

80/100

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I made the mistake of reading this week's chapters before doing the assignment, so I find myself unable to make the "early decision" that's asked of me now. I can, however, give my opinion on how I'll be approaching it from now on. *- this should provide a better analysis on your part.*

I grew up homeschooled with my extremely religious grandmother and (much less enthusiastic, but still Christian) mother as my teachers. The curriculum we used always had a heavy influence on the writings in the Bible, so all historical events were very biased. All I ever heard was how the Union soldiers were the "good guys" and the Confederacy was the plague of the earth because God doesn't believe in slaves. With this in mind, I was thrilled to find that McPherson put any detail at all into explaining the Confederate side of the story. *- according to which source?*

Evidently not enough, according to the ^{Amazon} reviews. It must be the fact that I have no truly objective experiences to compare it with, but I didn't notice the Union bias at first. Upon reading the reviews and reflecting, I can see that he does insert his opinions into his writing quite often. I'm worried now as to how accurate this story is going to be. Although the events and motivations behind the actions will most likely be factual, I fear that the Union side is going to be glorified, leaving the South and its beliefs sadly untouched. I really hope it doesn't affect my learning or my enjoyment. *→ provide examples!!*

I worry mostly because of the opinions expressed in the customer reviews. I personally trust those more, for reasoning stated a few times in the reviews themselves. Just because a few critics may have enjoyed a movie does not mean the public will. I find myself more open to the criticisms of the public readers, since they've used the book for more practical purposes than simply nominating a prizewinner. *so you give these heavy consideration?*

Based on the reviews and my own experience, I find myself less confident in the book. Although I initially approached it enthusiastically, finding it the least biased work I'd come across, I worry now that it's not as objective as I had assumed. The reviews spoke of little detail, something I noticed when reading it myself. It gives a vague explanation of what happened, but the dates are somewhat uncertain and there's not much elaboration besides the initial information. As my old US History teacher would say, "Too many potatoes and not enough beef." Although I still find the book engaging and informative, I feel more apprehensive and will be on a lookout for "facts" that are more opinionated than they ought to be.

*I'm glad you are skeptical
but you failed to
address the NY Times
or blogger reviews.*

*And how about McPherson's
credentials, the prize.*

*Perhaps IF you had
provided specific issues you've
read so far.
∴ lacking sound
analysis*

*high
points*