

Through a thorough examination of various reviews of the book *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* by James McPherson, I have come to an early decision that I see the book as a very researched, accurately depicted novel about both sides of the Civil War. The Civil War era could possibly be a very difficult to write about due to the fact that the author would not have first-hand knowledge about the events, but readers have seemed to prove that this book is worth the while of reading. I am going to go into reading this book in a neutral stance so I can fully assess how I interpret the book and how the author stated his ideas. From the reviews I have read, previous readers have been impressed by the amount of citation and research that McPherson put into his work. I am very glad to hear about this specific fact about the book because I am very interested in factual learning and knowing that the information I am being told is historically accurate. Historical accuracy can be devastating in a non-fiction book if it is incorrect or under-researched. A reader of any sort wants to know that what they're being told is correct to have a peace of mind while reading more of the author's work (or, at least I feel this way). The sources I personally trust the most are academic journals and publications. I like to think that I have a good "eye" when it comes to spotting out faulty facts or iffy publications. Academic journals and publications are written with (generally) correct statistics and come from highly educated learners. I am very picky about what types of citations I use in my personal writings for classes, and I expect authors to do the same within their own writings. I am a little worried on how McPherson doesn't write about the Lincoln assassination. I do understand that it isn't crucial into the understanding of the Civil War era, but I very much enjoy learning about Lincoln's death and the conspiracies evolving around John Wilkes Booth. But, I'm glad that I am worried about this topic because I will have room for my own opinion about how McPherson handles this dilemma in his novel. Overall, I am quite excited to start reading this novel. Although it is "dry" like a textbook, the content seems extensively researched and well thought out. I'm highly doubting that I will be let down from this novel, and from the reviews, I don't think many people are who read it. The reviews give great insight into the piece and makes me very interested to see how I perceive his writing style.