



PRESS RELEASE

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**UNDERSTANDING HURRICANE KATRINA  
AND ITS AFTERMATH**

*University Presses Provide Information on the Gulf Coast's  
Disaster, Relief Management & Geography*

September 23, 2005 (New York)— In the Caribbean this year, record water temperatures are throwing volleys of storms up the southeast corridor. Just yesterday, a state of emergency was declared in Texas and Louisiana only weeks after Hurricane Katrina devastated regions of the Gulf Coast. More than a million citizens are scrambling to evacuate the Texas coastline in preparation for Hurricane Rita, another Category 4-5 storm.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Americans continue to wrestle with the natural disaster that inundated New Orleans, compromising much of its infrastructure, destroying the lives and livelihood of tens of thousands, and raising many questions on emergency and energy management in the United States.

*Books for Understanding*, the scholarly press bibliography resource, has swiftly compiled a comprehensive list of books relevant to the severe damage resulting from the 2005 hurricane season. Media contacts and resources are also available under our Directory of Experts.

[www.aaupnet.org/news/bfu/katrina/list.html](http://www.aaupnet.org/news/bfu/katrina/list.html)

Book list topics range from environmental issues and energy policies to emergency management to books that address the Big Easy's infrastructure and precarious locality:

**Hurricanes**—including titles on the history and science of hurricanes, including Hurricane Camille, the Category 5 storm that barreled onto the Gulf Coast in 1969.

**The Effects of Geography**—including Louisiana State University Press's 2005 publication *An Unnatural Metropolis: Wrestling New Orleans from Nature* by Craig E. Colten and other works on the environs of the Gulf Coast.

**Emergency Management**—including *Disasters and Democracy: The Politics of Extreme Natural Events* by Rutherford Platt from Island Press and Oxford University Press's recent *The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster* edited by Lawrence Vale and Thomas J. Campanella.

**Economies and Energy**—including works on the economic history of New Orleans, and global perspectives on energy policy.

All staff of AAUP members in the region (Louisiana State University Press in Baton Rouge; University Press of Mississippi in Jackson; University of Alabama Press in Tuscaloosa) are safe, though many had family and friends evacuated, and property lost or damaged.

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Libraries in affected areas are struggling to recover. There are now relief programs in place to aid libraries whose collections have suffered in Mississippi and Louisiana. Information on these book donation and financial assistance programs is available on our web site at [www.aaupnet.org/news/katrina.html](http://www.aaupnet.org/news/katrina.html).

The *Books for Understanding* program was created shortly after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to help teachers, scholars, journalists, librarians, and booksellers find necessary information. That original list eventually grew to include close to 1,000 books from more than 65 university presses, and is still online at [www.booksforunderstanding.org](http://www.booksforunderstanding.org). Today, AAUP continues this service for many topics of immediate public interest.

The Association of American University Presses is the world's largest organization of nonprofit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP is dedicated to the support of creative and effective scholarly communications. Through its programs and information resources, AAUP helps its members fulfill their common commitments to scholarship, the academy, and society. Visit the AAUP Web site, [www.aaupnet.org](http://www.aaupnet.org), to learn more about the Association and its members.