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# The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How the Government Response to Disaster Endangers African American Communities

*Robert D. Bullard, Beverly Wright*

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ROBERT D. BULLARD & BEVERLY WRIGHT

## THE WRONG COMPLEXION FOR PROTECTION



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**Robert D. Bullard, Beverly Wright : The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How the Government Response to Disaster Endangers African American Communities** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Wrong Complexion for Protection: How the Government Response to Disaster Endangers African American Communities:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Another bad policyBy V. M. RicksOften when people talk about disasters and other catastrophes in the US they often think of people as victims of this or that storm, this or that disaster. What people rarely do is talk about the policies, the politicians and the lobbyists who designed or ok'ed the housing, workplaces, building, etc. in cities, town and suburbs that were knowingly put in the way of previous known disasters. That is the significance of this book. Time after time we find people being put into locations where floods and fires had occurred and where chemical toxins dumped. These locations were legislated. People get sick and die. Families have to pay high cost, because the insurance company may refuse to pay. Our government is not protecting the people, it is protecting the chemical makers, the developers that need landfills and the money makers who are chasing their next economic windfall. Blacks and others, who are most often poor are targeted. They don't have the deep pockets to buy lawyers, lobbyists or others in get favorable treatment. This book raises many questions that urgently need our consideration.

When the images of desperate, hungry, thirsty, sick, mostly black people circulated in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, it became apparent to the whole country that race did indeed matter when it came to government assistance. In *The Wrong Complexion for Protection*, Robert D. Bullard and Beverly Wright place the government response to natural and human-induced disasters in historical context over the past eight decades. They compare and contrast how the government responded to emergencies, including environmental and public health emergencies, toxic contamination, industrial accidents, bioterrorism threats and show that African Americans are disproportionately affected. Bullard and Wright argue that uncovering and eliminating disparate disaster response can mean the difference between life and death for those most vulnerable in disastrous times.

A fascinating insiders account from the frontlines of the struggle to get the government to act fairly in the face of environmental injustice, with vast implications for future disasters.-Timmons Roberts,co-author of *A Climate of Injustice*"A fine overview for those interested in the subject matter. Summing Up: Highly recommended."-Choice"*The Wrong Complexion for Protection* is an intellectual version of a 'greatest hits' album, combining autobiography and research findings to give a picture of the authors' important contributions to the field of environmental justice, and a picture of what environmental justice has contributed to political science and other fields."-Patrick S. Roberts,*Political Science Quarterly*The brutal realities of institutional racism in disaster readiness, response, and recovery are unveiled here in black and white, through compelling case studies, jaw-dropping statistics, and thoroughly documented sociological and historical data.-David Naguib Pellow,co-author of *The Slums of Aspen: Immigrants vs. the Environment in Americas Eden*About the Author Robert D. Bullard is Dean of the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University in Houston and author of 17 books, including *Environmental Health and Racial Equity in the United States*. Beverly Wright is the founding director of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice (DSCEJ) at Dillard University, New Orleans and co-chair of the Environmental Justice Climate Change (EJCC) Initiative and author of *Race, Place and Environmental Justice after Hurricane Katrina*.