

Geology and Jazz

Dale H. Easley

University of Dubuque



Taking students to New Orleans

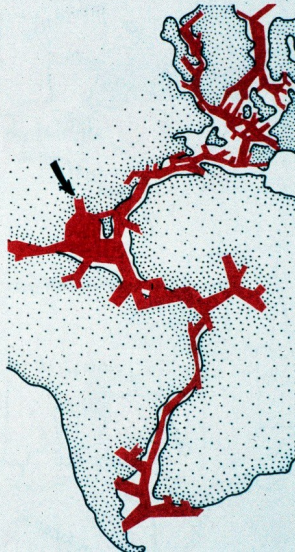


New Orleans: *The Crescent City*



The Gulf of Mexico opens

Ragged edges of continents are caused by small rifts that split off from the main rift. Arrow points to rift that set structural stage for the lower Mississippi Valley. —Burke, 1980

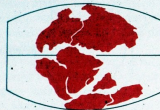


The plates separate



PERMIAN

245 million years ago
The continents were joined together in
one supercontinent called Pangaea.



TRIASSIC

225 million years ago
Pangaea began to break apart as rifts
formed from upwelling of lava from the
hot, churning mantle.



JURASSIC

145 million years ago
Continents continued to spread apart.
South Atlantic begins to open.



CRETACEOUS

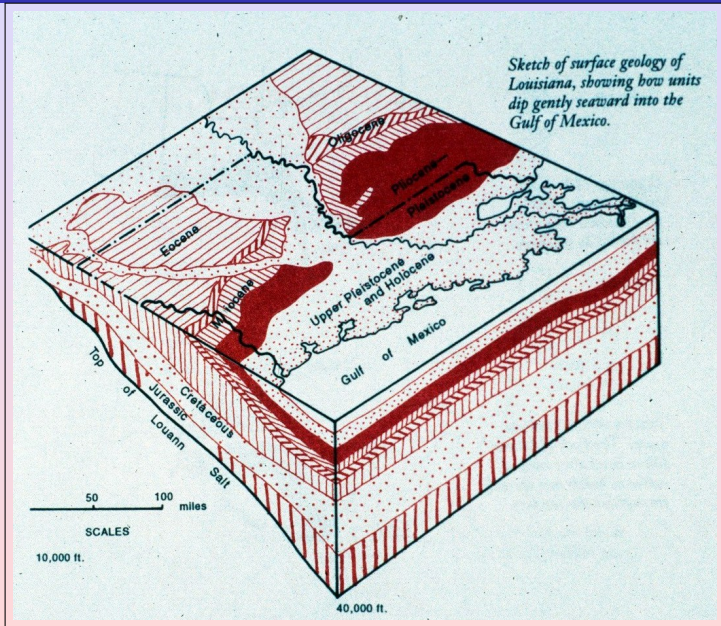
66 million years ago
North Atlantic opens. India
approaches Asia.



TODAY

Positions of the continents during the past 245 million years. —Spearing, 1991

Sediment builds the delta



soil + climate = great agriculture



Agriculture requires labor



Call and response \implies blues (then rock)



New Orleans' French heritage



Free people of color



Agostino Brunias, *Free Women of Color with their Children and Servants in a Landscape*, ca. 1764-1796

The Civil War ends





PLESSY V. FERGUSON
PRESS STREET RAILROAD YARDS
Site of the Arrest of Homer Adolph Plessy

• • •

On June 7, 1892, Homer Adolph Plessy was removed from the East Louisiana Railroad train and arrested by Detective C.C. Cain at the corner of Royal and Press St. He was charged with violating the 1890 Louisiana Separate Car Act that separated railroad passengers by race.

Plessy's act of civil disobedience was a test case organized by the Comité des Citoyens (Citizens' Committee) whose aim was to overturn segregation laws that were being enacted across the South. The philosophy and strategies of the Comité des Citoyens foreshadowed Civil Rights movements of the 20th century. Although the Supreme Court ruled against Plessy on May 18, 1896, his case marked the first post-Reconstruction use of the 14th Amendment's "equal protection" provision in a legal challenge to segregation. In their final statement after the Supreme Court verdict, the Comité des Citoyens proclaimed,

"We as freemen still believe we were right and our cause is sacred...In defending the cause of liberty, we met with defeat but not with ignominy". Their position was vindicated when the Supreme Court upheld similar 14th Amendment arguments in the 1954 case of Brown v. Board of Education.
(Continued on other side)

