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When the civil war began in 1961, it began for many political reasons, all of which were affected by the question of slavery, but not ^{entirely} ~~wholly~~ concentrated on. Although we have been taught that Lincoln and the North fought for freedom from the start, this was not so. Most fought to preserve the union, while the south fought to preserve what they believed to be inalienable state rights. However, the eager and willing compliance of African Americans ^{throughout} ~~at~~ the civil war led to a significant alteration in the goals of the war, and therefor a later contribution to the new culture and politics that followed.

Major Butler presents the question that many must have asked at the time ^{regarding fugitive slaves;} "are they free?", and if so, "what do I do with them?" (source A). At the onset of the war, when slavery was not the central issue, but merely the flame which kindled the fighting, the question of what to do with fugitive slaves was a large one. Many adopted these slaves to work in the war as servants, cooks, and soldiers. As the union began to realize the usefulness of these slaves, the course of the war began to shift. Upon realizing the heart and dedication of such African Americans who refused to leave this land "in favor of heeding "the call of our suffering country", the North decided to make the abolition of slavery a primary goal of the war (Doc. B). By thrusting themselves into the war effort, these African Americans changed a war based on political disagreements and state power into a war to "terminate and forever prohibit" slavery (Doc. D).

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This change was primarily apparent when Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation. While this statement only freed slaves in areas of rebellion, it demonstrated a shifted purpose, and a moral side of the war that had not been readily apparent before. Where Lincoln had previously taken the stance of neutrality, ("if I could end this war by freeing the slaves, I would ~~do so~~ ^{the eagerness} of blacks to "stake their lives for us" persuaded him to make the promise of freedom (Doc. C). Therefore, the willing participation of blacks in the Civil War with the hopes of achieving freedom caused an entirely new course to form for the Union.

As a consequence, the outcome of the Civil War differed from what had previously been anticipated. Where originally, the reforming of the USA ^{and evaluation on the question} ~~was a primary concern~~ ^{of slavery in the new territories (popular sovereignty or not?)} was a primary concern, now the government was faced with the issue of appeasing an angry South. According to the Republican Party Platform of 1864, the creation of the 13th amendment was inevitable and necessary. If the African Americans had not pushed so hard, this would not have been so. The addition of the 14th and 15th amendments ^{and citizenship} granting the right of suffrage ^{demand} demanded by the convention of colored people only further aggravated the war to the South (Doc. H). As a result, the government was forced to focus the majority of Johnson's presidency on Reconstruction. Blacks

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were avid supporters of reconstruction, as shown by their extremely instrumental involvement in ^{constitutional} conventions (Doc J).

Although grandfather clauses and poll taxes eventually curtailed this involvement, blacks were able to gain full citizenship and suffrage; feats that would have been impossible had they not so dramatically altered the course and outcome of the war.

African American also shaped major social changes in the years that followed the civil war. Not dissuaded by southern harassment, many joined colored regiments or obtained other jobs (Doc F). Where they had previously been kept illiterate, African Americans now attended schools, showing a startling eagerness to obtain knowledge. (Doc E). Racial tensions lessened in the North, where a greater realization that color doesn't matter arose, as demonstrated in Nat's political cartoon of Lady Liberty and a black soldier. ~~These~~ ^{This} participation in the military and education helped to shape a more tolerant and integrated society in postbellum America.

African Americans' involvement during the civil war helped to shift to a ^{greater focus} on freedom which led to more political and social changes as the war drew to a close. Without this involvement, America would not be as it is today; an embodiment of the inalienable rights granted to us by the U.S. constitution.

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African-Americans and the Civil War

During the Antebellum era, the United States experienced a gradually intensifying sectional conflict that threatened the unity of the nation. The Civil War was a result of the North-South conflict over a number of policies and issues, but most importantly, the status of African-Americans. Compromises between the two sides had become futile, and a full-fledged civil war erupted in 1861. The debate over slavery shaped the course of the Civil War by acting as a catalyst for the fighting, and the status of African-Americans profoundly affected the issues of Reconstruction in the South after the war.

As the Civil War progressed, the Union's policies regarding the fate of black slaves began to experience a 180-degree turn. In the 1860 Republican presidential campaign, none of the parties took a strong stand for the abolition of slavery, and Lincoln only advocated free soil in new territories, the cause of. However, with the Union victory at the Battle of Antietam a few years into the war, his stance toward slavery changed drastically in issuing the Emancipation Proclamation. In one of his letters written in 1863, he also stated, "why should [Negroes] do anything for us, if we will do nothing for them? ... the promise of freedom must be kept." This statement shows the change in Lincoln's policies and goals, driven by the desire to enlist black aid in fighting to preserve the Union. As a result of this, freed blacks were encouraged to enlist in the Union army, "now marching in solid platoons" and "saluted with waving handkerchiefs", a departure from their previous treatment as slaves and "wild beasts" (doc. F). This represents a great improvement in the identity of blacks during the course of the Civil War, after being emancipated, and their addition into the fight against the Confederacy were

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of a great asset to the Union. At the same time, they were able to enjoy unprecedented civil rights as outlined in the Republican Party platform of 1862. They were granted "the full protection of the laws of war," ^(Doc. D) a first step towards black integration into the army that would be achieved in the Korean War. ~~African Americans~~ The dispute over slavery and African-American participation in the war effort greatly ~~affected~~ shaped the course of the Civil War, contributing to a Union victory.

