

Write a pre- and post-context for the prompt below. Remember, I'm not looking for an intro paragraph here, just a context and conclusion.

The guiding issue in American social, economic, and political life throughout the first half of the 19th century, the existence and future of African slavery in the United States drove American society from the country's founding until emancipation in 1865. However, the post-emancipation lives of these people was for all practical purposes anti-climactic, and in fact dreadful to the point where some former slaves yearned for the days of the plantation.