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**Slavery founded the United States of America as we know it today. Since the 17th century and the first British colonies, slavery existed in the northern colonies before concentrating in the South. Little by little, the slaves growing awareness led them to take their destiny into their own hands and to fight for the abolition of slavery. The abolition of slavery was accompanied by the union of all the States.**

**Translated with DeepL.com (free version)**

* **What role did slavery play in the construction of the United States and what were the consequences of its abolition?**

-Tensions remain: Black Lives Matter and White Lives Matter

**Conclusion: The end of slavery was only the beginning of a long fight for democratic equality**. During the twentieth century, numerous laws passed to create a new society based on equality:

- Martin Luther King, Malcom X, William Edward Burghardt Du Bois, and Angela Davis

- Juneteenth, Black history month

**II – Opposition to the institution of slavery**

**A) Awareness of their condition and the revolts of the slaves**

- The **‘Great Religious Revival”** => contradiction between the equality of the baptized and the inequality of slavery ;

- **The paradox of the "American Revolution”** ;

- Planned and spontaneous revolts (German Coast’s revolt).

**B) Act of resistance outside the plantations**

- Religious movements such as **the Quakers** advocated the abolition of slavery and created a lot of petitions ;

- "Fake" abolitionist such as Ulysses Grant and Abraham Lincoln who owned slaves, and were **against a total equality** between black and white people ;

- William Lloyd Garrison, one of the founders of the white abolitionist movement and the anti-slavery society, also played a key role in the abolition of slavery.

**II - The abolition of slavery at the heart of the American Civil War**

**A) The role of slavery in the Civil War**

- The main disagreement concerned **the expansion of slavery** ;

- Congress passed a bill stating that the Constitution could not be amended to abolish slavery (1861) ;

- Lincoln in favor of a gradual approach leading to the abolition of slavery (1862) ;

- Proclamation of emancipation (1 January 1863) ;

- Radicalization of the House of representatives (1864) ;

- **13th amendment** (6 December 1865).

**B) The consequences of abolition**

- **The great migration** ;

- **Segregation** ;

- The Ku Klux Klan.

**I– Slavery : at the roots of a prosperous economy**

**A) Slavery, a cornerstone of the triangular trade**

- **12 million slaves ;**

- A means of exchange between Europe, Africa, and the Americas ;

- Low cost of labor ;

- Inhumane travelling conditions ;

- Treated as objects and goods rather than human beings.

**B) Slaves’ living conditions on plantations**

- Work on tobacco, sugar cane and cotton plantations or as domestic servants ;

- Long working hours, bad hygiene conditions ;

- Considered as property, **a legal form of ownership** that could be used as the owner wished ;

- **Physical and moral violence** reigned on the plantations.

 