Increasing tensions in the United States between the North and South led to the succession of the Confederate States of America. This succession led to the outbreak of the Civil War in America. This war had great effects on the U.S. and its citizens. The Civil War greatly impacted African Americans via the Emancipation Proclamation, women by giving them opportunities to contribute to the war effort, and to the American soldiers fighting against their neighbors.

Following the Battle of Antietam, President Abraham Lincoln introduced the Emancipation Proclamation. This document was aimed towards the slaves held in the South. The Emancipation Proclamation freed all the slaves held in Southern States. This document did not only free slaves but brought African Americans into the war effort by allowing them to fight for the Union Army (Doc. 2). Among the African Americans supporting the Union Army was Frederick Douglass, an abolitionist and former slave. After the Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves, Frederick Douglass helped persuade Abraham Lincoln to allow African Americans to fight in the war for the Union Army (Doc.3). Frederick Douglass request was eventually granted. The new help of African Americans greatly helped the Union with the war and secure African Americans citizenship. African Americans were certainly motivated to fight for freedom and equality (Doc. 4). While African Americans were allowed to fight in the war, they were not treated completely equally. White solders were being paid more than African American soldiers. Even though African Americans were freed and to be treated equally, they were still being discriminated against. This discrimination of African Americans continued well after the Civil War (Doc. 7).

With men out fighting in the war, women were left to run the homes and continue on with society. However, with the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves, women were left to run the farms and do the work that the men and slaves did. This work was not possible to do without slaves. This led to a lack of food production in the South. The South was suffering during this time (Doc. 1). Although a lot of women were not involved in the war, many of them contributed to the war by being nurses. Nurses would care for and treat wounded and sick soldiers in the war. These women nurses were extremely helpful to both sides of this war (Doc.6). Nurses in the Civil War also paved the way for women to be more involved in the work force. Nurses proved that women were able to have jobs and work just like men. Women who were nurses in the war led to a greater equality of women in American society (Doc. 8).

The impact of war had the greatest effect on the soldiers involved. The Civil War was the most devastating war to the U.S. in its history. This is mainly due to the fact that all of the troops involved were Americans. After the Civil War, America was devastated due to the destruction and large amount of casualties (Doc. 10). The Civil War brought intense, often hand-on-hand combat between people from the same country. The thought of Americans fighting other Americans was troubling. The size of the war and people fighting led to a large number of deaths (Doc. 5). The Civil War did not only bring physical damage, but psychological damage as well. Although it was not known of at the time, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was a very real factor even after the war. Soldiers from both sides of the war were never the same after enduring such a traumatic and stressful war. Many young soldiers never recovered from those events (Doc. 9).

The Civil War greatly impacted the newly freed African Americans, the women involved in the war, and the soldiers fighting in the war. The effects left from this war greatly changed American society forever.