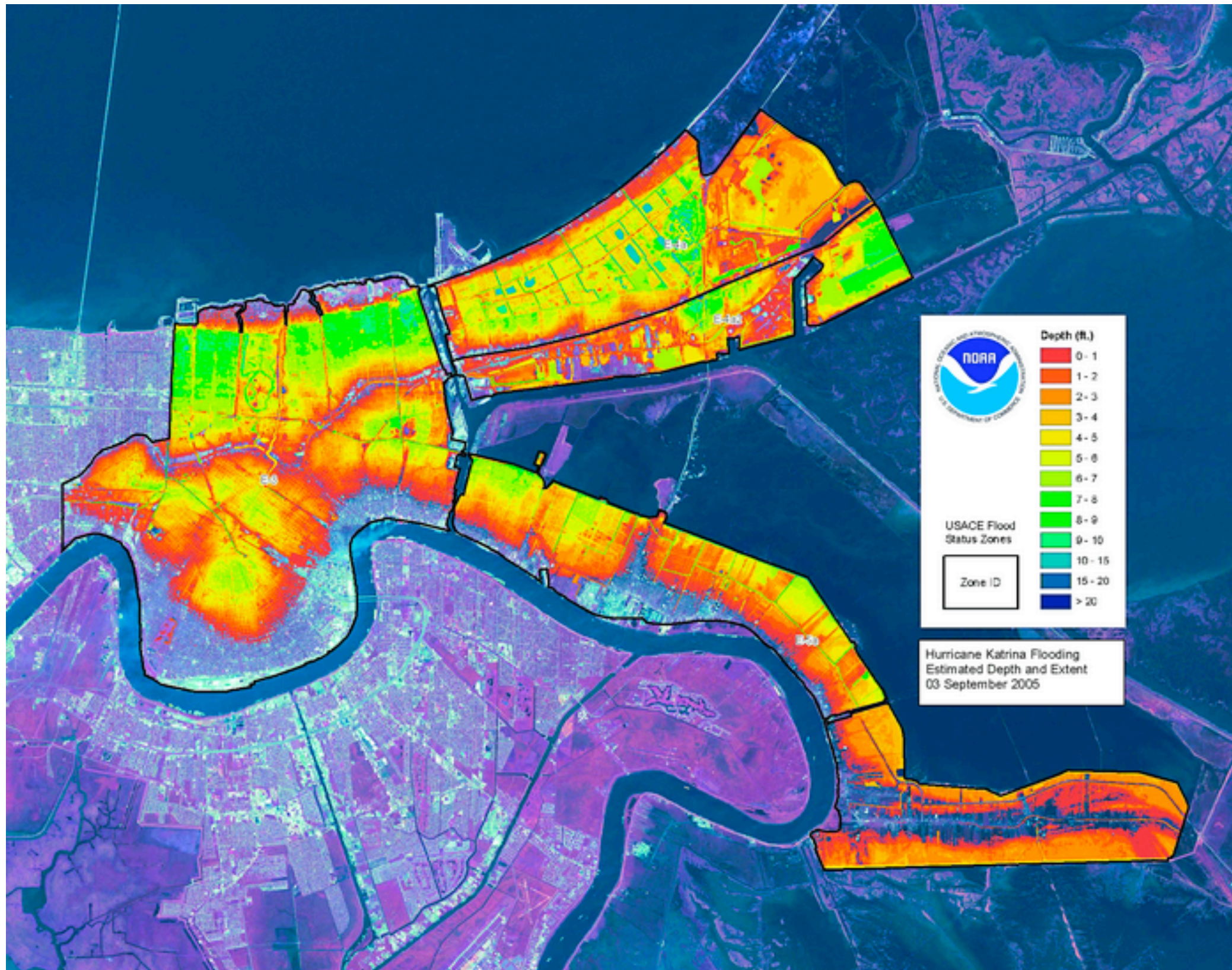
- Socio-spatial segregation (income, race)
- The poorest mainly live in areas prone to floods



