

American History

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The America seen today is a product of several subsequent events that helped shape its history. Among the key events that had a significant impact on American history include the American Civil War. The civil war occurred between 1861 and 1865 becoming one of the most significant events in American history. The war occurred between the Union Party led by Abraham Lincoln, and the Confederacy, led by Jefferson Davis. Whether slaves were the root cause of the war that claimed more than 600,000 military personnel is an issue of debate up to today. This article is set to explore the American Civil war and its impact on the history of America (Rhodes 10)

Firstly, in the history of America, African Americans have been victims of discrimination as a result of their race. The first African American settlers were subjected to forced labor which came against their free will. As a result, they became slaves to the wealthy American population that comprised of the whites. Instead of being paid for their long hours of work, African Americans were whipped and mistreated by the white oppressors attracting retaliation from the minority. However, their efforts to liberate themselves bore no fruits until the Civil War of 1861-1865. Slavery was the primary catalyst of the deadliest event to ever been reported on American soil. The election of Lincon in 1861 was not well welcomed by the Confederate (Rhodes 12).

. The Republican party was against slavery, causing the southerners to withdraw since they felt that ending slavery would impact their economy.

Further, the split of Florida, Alabama, Texas and Louisiana in 1861 marked the beginning of the conflict between the southerners and the northerners. As a result, the seceded states formed the Confederate state electing Jefferson Davis as their president. In his speech during his inauguration, Lincoln declared that it was his responsibility to keep the states together stating that he had no objectives of ending slavery in the states where it existed. His attempt to convince the confederate did not succeed leading to the rage of the civil war. The attack in Southern Carolina led to the retaliation by the federal troop. This was the beginning of the civil war.

As a result of the attack, other states including North Carolina ended their ties with the union. In an attempt to prevent the remaining states from breaking from the union, Lincoln stated that the war was not based on black rights or slavery. Therefore the government prevented the recruitment of African Americans who had volunteered to fight in the army. This act was aimed at proving the fact that the war was not against slavery or racial discrimination. Because the union had failed to grant the minority their freedom, many African Americans believed that the war was aimed at ending slavery (Weigley 5).

The war brought confusion among the government since slaves had been declared free. In addition, the southern states were using slaves to wage their war against the Northern states. Although the Southern states forced slaves to work as nurses and boatmen, the Northern states refused the help of the African Americans in their army. In 1862, Lincoln threatened the southern States to stop the war because he would free all their slaves. In 1863, Lincoln freed all the slaves within the states. This was a major blow for the southern states since it would impact their economy. The end of slavery had begun. This act was met with cheerfulness from both the

whites and the slaves in the Northern states. Because of the freeing of the slaves, the Southern became economically deteriorated; hence many whites withdrew their support. Many poor whites became aware that they were being misused by the wealthy farmers who used them to fight the war they had started.

Additionally, the war impacted many southerners since food had become scarce leading to starvation. The southerners were beginning to lose the war. The fact that the government had refused to admit African Americans in the army had become an issue of concern for many whites in the North. This made them resist the efforts to engage in the war since economic problems had started to affect them. Also, even after the admission of black Americans in the army, most white people refused to participate in the war. The whites raged riots accusing the black Americans of stealing their jobs. Finally, the surrender of the Confederate army in 1865 led to the end of the civil war which claimed the lives of more than 600000 Americans (Weigley 7).

The southern states had suffered a major economic impact since slaves were their main source of labor. Additionally, this war left many people injured as well as the destruction of property. The thirteen amendments were passed in 1865 abolishing all slave trades in America. This event led to the birth of a new America which continues to develop even today. Both the North and South began their efforts to restore the once great nation. Two amendments were also introduced in the parliament to grant citizenship to all citizens born in America. Although racial discrimination continues to be witnessed today, the civil war changed the perspective of the whites towards the African Americans (McPherson 8).

Work Cited

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