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My first assumption about McPherson's "Battle Cry of Freedom" is that it must be a great resource to have won a Pulitzer and secondly, that it must be an accurate account to be selected as the class text for this course. Plus, McPherson is a professor at Princeton, a very prestigious college.

That being said, after reading many of the reviews offered, I am now seriously dreading this book. The majority of the Amazon readers really picked it apart for being so dry and boring, in addition to being consistently inaccurate. The second review also paints a pretty grim picture of bias writing.

The NY Times review takes a different approach entirely. Although some opinion-based flaws are pointed out, for the most part, this review sings McPherson's praises. While this review does carry some weight with me as it is coming from the New York Times, it is still hard to believe that this critic was so flattering and had few actual critiques.

In comparison, I thought "Why would I care what other readers thought about this book. They are nobody's on Amazon" but after reading some of the more detailed reviews, especially those which cited quotes and gave counter information and sources, I began to feel the dread of reading this book rising again. Over all, I will try to keep an open mind to Battle Cry, but I am not nearly as excited to read it after reading these reviews.

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