Lower 9th Ward



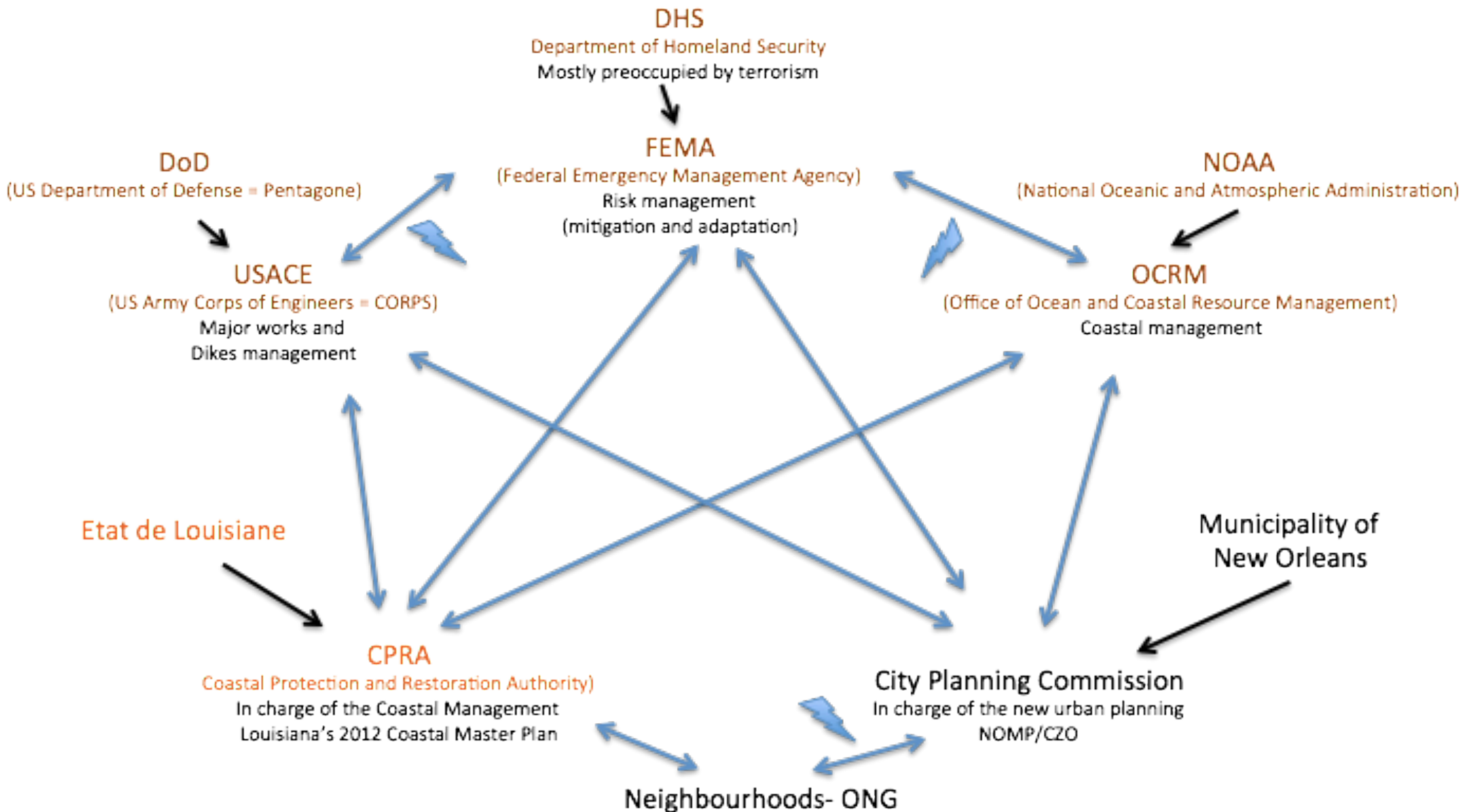
2.1. Katrina: the disaster (august 2005)



Flood depth
after five
days
(NOAA)

2.2. Katrina: conflict of authorities

Flowchart of the different actors in post-Katrina adaptation



2.3. Katrina: inequalities in the evacuation

- Conflicts of actors between public authorities
- Inequalities in the access to information
- The poorest couldn't evacuate before Katrina



IDPs near the Superdome



Evacuation before and after the disaster

2.4. Katrina: inequalities in the possibility to return or rebuilt

The poorest who wanted to return were deeply impacted by:

1. The lack of help from public authorities (FEMA)
2. The default of insurance
3. The rise of rents



Robert Green, 73 years old, no insurance, Lower 9th Ward



Brad Pitt, founder of «Make it Right», visits Lower 9th Ward

3. New Orleans did not really benefit from the « experience effect » to reduce vulnerability

- A urban planning... not really new
- A very fragile plan for swamp recovery
- Individual initiative stay the keyword when a global policy is needed

Bayou Bienvenue



Conclusion

- Natural hazard but human disaster triggered by many factors. A textbook case for environmental disasters in the recent literature.
- An event which shows clearly that such a disaster was the consequences of the choices made in the past decades by all the actors, especially public authorities.
- An event which changed the face of New Orleans. The city recovery served many goals, but not really adaptation. In the end, Katrina is just a mirror of a very unequal society.

Thank you for your attention!

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