Sinead Scott

1/28/20

QCQ #1

Quotation:

“I spoke with her right after Kemp signed the bill, and she made a direct connection between reproductive rights and civil rights. The law is not only radical, she said; it also carries no more legitimacy than the election that gave Kemp the authority to sign it. ‘This is a perfect example of what the consequences of not having free and fair elections can have,’ she said.” (Cobbs).

Comment:

This comment from Abrams arose after her opponent, Republican Brian Kemp, Georgia’s secretary of state and Abrams opponent in the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial race, signed House Bill 481. The bill was deemed the “heartbeat bill,” as it prohibited abortions after any indication of cardiac activity (according to Cobbs, this can occur as soon as six weeks after conception, often before a woman even knows she is pregnant). Those, such as Abrams, who opposed the bill, called it the “forced-pregnancy bill.” Abrams, a voice against voter suppression, notes the relationship between reproductive rights and civil rights and brings it to one of her main messages: that voter suppression (elections which are neither “free” nor “fair) is very much a problem, one that is detrimental to those who live in the U.S. I think that this particular point is especially important because it addresses what one could argue is one of the most important American values: democracy. As someone who grew up rather privileged (though perhaps not so much financially but nonetheless in all other aspects), I was always under the idea that the government was run in a very fair way. Of course, once I learned about the electoral college and all the other intricacies, I began to realize this was not so true, but I was not aware of the extent. It makes me wonder if Voter suppression, as in the instance of House Bill 481, is what leads, or rather doesn’t lead, to the lack of rapid progression we see in government. While the process of changing, implementing and removing bills is quite extensive in itself, if there are people in office who are not representative of the larger population, nothing really ever works to serve the majority of people.

Question:

When things that seem so outdated, so surreally bias in a country which supposedly should have a fair democracy, occur it makes me wonder how many other aspects of our government need to be reevaluated if we are to make change, specifically in regards to equal rights and the environment?