

Emancipation Proclamation

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln

Intro

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THESIS

on January 1, 1863 during the Civil War. 1862 had long been considered as a significant turning point year during the Civil War, and the Emancipation Proclamation was definitely one of the turning points. It declared that all the slaves in the rebellious states were set free and also allowed the existence of African Americans in the army. Nevertheless, despite its importance in the Civil War, I don't consider as solely the most important turning point in war due to its immediacy & immediacy why!
free slaves, and the presence of two other significant Civil War turning points: the Battle of Vicksburg & the Battle of Gettysburg

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The Emancipation Proclamation was both militarily and symbolically strategic. By freeing all the slaves in the rebellious states and the allowance for AA existence, the Proclamation could pull large amount

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of AA to Northern Union Army, which could tremendously weaken the Union army since they were suffering countless losses. Furthermore, aware of the Proclamation, Southern slaves decided to sabotage plantation and destroy all crop-related machines and tools. Despite the Southerners' harsh punishment & surveillance, these acts of revolt by the AA clearly damaged the Southerners' plantation system, which ultimately affected their food production. Moreover, it had a huge symbolic importance. Now, this war is not only about saving the Union, but fighting for freedom of the slaves. This sparked a sense of unity, especially in the Northern abolitionist states and fighters. For instance, after hearing the issue of the Proclamation, a freed AA at Washington D.C.

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paraded the celebration at the capital where "colored & white men" danced back and forth in front of the White House. Not only was the Proclamation militarily advantageous to the North,

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it also held a huge symbolic meaning of fighting for the cause of freedom rather than just restoring the Union.

However, the Proclamation was definitely not solely the most important turning point due to its setbacks of not immediately freeing all slaves. In fact, it actually didn't free any slaves since it applied only to slaves in rebellious states, it only applied to the slaves behind Confederate lines, which clearly didn't care about the Proclamation. Also, since it was a military claim, it didn't apply to the Southern states fighting with the Union or the Southern states that didn't secede from the Union. All in all, the Proclamation didn't abolish slavery at all and not even one single slave during the Civil War.

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Furthermore, two other major turning points during the Civil War overshadowed the effect of the Proclamation: The Battle of Vicksburg and the Battle of Gettysburg. One of the major turning points in Civil War was Lincoln's reliance on General Ulysses S. Grant, who was later known as the hero of Civil War and eventually US President after Andrew Johnson. The siege of Vicksburg was one of the holdovers for the Confederacy to prevent Union from taking full control of the Mississippi River. In the Battle of Vicksburg, General Grant managed to defeat the Confederate troops and captured the city of Vicksburg. This granted Union's access & control a half of the River and ultimately weakened the Confederacy because the River was essential for their communication and food supply transportation. Also, the Battle of Gettysburg was also one of the major turning points because it demoralized Robert E. Lee's moral and army so bad that he was never able to provide sufficient army to invade the North. Initially, after this victory at Chancellorsville, he decided to march towards Maryland. Throughout the three days of Battle, Robert E. Lee constantly tried to take over Union's High Cemetery & houses, even the Union troops, they were continuously unable to do so, which ultimately resulted in their defeat & retreat.

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Vicksburg

Analysis why these
are more significant
turning points

conclusion
analysis

As a result, because of its incapability to free slaves ^{and} the importance of the Battle of Vicksburg & Antietam, the Emancipation Proclamation was a turning point during the Civil War but definitely not the most significant one.