

~~At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the lands gained from the Mexican American War and the Louisiana Purchase led to, for the first time, a momentous sectional divide in the union with the north opposing expanding slavery into the west and the south for it.~~ Events in the 19th century, such as the Louisiana Purchase and the Mexican Cession significantly expanded America's borders west. As a result, the issue of slavery expansion was brought up, and it divided the free north and pro-slavery south. The ~~specious~~ Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850 provided ~~only~~ temporary conciliation of the conflict by dividing the new territories into free and slave states; however, as more and more territories applied for statehood, the issue over the balance of free and slave states remained a source of tension. ~~while not breaching the issue of the future of slavery.~~ These conflicts would lead to the formation of the Republican Party, whose platform was dedicated to the eradication of slavery. The southern states, in response to the growing influence of the Republicans and the election of Lincoln, the Republican standard-bearer, began to secede to protect their slavery; thus, this paved the beginning of the Civil War. African Americans shaped the course and consequences of the Civil War by fighting in the war alongside the Union and by being integrated into American society after the war. However, African Americans are still subjected to the title of "property" by some during the war.

African Americans shaped the course of the Civil War by fighting in the war alongside the Union. In the Resolution of African Americans (Doc B), it states the African Americans' desire to help fight for the north rather than colonize in Africa or elsewhere. ~~By swelling the army with willing blacks compared to unwilling blacks in the south, the union army can have more morale within their slave regiments than the south~~ The Union army added blacks to their ranks and formed black regiments, significantly boosting their numbers. Additionally, because the blacks fought for the north by their own volition, their morale was much higher. The African American writers of this resolution likely wanted to convince the government to consider freeing the slaves of the south by appealing to their rights as citizens and their obligation to the country. Additionally, the article posted by the New York Times (Doc F), shows black regiments of the union army marching in New York City, which shows that the union generals were willing to recruit African Americans to help their cause. The addition of these African Americans who were willing to fight would provide the Union with a much-needed numbers advantage against the more experienced army of the south. The New York Times is likely using wording that glorifies the dignity of the northerners who were willing to let the African Americans be a part of their society. By speaking highly of the public, the newspaper would attract more readers, thus more profit. This situation is similar to the recruiting of blacks in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Rhode Island during the Revolutionary War. In both cases, Americans used blacks to swell their ranks and gain an advantage.

~~African Americans~~ Blacks shaped the consequences of the Civil War by becoming integrated into American society. Lincoln's letter (Doc C) argues the fact that the African Americans who fought in the war on the side of the union must be freed. This shows that Lincoln is not considering using the blacks as a strategic advantage, but because he is taking a step towards allowing them to become free. Because many northerners were not entirely abolitionists, Lincoln

likely wrote this letter to quiet suspicions from African Americans that he wanted to use the slaves merely for a strategic advantage. The Republican Party platform (Doc D) clearly states that they are in favor of the complete abolition of slavery and that they will provide the African American soldiers the same protections of war afforded to white soldiers. These statements clearly show that the Republicans are taking a step towards granting African Americans citizenship as they are beginning to be granted similar rights to actual American citizens. In Charlotte Forten's account of slave children (Doc E), she states how they are very eager to learn and have a capacity to attain it. This account of the children portrays the children in a positive, hardworking light and thus shows how they can adapt to life in American society.

African Americans are still considered property by some during the war. General Benjamin (Doc A), in his report, brands the runaway slaves that he encountered "contraband of war" which dehumanizes them to the level of property. Despite being a Union general who is fighting the institution of slavery, General Benjamin still reflects the widespread belief that slaves are still considered property.

In conclusion, despite still being considered property throughout the war, the course of the Civil War was shaped by African Americans when they provided the Union with a numbers advantage by fighting alongside them, and African Americans shaped the outcome of the war by becoming integrated into American society.

OVERALL! Let's just talk about a few things overall. You said you want to get better at writing in general? Then you need to read more, that is it point blank. If you are not reading, you can not competently write. I'm serious about this, don't try and come at me with audiobooks either. Yes you take the knowledge in, but you lose the inherent value of learning sentence structure and looking at punctuation. READ!!! With that being said, your vocabulary will naturally flourish from then on. Don't try and change words into bigger ones, it makes you look dumber than smarter. In regards to your history stuff, reading helps but you just need to naturally become involved. If your mind is checked out while reading/learning about history, of course you won't remember! DBQs are most importantly being able to recall outside information for your advantage, and I only see little evidence of that above. Anyone can state what was said in the document, literally a child could and if I, a humble student, can see when you are just prancing around with no outside information, then those people grading can too. Demand some more for yourself, because it will only help you in the long run. Okay, I promise I'm not mean, but grading needs to be harsh so you can get better. With me saying you're doing great, you won't succeed. So kill all your future writing assignments, and feel free to email me about other stuff especially history or writing related :)

LibertyCreed