

I will be approaching this book with optimism and more excitement after having read the reviews, than I had prior to reading them. My experience with textbooks has been that they can be overbearing and tedious in nature, and all too often redundant and boring. Having read the reviews, I can conclude that if nothing else it is an easily readable narrative.

I anticipate the book to make an attempt to be unbiased, but am prepared, after having read these reviews, to see the Southern Confederates to be painted in a less than good light in contrast to the Union. Though as stated in some of the reviews, an effort is made to both praise some of the Confederates and, as well, offer criticism for members of the Union.

I think it is important for the sake of accuracy and for the purposes of learning for the writer to come from a place of complete impartiality. When I set out to learn about something I want to learn about it completely, including from opposing perspectives, morals, and ideals. I feel that it is only then that a true understanding can be achieved.

Some of the reviews I read indicate that much of the Southern Confederate's disputes are not addressed in this book, and, "gloss over the main contention." Though I tend to trust more, the professional book reviewers than I do the ones of the personal reader, as far as overall accuracy, I do depend on the readers reviews to have value even if not always completely impartial, due to the fact that they are sharing their opinions out of a desire to share them, rather than for any form of gain or as their job.

I am reasonably confident that this book will be a realistic, and true account for the most part. Rare is a narrative that is not partial in some fashion or another. So long as in general the ideas and concerns of what transpired are accurate I will be content with what I learn. I think I am objective enough to be able to note that there maybe a few slight inaccuracies, and still take away a great deal of knowledge from this source.

That is not, however, to say that I will take and use this as my only source for a truthful recounting of these important events in our nation's history. I will supplement my assigned reading with other sources of information as well, to get as rounded a view as I can, while still remembering that this is the material I will be tested on.

Overall I am certain that this text will be an enlightening one, and will greatly develop my understanding of this part of the history of the United States and I am looking forward to digging into its pages.