

Name _____

Answer Key

Correction Marks

The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by president Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, during the American Civil War, was a historic executive order that declared the freedom of enslaved people in the Confederate states. Its primary focus was on those states in rebellion against the Union, meaning it didn't immediately free all enslaved individuals in the United States. Instead, it had several significant implications.

Lincoln believed that it would weaken the Confederacy by disrupting its labor force and by providing enslaved individuals with an incentive to escape to Union-held areas, where they would be recognized as "contraband of war." It held immense moral and political symbolism. It transformed the Civil War from a struggle primarily centered on preserving the Union into a conflict against slavery itself, rallying international support and strengthening the Union's moral cause. Lastly, while the proclamation didn't bring an immediate end to slavery everywhere, it paved the way for the eventual abolition of slavery. It played a pivotal role in setting the stage for the passage and ratification of the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1865, which permanently abolished slavery throughout the United States. The Emancipation Proclamation remains one of the most significant documents in American history, as it marked a critical step towards freedom and equality for enslaved people.

Complete Passage

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