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History: Civil War Era
Assignment #1
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Book Review

Can you come to an early decision about how you will be approaching this book?

From the moment, I picked up this book I knew it was going to be one of those books that is going to be a lot of intense reading. Just by fanning through the pages, I could tell that I will need a notebook for side notes and thoughts on McPherson's viewpoints. Although I have to say, the maps I came across really intrigued me. After reading over the reviews however, I became nervous about how I will be able to understand McPherson's viewpoints as it seems to be a very political filled book on the Civil War.

What issues related to historical accuracy worry you the most?

I am taking this course to have a better understanding of the Civil War since my grandfather was in it. I have to be honest when it came to high school paying attention in class wasn't my strongest qualities. My understanding of this question is a little foggy. If I had to choose a worry, I suppose it would be how the Civil War has been reenacted over time and if their stories are what really happened or just some made up version of something someone once said in passing.

What sources/reviews do you trust the most, and why?

I would choose the Amazon reviews more than the professional reviews. More so because I felt like I could understand their choice of words and descriptions rather than just reading about how McPherson chose to write his book in such a political way. The views from Amazon were about the story he told, not how he wrote it or lack of information to a historical moment in the past.

What level of confidence do you have in this, our main source of historical information about the Civil War.

Considering this book is 900 pages long, I would feel confident that there is a good amount of information. Dave Thomer's review helped build up my confidence in this book. The way he said, "Here he pulls no punches," made me laugh as if McPherson is fighting with the characters he writes about. History can be viewed a million different ways and everyone will always have their opinions on how something happened or how something should be done, with that said I am confident that this source of information will be just as good as any other person's opinion.

As intimidating as the book looks and how the views of others are not all that positive, I am still very interested in attacking this massive beast of a book head on. I believe that

the sources that are given in this course outside of the book will help with my understanding this era.