

China

State Capacity: Comparing the United States with China

Review the national response the nation to various national catastrophes earthquakes, hurricanes. Examine the China's Sichuan province Earthquake in May of 2008 to Hurricane Katrina that struck the United States Gulf Coast in 2005.

Procedure

Assign 2 groups to create Power Points

1. 2008 the earthquake in China's Sichuan province and initial governmental response to catastrophe.
 - a. Protest in China to assess blame for the earthquake dead
 - b. China's rebuilding effort after the earthquake

2. Hurricane Katrina with the initial governmental response to catastrophe.
 - a. Protest in the US to complain about the failure to respond to the hurricane and assess blame at the flood in New Orleans.
 - b. U.S. rebuilding effort in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast

Classroom Discussion

1. Start the discussion with a simple definition of state capacity and how it applies to national response to national needs.
2. Then have the class examine the national response to both events and their successes and failures.
3. Ask the question which country was more responsive and effective in dealing with the crisis. Why is "Communist Red China" more effective to responding to national crisis than a democracy such as the United States?