

Name

Instructor

Course

Date

## Civil War

### **Introduction**

Did you know that during the American Civil War more than 600,000 Americans died (History.com par. 1)? The number of people who perished in this war was higher compared to that of all the wars America participated in, starting from the American Revolution to the Korean War. Millions of people were injured. All the Americans that died during the civil war still affect our daily lives today. The Civil War changed the nation to what it is today. There were different causes for war, and some of the major battles fought in the Civil War as well as various outcomes of the war. A number of wealthy and powerful people were involved in the war. The reason for this speech is to inform my community of the causes, major battles fought, prominent people and the effects of the Civil War.

### **Body**

Among the chief causes were slavery, the Fugitive Slave Law, Quakers, and abolitionists. What is your definition of slavery? A loose definition would be that slavery is the act of possessing and owning another person's freedom and liberties. During the 1960's people saw slaves as part of their property and not human beings. Also, the white population used the slaves to work on their plantations. There were occasions when educated, and wealthy African

Americans who had farms employed several slaves to work for them. Some of the white people were also slaves because of their place of origin.

Another cause for the civil war was that the Quakers and abolitionists did not support the idea of slavery since the white people viewed the African American people as property and not human beings. The abolitionists believed that slavery was evil and their desire was for slavery to become illegal everywhere in America. Some of the abolitionists included Fredrick Douglass, Harriet Beecher, John Brown and Harriet Tubman. Therefore, they started convincing people that slavery was something wrong and to be ended.. The Southerners became afraid that the abolition of slavery would lead to the end of their lofty lifestyle. For example, John Brown attempted to organize a slave rebellion in Harper's Ferry found in Virginia. Despite the fact that his plan failed, he had mobilized a large number of people against their masters.

The Fugitive Slave Law was another primary cause of the war. Most of the northerners were against the Law and therefore breaking it. The Quakers used to help protect the escapees who were running away from their masters and plantations. They would give the fugitives food, clothing, and shelter until they were able to escape from the country using the Underground Railroad. The famous abolitionist of the Underground Railroad was Harriet Tubman (HistoryNet par. 7).

Some of the battles during the civil war include the attack on the Fort Sumter; it was the first rebellion of the Confederate State. Another battle was the Bull Run attack, which was the actual beginning of war. During the Antietam war approximately 12, 410 Union soldiers and around 13, 724 soldiers of the Confederation were injured. However, the Union force victory made a halt to the advancement of the Confederate side to Maryland and made them go to Virginia. The Gettysburg battle was the turning point for the end of the civil war (History.com

par. 10). The Confederates attacked the Union troops yet after three days of fighting the Union forces were able to repel the Confederation forces from the heart of Union territory. This battle costed the lives of around 60% of the Coonfederation forces.

Some of the most influential people of the war were Abraham Lincoln, at that time the President of American State and of the Union. Jefferson Davis, the Confederate State's President. Ulysses Grant who was the Victorious military leader of the Union, the one who defeated the military commander of the Confederates. Robert Lee, one of the commanders of the Confederation.

The war led to the surrender of Robert Lee in Virginia at a place known as Appomattox Courthouse after the realization that he was unable to get any supplies since the Union armies had blocked it. Among other consequences of the war were the changes to the Constitution, such as the 13th Amendment, which led to the abolition of the slavery. The 14th Amendment, which granted the African Americans the rights to become citizens and be protected by the law. The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment granted men the right to vote regardless their color, race, or their previous ties to slavery. It led to the destruction of most of the southerners land and economy. The war resulted in hatred and intolerance between the white population and African Americans that has lasted for several years.

### **Conclusion**

The Civil War is undoubtedly something people will remember for years to come. The conflict let to profound changes in the society, politics and economy of the young State. However it is fair to note that precisely this armed conflict brought the United Stares of America to the prosperous state it now enjoys.

Work Cited

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