

80/100

453

Adam Coutts / American Civil War Assignment 1

For most books that I've read, it usually requires me to read three chapters before I can tell if a book is too wordy or if I want to read more. If it's good then sometimes within the first six pages I will be able to tell how a book will flow and if I will continue to read it. For a text book especially in a class I'm required to take, it is another matter entirely. Then I call upon a different set of requirements, can I read this and be able to recall what I've read.

From the reviews that I've read about McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, most of them criticized his book in a negative light describing that it's more novella with a large amount of one-sided pro-union opinion than a possible true accounting of both sides in this Civil War. It's a little too early for me to say one way or the other how well this text will be based on the few critics that didn't care for the book. But I will say, I enjoy text books more when ~~like~~ flow like a good read than an analytical text book. There's just something about a good book that sometimes is hard to put down.

This book at the time of its publication got stunning reviews and won a Pulitzer Prize so why is it getting bad reviews? Hugh Brogan of the New York Times even says in his assessment, "...is one of the best one-volume treatment of the Civil War era..." The word 'treatment' defined is: the act, manner, or method of handling with someone or something; an adaptation of a novel or other literary work that serves as the basis (American Heritage Dictionary 4th Edition). This book by the above definition is just a basis of the information given about the Civil War and is in no way saying that it's the definitive book to go to in regards to everything about the Civil War era. The author even tells us in his own book by the amount of foot notes that in turn show where he got said information and where you can find more of said information.

James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom* is given some of the best reviews and I've read some of the worst opinions from various sites but I still won't be able to come to a definitive conclusion until I've personally read it. I myself will continue to believe in the positive reviews until I can form my own opinion about its authenticity.

paper lacked the ~~the~~ analysis of the sources I assigned