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I'm not quite sure if I have come to an early decision about how I will be approaching James McPherson's book *Battle Cry Of Freedom*. The reviews I've read, for a lack of better wording, left me confused and unsure as to how I will be approaching this book. James McPherson has impressive credentials, and the *Battle Cry Of Freedom* is a Pulitzer prize-winning book, which to me suggests is well worth reading and trusting. The New York Times book review was quite in favor of it. The article said "It is the best one-volume treatment of its subject I have ever come across. It may actually be the best ever published." A statement like that speaks volumes to the book itself. The review goes on about how it omits nothing important, It doesn't contain any redundant details (which I'm not a fan of redundancy) and how well McPherson's narrative writing skills are. All in all the review seemed to be an excellent one. The second review for the most part stated a lot of the same positive things that the New York Times review did. I like that this review pointed out that the books extensive footnotes and bibliography provide an excellent jumping off point for more detailed research on specific topics. The Review even says the author remains "balanced" in the book, and states "McPherson does offer praise for many Confederates and criticism for many in the Union", Which is pretty contradictory to the

Amazon.com readers' reviews I read. Most of the Amazon.com reviews said something about how McPherson has an anti-southern bias perspective, how he focuses namely on slavery being the biggest driving force behind the war and ignores a lot of the other factors. A few of the reviews stated McPherson left out some important evidence of blacks, Native Americans and Hispanics who served the Confederacy. I have always been interested in the Civil War, but other than seeing some documentaries on the subject and *Gone with the Wind* being my all time favorite book, I am not very familiar with it. I am eager learn all that I can on the subject and was hoping for an unbiased education on the matter, so regardless of the good and not so good reviews I've read about the *Battle Cry Of Freedom*, I think I am going to approach the book with an open mind eager to learn.

faith
in the
Pulitzer

If you
trust the
NYTimes

↓ good



paper lacked
analysis here
You mentioned the
circumstances (good)
but not how
they affected you