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HST 209

McPherson Assignment

To get a feel for Battle Cry of Freedom I mostly read Amazon reviews to get a general idea of the book by people who read it. 174 people gave it a 5 star rating, while only 4 submitted the book with a worthless 1 star. Comparing the reviews I'm getting an understanding that the book is very detailed; touching points on politics, economy, voting, and the battles. With all this information packed into the 800 pages it sounds like an intimidating read to prepare for.

Reading the negative reviews first I noticed comments like "This is the most boring book.. It is a work from a biased perspective..chapters are scattered."(Amazon 1 star reviews). Basically all the negative reviews were written by students who were assigned the book for class and were not happy about it. I understand how stressful it can be reading while doing your best to soak in every bit of detail to prepare for a test. It can ruin the learning experience and the class. Looking over the 5 star reviews everyone praised how well rounded and informational it is about the Civil War and the era for being a single volume book.

How I plan to approach Battle Cry of Freedom is to hopefully have an understanding on what to look for while reading. I want to

prepare myself for each quiz and highlight notes throughout to refer back and study over. What worries me about accuracy is how an author can be one-sided on issues and could leave out key information. Like the Morrison and May review on Ken Burns series they said "America's Civil War may as well be Ken Burns' Civil War."(Morrison&May)

Overall after reading the NYTimes, NotNews, and Amazon reviews on Battle Cry of Freedom by James M. McPherson I have confidence that I will gain a well rounded understanding of the Civil War.

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