CRESCENT CITY PEACE ALLIANCE

Storyville, 1897-1917



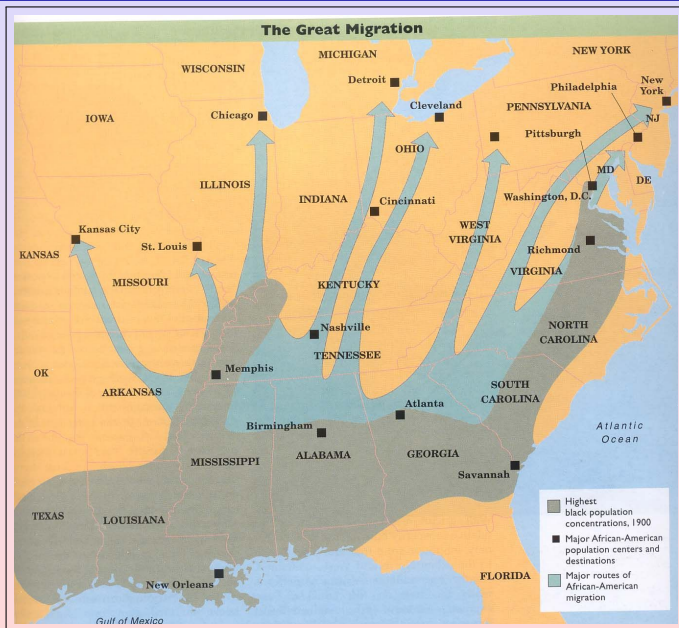
Prohibition, 1920-1933



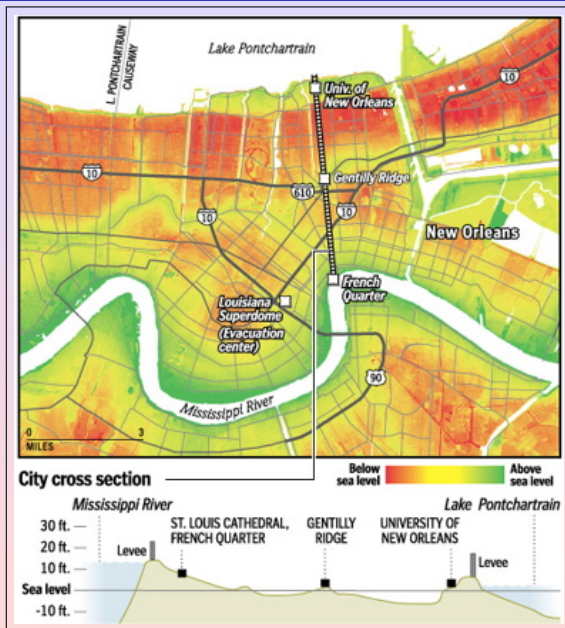
1927 Mississippi River Flood



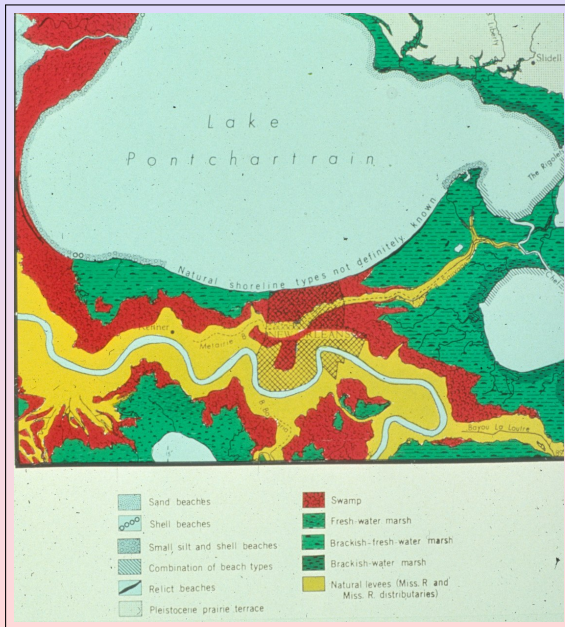
The Great Migration



The setup for further flooding



New Orleans' historic landscape



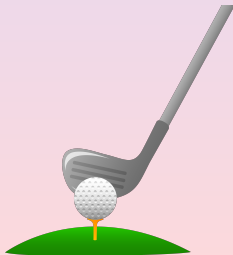
Hurricane Katrina



A catastrophist explanation

“Hurricane Katrina was, in fact, the judgment of God against the city of New Orleans.”

“New Orleans had a level of sin that was offensive to God,” [Pastor John] Hagee said, because “there was to be a homosexual parade there on the Monday that the Katrina came.”



A catastrophist explanation

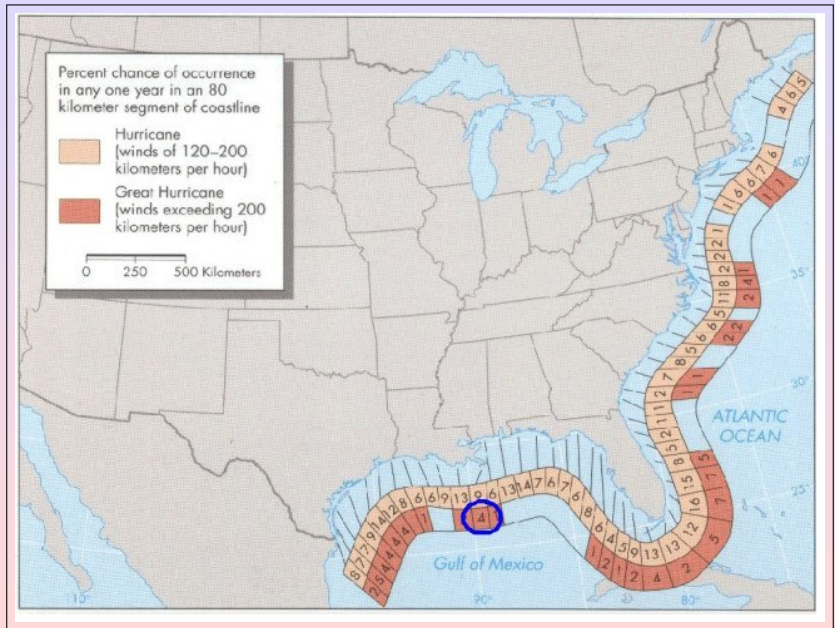
“Hurricane Katrina was, in fact, the judgment of God against the city of New Orleans.”

“New Orleans had a level of sin that was offensive to God,” Pastor John Hagee said, because “there was to be a homosexual parade there on the Monday that the Katrina came.”

The facts:

- Both seminaries in New Orleans were destroyed
- Approximately 900 churches, synagogues or mosques were destroyed
- Nearly 85 percent of those killed were older than 51, 60 percent older than 65 and almost half were older than 75.

Uniformitarianism: A map from 1981



Ninth Ward



Rebuilding: *Musicians Village*



Final thoughts

