

Unit 5: Civil War and Reconstruction

Part 7: A Promise of Freedom

Objectives:

- 1. Identify Lincoln's primary goal in the war.*
- 2. Explain the effects of the Emancipation Proclamation. (7.4.4.19.2)*
- 3. Describe ways that African Americans contributed to the Union war effort both in the army and behind Confederate lines.*

I. Lincoln's Need For Caution

- A. Lincoln's main goal was not to end slavery, but to restore the nation.
- B. Lincoln had to be careful because four slaveholding border states remained in the Union and by abolishing slavery it may cause them to switch alliances to the Confederacy and swing the war in favor of the South.

"If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could do it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that."

—Abraham Lincoln, August 22, 1862

I. Lincoln's Need For Caution

C. Lincoln also had to be cautious about freeing the slaves because many racist Northerners may refuse to fight if this became a war to free African-Americans rather than reunite the Union.



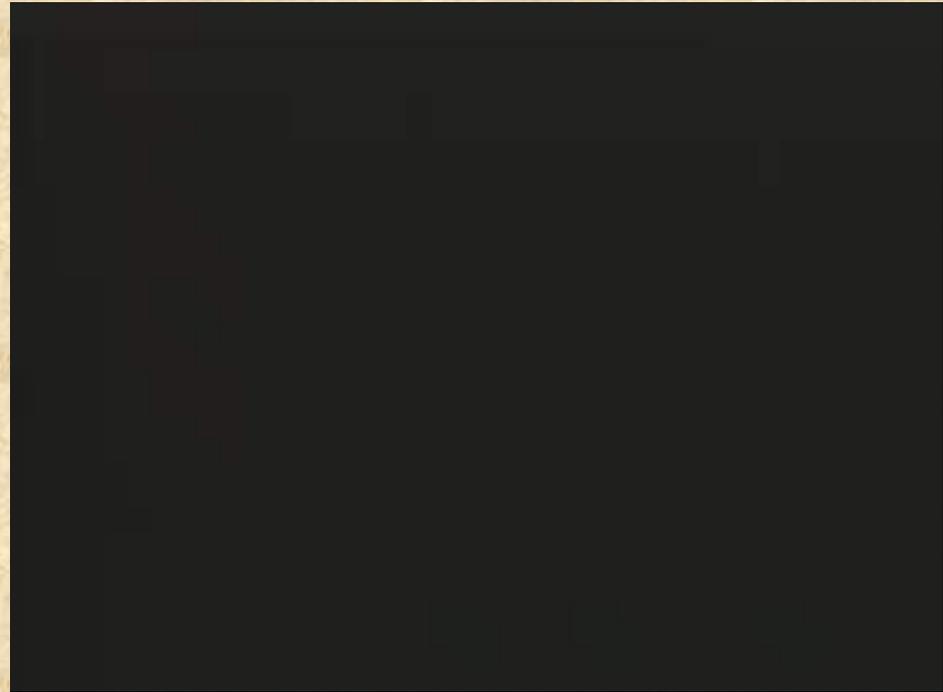
II. The Emancipation Proclamation

- A. What was the Emancipation Proclamation?
1. Abraham Lincoln decided to **emancipate**, or free, enslaved African Americans living in the Confederacy.
 2. On January 1, 1863, he issued the **Emancipation Proclamation**, the formal declaration that freed slaves in the Confederacy, but not in slave states that remained with the Union or in Confederate lands that had been captured by the Union.



II. The Emancipation Proclamation

- B. Why did Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation?
1. Emancipation would weaken the Confederacy's ability to carry on the war.
 2. He hoped to introduce the idea of emancipation slowly, by limiting it to territory controlled by the Confederacy. He expected to introduce the idea of emancipation in other areas later.



II. The Emancipation Proclamation

C. What impact did the Emancipation Proclamation have?

1. The declaration changed the purpose of the war. Now, Union troops were fighting to end slavery as well as to save the Union.
2. Southerners were angered. They saw the declaration as a “fiend’s act” to destroy their property.
3. Europeans were sympathetic to the proclamation. Now they were less likely to side with the South.



III. African Americans Join the War Effort

1. Free African Americans and escaped slaves enlisted in the Union army.
2. At first black troops served only as laborers, building roads and guarding supplies. They were not allowed in battle. African American soldiers protested against **discrimination**, the policy that denied them the same rights as white soldiers.
3. Eventually African Americans were allowed in battle and received the same pay as white troops.

III. African Americans Join the War Effort

4. By 1863, African American troops were fighting in major battles. One of the most famous African American units was the **54th Massachusetts Regiment**. In 1863, this regiment led an attack on **Fort Wagner** near Charleston, South Carolina. Under heavy fire, they fought their way into the fort before they were forced to retreat. The bravery of these soldiers helped win respect for African American soldiers.
5. Behind Confederate lines, many enslaved African Americans slowed down work or refused to work at all.

III. African Americans Join the War Effort

6. Wherever a Union army appeared, slaves from all over the area would cross the Union lines to freedom. By the end of the war, about one fourth of the South's enslaved population had escaped.
7. Many freed slaves served as guides and spies for the Union Army. Many also enlisted in the army to serve in African American regiments.

