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After completing the 3 articles and review of the book I have come to a few different conclusions about this book. It was interesting to see the contrast of all of the different arguments. The first review from the New York Times was very supportive of the book as a whole. With the exception of not agreeing with the vocabulary used in the titles of chapters eight and nine, they were very pro McPherson. At one point in the review he said, "He knows how to use precise details to bring the past, even the overfamiliar past, to vivid life again." That statement expresses a lot about the writing style of McPherson. Later it also says that other accounts of the Civil War "usually sacrifice either detail (often important detail) to narrative flow, or narrative flow to detail" but in *Battle Cry of Freedom* McPherson does a good job of not having to sacrifice anything.

On the flip side of this argument in the shorter review of this book it says, "*Battle Cry of Freedom* is primarily a military history concerned with the tactics and strategy of the war, with a secondary but significant emphasis on the political maneuvering and events of the era." After reading this it really shows me really shows me opinion is everything. One review may really like the way McPherson portrays the civil war and what they see as importance and the next may think "it is possible he takes it too far." But it gives me a little more hope in the book, when at the end of the second review it says that it is still fair to the Civil War and also informative.

After reading those two reviews this book seems like the information portrayed is going to help me learn a lot about the Civil War. Whether it be focused on military history, or that it doesn't sacrifice any information, I feel that the accuracy will not be compromised. The only hesitation I had was when reading the Amazon reviews. Most of the low reviews had a common factor. That is was hard to read. One even said that it was a chore.

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