Many changes in U.S. society occurred due to the civil war. Families were altered such as the lives of African Americans, women, and soldiers. With the war came positive and negative changes for the U.S.

At the beginning of the war, the abolition of slavery was not a serious goal. The main goal of the war was to preserve the union. As the war went on, African Americans began fighting for the union, and activists such as Frederick Douglass spoke about gaining rights for African Americans. Lincoln made the decision to abolish slavery with his Emancipation Proclamation.

With many men leaving to fight the war, women had to take care and provide for the family alone. Many women had trouble because the men were the sole source of income at the time. Struggling women rioted for food, such as the bread riots, and some found jobs as nurses. Women such as Dorothea Dix looked after the soldiers during the war.

The soldiers of the Civil War for both the north and the south were impacted greatly as well. By the end of the war, thousands were dead from disease and wounds. Those that survived the war had to deal with injuries. Many soldiers were left physically handicapped; some missing arms and legs, and some paralyzed. The war was a brutal experience that left soldiers troubled.

The civil war changed society in very different ways. The civil war was the starting ground for rights and fighting for equality.