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After reading all of the reviews for our class book "Battle Cry of Freedom" I have strong mixed emotions about what I will get out of this book. By mixed emotions I am referencing statements such as "what McPherson says is not true, or he is simply using and going off of his own opinion" (Frankly I am curious as to whether or not you; our instructor, feel that this book is a good choice for our class?) I can only assume that it was chosen for a good reason. I am already not looking forward to a slow boring read. However I am optimistic about being interested in the book. But I am only saying this because of what 90% of the reviews stated. Although there is a little hope still for the fact that the New York Times says that "It is the best one-volume treatment of its subject that the writer has ever come across".

No hypo? —

poor conclusion —

There were many arguments in the review that I have strongly took note of. One was that the writer dragged on with stories that took forever to get to the point. This I believe is why we are starting at chapter 8 rather than one. Then there were accusations from reviewers stating that McPherson simply mislead the truth or turned it into what he felt was the truth, basically going off of his own personal opinion. Or that he left out very important battles and or scenes from the war. However I can understand why he might have left out important scenes such as Abraham Lincoln assassination; most everyone already knows this story.

Right now the negative Amazon.com reviews are the most important to you?

Then there are reviews of how this is just a great reference book. From what I understand this book is full of useful answers, which kind of throws me off a little because some of the same people who stated that this is full of misleading facts also said that this is a great book to reference true facts. Although it would be nice to have a book that would be a great read, I have to consider the fact that when was the last time I actually had a text book that was so good I couldn't put it down?

not relevant to this assignment

But like I said I am open to the fact that I will definitely learn new things about the civil war but will I ever truly know if what I am learning is the full truth? Are we going to point out fact from fiction, or are we just going to assume that everything is fact? I am familiar with very little information about the civil war, hence why I am taking this class, but I would like to know that I am going to be learning the true facts.

Too many hypothetical questions in your paper. I ask the questions I want you to answer. Paper lacked analysis because it seemed like the Amazon reviews were all you could talk about. You excluded the NYTimes & blogger positive reviews, focused so much on whether you'd enjoy it.