

99/100
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explain
Does Truth = my existing view?

In terms of deciding how to approach the textbook this term, I have the interesting advantage that I took this course once before and have read most sections of the book. I find that the New York Times review best fits my view. There may be some small drawbacks, but overall the book is a great account of the Civil War. As with all accounts of such a turbulent and emotionally evocative subject, there will be conflicting accounts and heated opposition to certain views. As college learners, we are bound to view every text with critical thinking skills and an independent mind.

The subject of the Civil War is one dripping with personal opinions and bias. This makes historical accuracy a primary concern when selecting a text to serve as the principal source of information. I grew up in Southwest Missouri, with the Wilson's Creek Battlefield visible from my backyard and confederate flags flying in my neighborhood. I have read and heard many variations on the events of that battle. I am quite familiar with how stories can be manipulated to make "historical accounts" fit the intentions and views of the writer. What I understand from many of the reviews, especially the blog review, is that McPherson made his text as balanced and objective as is possible. This subject tends to prompt those who study it in depth to align passionately with one side or another. I will always take Civil War accounts with a grain of salt, so to speak, but I believe this text to be very accurate and well-rounded. *which ones?* *wow!*

Does that name automatically transfer to individual writers?

It is sometimes difficult to decide which opinions of a particular work to trust. At first glance, I tend to trust the New York Times review the most. I believe the staff to be competent and well-informed on the matters they discuss. The name of the periodical alone lends a certain level of accountability to readers. I want to trust the Amazon reviews, because these are readers with no hidden agendas, only expressing their opinion of the text. I believe, however, many of them to be more upset that the facts expressed in the text were tainted with a bias that was opposite their own. The bias of the Amazon reviewers is obvious. It seems their own bias being at odds with their perceived bias prevented them from reading the text objectively. *Any truth to their complaints*

I am quite confident in this text as the main source of historical information about the Civil War. Though we are being confronted with a barrage of mixed reviews, I believe any source on the subject would find disfavor in the eyes of some readers. I imagine this text, being hailed by the New York Times review as "the best one-volume treatment of its subject I have ever come across," more than meets the needs of our course. I am excited to delve into its depths once more.

Very nicely done
well written
Hope you appreciate
my comments about
forcing you to grapple
with some deeper
issues