

## Civil War: Changes Made For Today

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3 In the past, there was several ways the Civil War changed America forever. In this paper,  
4 I will be discussing several ways in which the Civil War has impacted America until this very  
5 day and many more to come. Some of these major impacts have to deal with political,  
6 technology, social, and economic issues. This mostly includes laws that have been passed,  
7 certain acts of economic downfalls, and social problems between the average human beings. Did  
8 the Civil War change America into what it is today? The answer is up to you.

9 Politically, several laws have been passed since the start of the Civil War. Some  
10 examples of the political events that have happened since then are as follows: 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment;  
11 which states all men no matter what race has the right to vote, the right for women to vote was  
12 passed, and Reconstruction laws were passed. “Jim Crowe laws passed” (Towner 1). Jim Crowe  
13 laws were passed for the black people when they were fighting for the law to be passed about  
14 segregation between blacks and whites. “About one-third of these slaves were moved in the  
15 company of their owners, as planters established new estates in the West and assigned slave men  
16 and women to settle and develop them” (Clark 134). These events that were passed during this  
17 time are still looked after today. Especially, the right for any race or gender to vote. It is  
18 probably two of the largest events that are still in effect today. Letting anyone who has the  
19 mental stability to vote makes the world a better place and can help the children of the future  
20 learn how voting works and what it can do for years to come. “The South kept still the social  
21 order and the social and political ideals of an elder generation” (Wilson 270). He is saying that  
22 the Southern people kept the same pretty much throughout all of these years.

23 Technology is always changing. Whether it is medically or household items we tend to  
24 use everyday. Some technological events that are worth mentioning are safer surgical strategies,

1 better healthcare for the young and old, mass production of many canned food items, war  
2 photography, and ways of communication. A study once said that more than 90% of American  
3 adults own some form of mobile communication. With medicine, there is always a different way  
4 to do things. It can go from a newer way of stitching someone's cut up to curing a disease that  
5 doctors in the past could not find a cure for. With technology there is always something being  
6 created to have better communication with the outside world. This can include such things as:  
7 computers, cell phones, missile programming, and airplane communication. We use these  
8 everyday and it makes the world seem better connect then it use to be back then. Back in the  
9 day, the people could only really communicate through telegraphs.

10 Other everyday improvements that have been made since the Civil War are home-  
11 delivered mail, clothing and the sizes they come in, and even the currency we use. Home-  
12 delivered mail is such a pleasure to receive these days. Back in time during the war people  
13 would have to wait several hours or days before they could hear back from the people whom  
14 they were trying to communicate with. Today we can just send a text, an email, or even one  
15 single phone call to get the information that we need at that moment. With clothing, it has even  
16 changed. Clothing used to be extremely expensive because it came in such huge sizes, but now  
17 today since there is less material, we do not have to worry about how baggy or tight the clothing  
18 might fit. Currency today has changed tremendously as well.

19 Back then currency was mostly made up of only coins. Today it is mostly smaller coins  
20 and little slips of paper. People during the Civil War also did not have what we know today as a  
21 bank. There were not a lot of them created yet, so those people only held onto their money by  
22 having it with them pretty much 24/7. It is also easier to deal with money transactions today  
23 rather than what it was like a couple centuries ago.

1           The economy is constantly changing, but some of the events that happened during the  
2 Civil War have so much to do with how the country runs today. Slavery was one of the biggest  
3 issues that had been dealt with during the Civil War. In today's society, we barely ever see it  
4 anymore unless it is in another country, but in the United States it is illegal on all sorts of levels.  
5 When slavery was being brought up during the war, many people thought it was ridiculous to  
6 free the slaves. They wanted them to work for their families and not be able to have the rights  
7 the white people had during this time. This happened right up until the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was  
8 created and slavery was banned in the United States forever.

9           This also impacted the world, as we know it today by the production of several crops and  
10 tools that were used during this time. Not only did our farming and crop production increase but  
11 so did the increase in military equipment and transportation techniques. Farming was such a big  
12 part in the Civil War. It kept the men sane while dealing with the war and it improved several  
13 crops. During this time the two most significant crops that are still used to this day are tobacco  
14 and cotton. Without these two major crops, most of the United States would barely have  
15 clothing or a relaxer that most people use today. Cotton is so very important to today's society  
16 and can be used for so much. This includes clothing, bandages, cleaning materials, and many  
17 other uses. Tobacco is one of the most addictive drugs in the world today; so many people  
18 demanded that the farmers keep growing it so that they can use it for centuries to come. Tobacco  
19 is the most abused drug in the United States as well.

