

Due date: Sunday, 9 January 2011, 11:55 PM

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I can't come to an early decision on any text without reading it first. However, based on my trust in our professor's expertise, and from what the reviews say I look forward to reading "Battle Cry for Freedom." The New York Times book review I read seemed to rave about the book, and his only real criticism was the titles of chapters 7 and 8. I personally don't have a problem with James McPherson referring to Lincoln's election as a revolution, because I believe it was a turning point in American history. The argument would be legalistic, as to whether a "turning point" is the same as a "revolution," but as far as a title I feel it's all arbitrary. No issues worry me as to whether McPherson will be fair and objective on everything, because no textbook ever is and that's why we have forums in class to discuss things we take issue with. I have extreme confidence in this text after reading the reviews. I don't care about the reviews of the amazon readers. They are usually coming from an entertainment standpoint, and aren't as interested in historical analysis as they are in reading novels that are fun to read. One constant criticism I saw throughout all the reviews is that McPherson had a bias towards the Union. This criticism is consistent with a disease that is spreading through education, where if one believes what is obvious and what he/she was taught growing up he/she is somehow not as intellectual or enlightened. I'm very much looking forward to studying this book and gaining knowledge about the most important time period in American History.

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