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| *Focus Question:*  *Why did Lincoln issue the Emancipation?*  *What kind of criticisms did the Proclamation draw?*  *What was the general response to the Proclamation?*  *What was the overall affect of gaining African-American soldiers?*  *What made the 54th Massachusetts division significant?* | **How did the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation change the course of the war?**  Calls for Emancipation   * Abolitionists had been urging Lincoln to free the slaves. * Did not free border states to avoid enraging them. * In the summer of 1862, Lincoln released the proclamation after Antietam, a strong point for the Union.   The Emancipation Proclamation   * Released on January 1st, 1863. * Freed very few slaves; intended to be enforced militarily. * Many critics were upset at his not freeing the slaves in border states. * Still, this was a large symbolic step in the right direction.   Response to the Proclamation   * Abolitionists were thrilled at the Proclamation. * Many democrats were angered by this. * Most Union soldiers welcomed emancipation; freed slaves could aid Union soldiers in fighting. * Gave rebels hope in the Confederacy hope.   African-American Soldiers   * Proclamation also declared African-Americans able to fight in the war. * After the proclamation, 180,000 African-Americans were in the army; organized into all-black regiments. * Showed great courage even for being paid less and doing worse jobs.   The 54th Massachusetts   * Unit in the Union that insisted on fighting without pay. * Gained fame from its attack on the South Carolina Fort Wagner. * Soldiers of the 54th unit risked great dangers if they were caught in the Confederacy.   Summary  Unsurprisingly, the Emancipation Proclamation delighted most abolitionists and Union soldiers. For the army, it meant greater Confederacy rebellion and a new source of troops for the army. Northern Democrats, however, disagreed with the Emancipation, seeming to draw mostly on bigotry as the reason for their dislike of it. However, it was a moral step in the right direction. |