20           In conclusion, yes the Civil War changes America into what it is today. Without all of  
21 these advancements we would probably be in the same state of mind that the people were back in  
22 the day. Advancements are always needed and they will continue until the end of time. So in  
23 the end, political, technological, social, and economic changes have been majorly changed since

1 the Civil Wars beginning. It is still mind blowing to see how everything has come to a complete  
2 circle. These changes have made the United States into one of the most desirable countries to  
3 live in and people from all over the world want to move here because they see how much of a  
4 difference their lives could be. Has the impact of the Civil War changes what we now know as  
5 the world today?  
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Works Cited

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Towner, Betsy. "Civil War- 50 Ways It Changed American Life." *AARP*. N.p., n.d. Web. Jan.

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Wilson, Woodrow. *A History of the American People*. N.p.: Harper & Brothers, 1906. Print. Vol.

4 of *Critical Changes and Civil War*.

## Work Sample Evaluation

**Subject Area:** U.S. History

**Task Title:** How Much Unity in These States?

**Student Work Sample Title:** Civil War: Changes Made for Today

The document was scored using the *CCR Task Bank Rubric*. The final scores are indicated in the following chart.

Scoring Criteria	Insufficient Evidence	Developing	Progressing	Accomplished	Exceeds
Research and Investigation		X			
Ideas and Content		X			
Reading and Analysis		X			
Communication		X			
Organization		X			
Accuracy		X			

**Annotations:** The following evidence from the work sample and the reviewer’s comments support the scores above. Page and line numbers refer to the original work sample.

Scoring Criteria	Page #	Line #	Commentary about the work sample
<b>Research and Investigation:</b> <i>Locating resources independently and/or identifying information within provided texts</i>	5		The author has chosen authoritative sources and provided a Works Cited page that is formatted, for the most part, in accordance with MLA guidelines.
	1	12	In-text citations are provided, but the first quote is employed in a way that does not make it clear what the author is conveying (“Jim Crowe laws passed” is the entire statement).
	1	16	The second quote refers to conditions for slaves, but follows information about Reconstruction to create something of a <i>non sequitur</i> that leaves the reader wondering about the author’s command of the material.
<b>Ideas and Content:</b> <i>Presenting a thesis and understanding concepts</i>	1	8	To the extent that there is a thesis, the author claims that it is up to the reader whether the Civil War has molded America into what it is today or not. This statement is preceded by an unnecessary question.
	All		The content material is covered in only the most superficial manner as the reader comes away with little appreciation for the significance of the Reconstruction amendments and virtually no sense of how today’s discourse on constitutional interpretation is affected by the Civil War era.
	All		Conditions in contemporary America are thinly covered in terms of technological improvements and products available to consumers, but there is no treatment of the balance of power between the states and the federal government.
<b>Reading and Analysis:</b> <i>Evaluating sources and selecting evidence to support the central idea</i>	2	20-21	The author erroneously claims that there were no banks during the era of the Civil War.
	1	9	In a massive understatement, the author refers to “several” laws being passed since the Civil War.
	3	12	The author makes the odd and unsubstantiated claim that farming “kept the men sane while dealing with the war.”
	All		Sources are not evaluated to any meaningful extent.
<b>Communication:</b> <i>Using subject-appropriate language and considering audience</i>	2	8	The author uses the phrase “back in the day” – overly familiar or casual language.
	3	23	“Majorly” is provided as an adjective.
	2	22	“24/7” is used to indicate how long that people must keep cash with themselves.
	All		Generally speaking, the author seems to have given little consideration to subject appropriate language and audience.

Scoring Criteria	Page #	Line #	Commentary about the work sample
<b>Organization:</b> <i>Structuring main ideas and supporting information</i>	All		In part because of the weakness of the thesis, the structure of the paper suffers accordingly.
	1	20-22	Paragraph 2 is ostensibly about political changes growing out of the Civil War, but the transition to paragraph 3 is muddled by the way that a quote on Southern intransigence is employed and explained.
	3	7-9	Since consecutive sentences ending one paragraph and beginning another do not contain subjects, the transition between them is particularly awkward.
	All		Generally speaking, the author’s train of thought is not well-maintained.
<b>Accuracy:</b> <i>Attending to detail, grammar, spelling, conventions, citations, and formatting</i>	All		In part because of the weakness of the thesis, the structure of the paper suffers accordingly.
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	3	7-9	Since consecutive sentences ending one paragraph and beginning another do not contain subjects, the transition between them is particularly awkward.
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