Upon the Confederacy's defeat in the Civil War, the fate of African-Americans raised problems and changed the goals of Reconstruction in the South. Although the black slaves were freed in the 13th Amendment, ^{it did not answer} General Benjamin Butler's ~~unresolved~~ ^{unresolved} question regarding "the effect of rebellion and a state of war on their status" (Doc. A). Freed slaves were still subject to discrimination, ~~discrimination~~ and ~~their owner's refusal to free them~~, as seen in Rebecca Parson's attempt to demand the freedom of her enslaved children (Doc. I). ~~The~~ The 15th Amendment also proved to be ineffective in ending racial discrimination in the South. Blacks advocated "equal rights without regard to the color of skin" but they were still restricted from voting in most of the Southern states, especially North Carolina and Texas (Doc. J). Reconstruction raised a number of controversies regarding the rights of former slaves, ^{also} marking this time period an era of stalemate between the President and Congress. Andrew Johnson's ^{impeachment} ~~impeachment~~ resulting from his dispute with ~~some~~ radical Republicans over Reconstruction reflected the tensions ~~in~~ within the national government after the Civil War. Although the Civil War appeared to be a turning point for the status of black people, it was in reality ~~entirely ineffective~~ ^{ineffective} in ~~enforcing laws protecting black~~ ^{with a} ~~rights~~ relieving the plight of African-Americans.

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until ^{later on in} the 20th century. Reconstruction only provided fleeting benefits for African-Americans, ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~set~~ ^{set} the foundation for ~~a~~ ^a civil rights movement that would fight for ^{the} full equality of blacks and whites.

These documents are effective in reflecting the whites' sentiments and opinions towards slaves and emancipated blacks, as seen in Lincoln's letter, the 1864 Republican party platform, and the article from the New York Times. The changing roles of blacks are ~~reflected~~ presented in the New York Times article and ^{the} Convention of blacks in Virginia, ~~although~~ However, these documents fail to provide bias regarding anti black sentiment.

The ^{events within and following} Civil War were influenced greatly by the debate between ^{the} treatment of ~~blacks~~ African-Americans. Freed slaves played an important role in the Union's victory, but failed to ~~gain~~ ^{protection of their} gain immediate rights in the South during Reconstruction. From 1870 onwards, blacks would suffer from ~~the~~ ^{the bonds} greater racial discrimination although they were already freed from the bondage of slavery.

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The onset of the Civil War raised many questions for the northerners whom were seeking to preserve the Union. Many of these questions related to the burdening issue of slavery. While the preservation of the nation was the main objective of the war, an equally important aspect was to end slavery and liberate African Americans. Was the fight for freedom worth the bloodshed and loss? This is the question many Northerners found themselves asking. At the end of the Civil War many realized that the price paid was indeed worth it. Yet sadly many of these expected liberties that African-American expected to gain were not yet given them.

In regards to the African American, a large question mark was looming over the North. Who were these slaves that we were beginning a Civil War in order to liberate? Even noted authorities such as secretary of war Benjamin F. Butler questioned whether they were human or simply property.
(D-A) This reveals that considerably little

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was known about the state and condition of African Americans at the time. Yet many blacks in the north were making their voices heard. Prominent abolitionist Frederick Douglass and former slaves helped spark the emotions and call for morale in order to fight the civil war. His autobiography depicted the atrocities of slavery. Other literature of the time including Harriet Beecher Stowe's "~~that~~ Uncle Tom's Cabin" helped the nation see how dispiritingly wrong the issue of slavery is. Many blacks voiced their opinion to Abraham Lincoln on how they didn't wish to move once liberated. An African colony was initially set up in order to send blacks back to Africa. (D-B). The voice of African American was an important and useful element -- if only it were listened to more often. Yet many African Americans were able to stay in their homeland desired land in this case.

Due to many men not wanting to fight for the freedom of African Americans. Abraham Lincoln published

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a letter addressing this issue (D-C). In this letter he ~~is~~ questioned how the men should expect the African American to do anything for them if they were not willing to fight for their freedom. A promise made by the union that had to be kept. ~~drafts were needed that many men did not wish to fight for black~~ ~~liberty~~. Although Lincoln was uncertain himself of the place blacks would assume in society, it was his job to recognize slaves as people and give them freedom. African Americans were also a significant effort to the war. The Republican party platform of 1864 recognized this. This showed that for the first time the Government established the fact that they owed the black soldiers "full protection of the laws of war" (D:P). This demonstrated that (the black soldiers had earned their liberty) (P:G).

The New York Times after the civil war noted how a distinct change had occurred in the city (P:F) Now that slaves had been liberated they were ~~enjoying~~ enjoying the freedom to learn.

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a teacher in South Carolina was ecstatic and grateful for the well-known eagerness to learn that she saw in her black students (D: E)

Sadly many former slave owners choose to disregard the Emancipation Proclamation after the war had ended. One slave woman was denied the right to have custody over her children. Her former slave owner claimed that the children were his property. (P: I) Luckily organizations like the Freedmen's Bureau were hunting out and reporting such injustices.

while the nation found that the price paid for the liberty of African Americans was well paid, the blood shed appeared to be shed in vain.

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