Sinead Scott

QCQ #14

4/2/16

Quote:

“These and similar atrocities pockmarked our history and on all sides it was agreed that we had to take this past seriously into account We could not pretend that it had not happened. Much of it was too fresh in the memoires of many communities.” (Page. 19).

Comment:

This quote comes in chapter two of “No Future without Forgiveness.” Tutu is talking about the Apartheid in South Africa and of the way that the changes in politics such as voting Nelson Mandela into office affected the way society and people interacted. I thought this particular quote was important because change does not come seamlessly and easily, especially when race and hatred and are so engrained in the way a country runs. There is no way to move forward without addressing the past, especially when violence was so often a part of it. This holds true for our country a well, where I think there was a tendency for those who were not as affected by racism to believe that when it was over it was over. However, as we have seen, you can’t move past incidences of injustice, repeated injustices, without at first taking into account what happened. As Tutu says, the people of South Africa had to figure out how they were going to do this, not so much whether because “to accept amnesia would be bad for another telling reason. It would in effect be to victimize the victims of apartheid a second time around” (29). I had not really thought of that specifically before, that is, how by ignoring histories the people who were shaped and affected by the events and injustices would be further marginalized.

Question:

Tutu talks a lot about forgiveness which is easy to understand on an individual level but I wonder what it looks like for a nation/state/country?