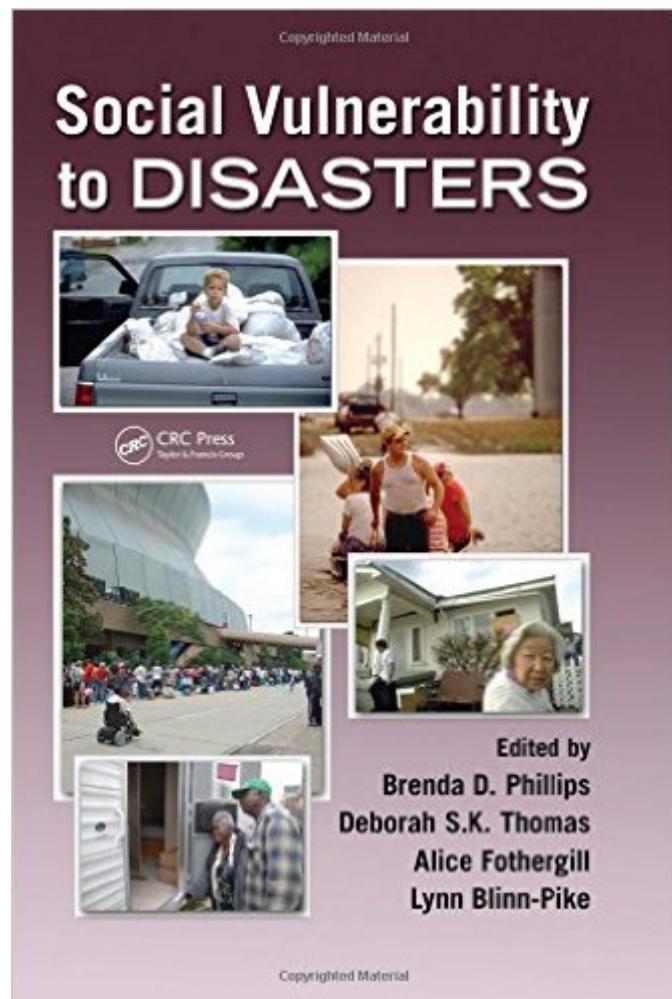


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# Social Vulnerability To Disasters



## **Synopsis**

In recent years, the world has watched in horror as tsunamis, earthquakes, and hurricanes have wrought havoc across countries and continents. While these events have different circumstances, they share a common factor: the overwhelming majority of victims are women, children, elderly, disadvantaged, or disabled. Evidence gathered from these events clearly demonstrates how social structure and roles produce extensive human suffering and differential impacts. Focusing explicitly on the social construction of disasters, *Social Vulnerability to Disasters* examines how the characteristics of an event alone do not create the tragedies that unfurl. The book discusses why such vulnerabilities exist, what can be done to foster change, and ultimately, reduce vulnerabilities and build capacity. It takes a multi-disciplinary approach to examine historical, geographic, social, and cultural factors and conditions that put people differently at risk before, during, and after disasters. The contributors explore how vulnerable social groups are affected by and cope with hazardous conditions and events. Each chapter provides strategies for community based mitigation by engaging those populations most at risk. Research has shown that recognizing and focusing on at-risk populations can create better mitigation, response, preparedness, and recovery capabilities, as well as lessening the economic and social impact of disasters. Based on materials developed for the FEMA Higher Education Project, this book is an empirically-based guide on the practical value of incorporating social aspects of disasters into emergency management, public administration, and social service programs. All royalty proceeds from the book benefit the Mary Fran Myers Scholarship Fund at the Natural Hazards Center of the University of Colorado, Boulder.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Easy reading text. I will probably keep this text after the semester. Nothing special to write about it. Great for EMGT professionals.

I am currently enrolled in a masters program which is using this book for one of the required courses. I cannot believe this book was assigned for this course. I can barely make it through one paragraph without wanting to throw it down. The editors and authors have succeeded in seamlessly transitioning from the operational theory of social vulnerability in disaster management to the socialist (and ultimately progressive) political platform. Using every opportunity available, they are using this management theory to push every single tenant of socialism - I am disgusted! Karl Marx was quoted extensively throughout the second chapter's explanation of political theory.. a topic which is hardly relevant to social vulnerability theory (the connection was that social vulnerability exists in our society because we operate within a capitalistic socioeconomic system, and therefore disasters are a reflection of the evils of capitalism's effects on our society, as opposed to how society responds to the disaster). As an individual who holds a degree and certificates in political science and international relations, my eyes nearly popped out of my head at the strategic framing of political ideology and the relationship it apparently has with disaster management. I have no problem identifying the blatant agenda this book pushes, but what about the other students? They are clearly being targeted by the editors and authors as tools to push their agenda. How clever to target the field of emergency management. I'm so mad I could spit nails. I have no idea if anyone will ever read this review, but I can't ignore the sly use of this book in this educational setting. I'm in the process of drafting a letter to my university voicing my concerns as well as disappointment.

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