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If a writer for the New York Times Book Review describes this book as "the best one-volume treatment of its subject I have ever come across", I have little doubt that this particular book is worth reading. I also know that this book was chosen because it must give worthwhile perspective on the war. I appreciate reading multiple reviews before starting any book and especially history books. Sometimes a horrible review will even make me want to read it more. - me too

The first review from the NY Times mentions that he was unimpressed with the map quality and he also has issue with chapter titles, particularly the seventh and eighth regarding the definition and the oversimplified use of the word "revolution". The blogger says that "Once the shots are fired" McPherson focuses too much on the military aspect of the war and not enough on the politics and the economic instances that led to Appomattox. Many of the Amazon reviews state that the author has some sort of bias against southern people and was influenced by personal experiences during the Civil Rights Movement. All of these and more will have me on the lookout for any sort of North/South leanings and I hope that McPherson does not try to rewrite history in order to come across as anti slavery.

(even though I'm sure he is) ^{yes} In my opinion it is not our job to judge history, only to try and understand what actually happened by interpreting the facts. - have you been in my 7 classes before? :)

The best sources available are always peer reviewed articles/books/documentaries that have been scrutinized by other historians. I have found several bloggers that hold up to this but, most just spout nonsense or have nothing to back up claims. The same goes with television programs that claim to be documentaries. → so what are you saying about this blogger

I personally feel very comfortable with this book. Choosing a single book for this particular subject gives it credibility alone. The reviews that were provided also were very positive with little negative feedback. I am also confident that enough outside material will be presented that will make up for any shortcomings the book may have.

Wow
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