

EFFECTS OF THE CIVIL WAR

The Civil War freed the United States of many burdens and embarrassments, but it was also a national tragedy. When the war was over, the country became much stronger and more unified, but the impact of so much violence and fighting between people of the same nation was not something easily forgotten or forgiven.

By the North defeating the South and not allowing them to secede, the federal government became much more powerful than it had been. Previously, each state had much more freedom to make its own laws. After the war, though states still had some individual rights, the federal government was the most powerful. When speaking about the United States, people often said “the United States are...,” after the war, people began saying “the United States is...”. The United States had become a single nation, rather than a collection of states.

One of the most important effects was that slavery had been officially ended and outlawed anywhere in the U.S. Many people had been working to end slavery, and many states had, but it wasn't until the nation was unified, and individual states were placed under more federal control, that it was able to be officially abolished .

The violence that had happened between the North and South left a bitterness between the people. The Civil War nearly crushed the South's economy and many were left in poverty, which only made their anger worse. The southern states were placed under military rule until, one by one, they made agreements to rejoin the Union. A period of reconstruction took place, to help the Southern economy, but times were hard for many years.

The North and the South had been very different from each other before the Civil War, and though the war guaranteed that they were now united, many differences remained. The South blamed the North for invading their land and destroying their economy, while the North blamed the the South for trying to break up the Union and insisting on slavery, and the two parts of the country rarely agreed on anything. Even today, the Northeastern and the Southeastern United States have very different identities, and often clashing political stances.

Many lives were lost, and many families were torn apart by taking sides during the war, and many of the negative effects of the Civil War are still felt today. However, without the positive effects of it, the country would be a much different place.



A Southern city after the war

Response Questions

Why was it so difficult to abolish slavery without more federal control?

Name three significant things that happened as a result of the Civil War.

Name some of the reasons the North and South were bitter towards one another after the war.