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CH 203

Response Week 9

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**Group 1, Question C**

Many more than two of the topics discussed in the Black Panther Party’s “Ten Point Platform” are still painfully relevant in our society today. The two points that stand out to me as almost exactly describing recent movements are that of police brutality and the need for free healthcare for oppressed people. Police brutality has been highlighted by movements like Black Lives Matter after protests and riots such as Ferguson unrest. The idea that “the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against black people, other people of color and poor people inside the united States” (The Black Panthers 2) has not changed much in the past 50 years. The need for programs to “be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information” (The Black Panthers 1) has only changed in the way that a large portion of the entire lower class feels they have no reasonably priced access to healthcare in our country.

**Group 2, Question B**

The recent Supreme Court decision to legalize same-sex marriage by no means ends the fight for civil rights and liberties by the LGBTQ community. Just because a court changes the legality of something does not mean the minds of those who are so vehemently against something will immediately flip-flop in their beliefs. We as a country saw this happen with the Jim Crow laws in the south after the abolition of slavery. I am not part of the LGBTQ community so I feel as though my interpretation of the Supreme Court decision might be skewed compared to that of a member, but I would assume that the Stonewall rioters would be overall happy with the decision. Sure, to assume that immediate change will occur due to the law is absurd, but nevertheless a massive shift in opinion has happened in our country and this is a good signifier of that.

**Group 3, Question A**

Pearl S. Buck feels the need to tell Carol’s story because she wants her “child's life to be of use in her generation” (Buck 25). Carol was born and lived with a severe developmental disability. Buck recounts a common reaction to getting such news from a doctor not so long prior to her daughter’s diagnosis, “The family is taught to try to pretend that poor Harry or Susie is only slow. The shame of the parents infects all the children and sorrow spreads its blight. The child himself, poor little one, feels, though he cannot comprehend, his own inferiority.” (Buck 28). The idea she put forth, that “It is not necessary that children be born never to grow to their fullest selves” (Buck 29) applies to not only developmentally disabled children, but to all children. Discrimination in Buck’s time was not only rampant but also rarely censored or frowned upon. She wanted to use Carol’s story to explain the thoughts that she had gone through while attempting to accept her daughter’s disability.

**Group 4, Question B**

As a current student I found that the statement “America rests in national stalemate, its goals ambiguous and tradition ­bound instead of informed and clear, its democratic system apathetic and manipulated rather than ‘of, by, and for the people.’” (Students for a Democratic Society 2) to resonate with me strongly. The more that I learn about our government and the balances it relies upon, the less secure I feel in it. Our government was formulated by people that simply could not foresee the extent with which capitalism could overtake it. We Americans are now born and raised in a system that is of, by, and for the *business*. I strongly believe that Trump’s presidency is a foreboding force that will mean much more than going to war in North Korea or Syria and losing health care for millions. The fact that a businessman with no political experience got into office without even *pretending* to follow norms laid out by presidents before him will mean that more like him will try and succeed. Greed is an evil thing, and whatever we can do as educated individuals can mean the difference between the nation following a negative or positive trajectory into the future.

Works Cited

The Black Panthers | <http://collectiveliberation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/BPP_Ten_Point_Program.pdf>

Buck, Pearl S. | <https://ares.library.unr.edu/ares/ares.dll?SessionID=R061323287S&Action=10&Type=10&Value=74639>

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