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HST 209 W11 : McPherson Assignment

Soren Kierkegaard once said "The most terrible fight is not when there is one opinion against another, the most terrible is when two men say the same thing -- and fight about the interpretation, and this interpretation involves a difference of quality."

There are many things in life that we consider to be led by interpretation, some of it meaningless while the rest is material that will stick with us for the rest of our lives. It's important at times that we realize what is fact and what is opinion and more importantly how much of that opinion we believe to be fact. Thomas Edison shortly said after making a light bulb that he didn't find one way to make a light bulb but more importantly he found two-thousand ways on how to not make a light bulb. I felt the same way when reading different reviews regarding McPherson's work, that there wasn't just one way to interpret his story but many. With that frame of reference in mind I actually look forward to reading his work, not due to the fact that so many others have, but more due to the fact that I haven't.

There are so many interests out there for each person, just as there are so many ways to interpret various people and events.

When saying this I refer to the historical accuracy that has caused me to be somewhat worrisome. It seems that from reading various responses from fellow readers of McPherson's book that what McPherson claims or more thinks started the war is most commonly disagreed upon, therefore I find this to be the accuracy to which I worry about. Despite though this issue I am more than confident that I will enjoy McPherson's work, after all it is through interest, of both others and ourselves that present us and leave us with a great story.

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