

and that no state could deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law; it also stated that no state could deny any person equal protection of the laws. Last, but not least, the 15th Amendment declared that the right to vote shall not be denied on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. However, although these certain laws were passed in the United States by the government, it did not necessarily mean that people abided by them.

In various regions of the country, there were people that still believed in slavery, especially in the South. The South made laws called Black Codes which were made to limit the rights of African Americans. There were also secret societies, one such as, the Ku Klux Klan. The purpose of this society was to terrorize anyone who supported the Republican government, initially, for all the events that came after the Civil War that they opposed. Although the country endured people that strongly opposed the newly assembled government, it still did not hinder African American progression.

Many African Americans had opportunities that were not open to them before the war. For example, some entered politics. The African Americans that were well educated shared their knowledge and opened up schools to the uneducated children as well as adults. They also established their own churches which served many purposes to their culture.

Dred Scott, because of your daring conscience and bravery to stand up to many to fight for your freedom, not only is the African American race recognized in the government as human beings, but the United States has also become a better place.

With much gratitude,
Nakia M. Billups
Nakia M. Billups