

100/100

598

best analysis

in class

!!!

Wow!
nice inclusion

The stories, accomplishments, set-backs, culture, and trials of history present to its student opportunities to gain perspective from past experiences and to appreciate those who lived before us. Though I distrust the general scope of his political sympathies, I do agree with the historian E. H. Carr about the important connection between the past and present as stated in his quote provided in our course material: "The function off the historian is neither to love the past nor to emancipate himself from the past, but to master and understand it as the key to the understanding of the present." History can certainly be enlightening and elucidating, however, it should not be expected that the presentation of history, whether recorded through numbers, facts, or narrative, is comprehensive or complete. This reality is evident through the varied critiques and praises of James McPherson's Civil War history *Battle Cry of Freedom*. Although the Princeton University professor and historian has received great recognition for his work with the book, including winning the Pulitzer Prize, some readers are still unsatisfied with its details and narrative, and critique it as unbalanced with its representation of the opposing sides in the war.

I think that when when reading history one must draw from the source as much good and accuracy as it might contain while not relying on it exclusively for ultimate perspective about the details that it describes. I also think that it is often helpful to hear others' critiques when reading an historical account. Some of the Amazon critiques of *Battle Cry of Freedom* were not helpful to me, however, I appreciated those who had detailed examples of what they thought was erred with this narrative, particularly in regards to how the Southern citizenry is represented and to the causes for Southern secession. Still, I look forward to reading *Battle Cry of Freedom* considering the many positive aspects of the book that were cited in many of the reviews that were given to it. I will, however, read the book carefully, noting how both the North and South are depicted. I am particularly interested in political, social and economic developments during this era, so I will look for that information in the text. I don't expect a thorough account of the events of this time nor of the Civil War, considering the limited size of this book.

yes

yes yes yes

AS PO I

When reading a book about history I expect accuracy with the details and facts that are presented, and then further information such as quotes from writing, conversations, or literature, that show a personal dimension such as how people thought during that time. I am most concerned about important facts being misrepresented or history being misrepresented by leaving out important details altogether.

I thought that I would at first trust the news paper review the most. I expected that its author would provide a critique of the book, and explain certain pros and cons. However, he mostly praised the book and its author, and in my opinion, was as focussed on writing an eloquent article (which his pay requires I'm sure) as he was his review of *Battle Cry of Freedom*. Feedback from readers, such as the Amazon reviews, is helpful although the scope of their critique is usually limited. Wether or not I trusted the review depended on how it was written and what the person said. I appreciated the review at notnews.org the

Yes