

95/100

599

And you
will still
be unlikely
to escape
that
personal
bias.

As with any book I read, I like to approach it with an open mind. If I start reading a book with a certain mind set I find that I will lean in that direction while reading the text. It can cloud how I interpret the book, and that's not fair to the author of the book. So, like with any other book I read I'm trying not to have too much of an opinion of how this text book will read.

explain

The New York Times and the Not News Forums reviewers both perceived the book in a good light. I felt the New York Times review was slightly better. The Times review had one major sticking point to the book and that was the title of chapters 7 and 8. After reading why the reviewer had a difficult time with the titles it's difficult for me to agree with his perspective without going back over the chapters myself and determining whether or not his judgement is fair. The Times review is overall very positive and besides those two chapter titles he finds little else wrong with the book, and even goes on to say that this might be the best text covering the Civil War. The Forums reviewer Dave Thomer, finds more faults with the book than the Times review. His review talks about the contingency-based approach taken by James McPherson. Thomer writes that McPherson says that there wasn't one specific advantage the North had but that there were specific events that could have gone the other way. Thomer sites specific advantages that the North had during the war over the South, such as industrial capacity and population. Both reviews were positive.

nice

explain

I felt the negative customer reviews were based on personal feelings and expectations of the book. One reviewer compares it another Civil War book. One book has nothing to do with another book. McPherson didn't write this book to contrast any other specific work on the Civil War. Another reviewer says it reads like a text book and not a novel. Did this person actual think that this **non-fiction** text was supposed to be a novel? Other reviewers go on to state specific things that they thought were missing or why other parts of the war had such a little part in the book. I'm guessing there was probably some reason for this. I will not judge until I have read and completed the book. I think people expect too much and they are often disappointed and let down when it doesn't live up to their unrealistic expectations. Many of the reviewers point out other people's reviews before reading the book themselves. They have already let themselves be influenced by some random person's opinion and their mind isn't open when they actual read the book. Yes... good!

how do
you know?

analysis?

I will go into this course and the book with an open mind and the reviews will not influence me in any way. (I'm not really concerned about historical accuracy until I finish the book) I don't put too much stock into reviews because everyone looks for something different when reading and reviewing a book. (I will say that I thought the customer reviews were a little ridiculous) and I've seen these same types of reviews before, whether it's with a book or any other product review I see online. I'm fairly confident this book will provide me with some great information and look forward to learning more over the course of the term.

very
strange
claim

Yes,
but
weren't
there any
(good)
(specific)
ones?

Very well written
& overall job.