G. Media and Natural disasters

1. Corporate media: profit

2. Corporate media: emphases

a. violent crime: “if it bleeds it leads”

b. natural disasters

3. Consequences

a. limited humanitarian response

b. easy: appealed to racial stereotype

H. Hurricane Katrina: natural or human disaster

5b. Chernobyl

a. April 26, 1986

b. core meltdown of reactor 4

i. temperatures reached 2000 degrees C

ii. blew 1000 ton top off

iii. fuel rods melted, graphite fire

iv. released radioactive contaminants

c. 400x the Hiroshima bomb

d. contaminated most of Europe, but mainly several million

people in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus

e. still active, sealed in sarcophagus

f. collective behavior

i. no panic, no real knowledge of how bad

ii. w/in 36 hours 45,000 relocated from Pripyat

ii. w/in 10 days 130,000 relocated

iv. 1992 another 20,000

g. long term consequences

i. health (increased cancer 4,000 predicted)

(600,000 liquidators; firemen, soldiers exposed)

ii. pollution: water, forests, soil, plants,animals

iii. psychological

unprecedented disaster

uncertainty about health

loss of communities, social networks

resentment: inadequate info on extent (1989)

and no iodine

powerlessness

5b. Chernobyl

a. April 26, 1986

b. core meltdown of reactor 4

i. temperatures reached 2000 degrees C

ii. blew 1000 ton top off

iii. fuel rods melted, graphite fire

iv. released radioactive contaminants

c. 400x the Hiroshima bomb

d. contaminated most of Europe, but mainly several million

people in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus

e. still active, sealed in sarcophagus

f. collective behavior

i. no panic, no real knowledge of how bad

ii. w/in 36 hours 45,000 relocated from Pripyat

ii. w/in 10 days 130,000 relocated

iv. 1992 another 20,000

g. long term consequences

i. health (increased cancer 4,000 predicted)

(600,000 liquidators; firemen, soldiers exposed)

ii. pollution: water, forests, soil, plants,animals

iii. psychological

unprecedented disaster

uncertainty about health

loss of communities, social networks

resentment: inadequate info on extent (1989)

and no iodine

powerlessness