The American Civil War majorly impacted the country’s economy, social culture, and federal and other governments following the passing of the deadly war. However, alongside the bolstering economic opportunities and slow reparations, the lives of African Americans, women, and the common soldiers were altered due to the many events that occurred and policies that were passed.

African Americans began to witness changes starting with Frederick Douglas’ major pushes to evoke change and persuaded President Lincoln to include African Americans into the war effort; that’s exactly what the Emancipation Proclamation (Document 2) did. The proclamation freed all persons that were enslaved within valid states and allowed assistance against the rebellion. Document 4 very well depicts these released persons fighting for their country, and alongside their rights within the Civil War. Frederick Douglass very well followed his stressful persuaded with Document 3’s statement that any man that fights for his country has inherently gained citizenship. Many fellow African American soldiers, ranging from the civil war all the way towards WWII, felt they deserved more rights and recognition for their sacrificial service. Theses soldiers also were still prejudiced for their color by getting paid three dollars less a month and receiving a three dollar uniform fee as well, illustrated clearly via Document 7.

The common soldiers of the Civil War freed many horrific sights throughout the duration of the war; holes punched through horses, limbs lying across the field and outside the shoddy and unclean med-bays. Document 5 depicts one of the large hand-to-hand combat battles I the war. These brutal offensives often gave soldiers the unrecognized illness of PTSD as many deaths were seen across the board as shown by Document 10. Many soldiers were also left debilitated and mentally ill. It did not matter what position or rank the soldiers were in; it could be done to the common man such as in Document 9, or generals such as Stonewall Jackson prior to his death.

Women also witnessed varying changes whether it was at home or on the field. At home in the south, women witness a deeper economic fall and for bread deprived in Document 1 and the depression view of the situation. However, not all women faced economic depression, as some had worked as nurses for the injured soldiers in the med-by and caring for their needs that a normal doctor would have no time for, depicted as such in Document 6. This rise in position opened recognition that women could fill jobs and fulfill more roles than a housewife. These nursing efforts were the path for all employment for women in the industrial revolution with Document 8 fully speaking the opportunity for women following the Civil War.