

I rarely read reviews of books or movies because I find that my opinion of the book or movie often varies greatly from the reviews. There are so many movies or books that critics give low reviews to, but after I have perused the same material I find that the critics view is not that important in the grand scheme of things. In regards to our textbook, "Battle Cry of Freedom," after having read the reviews, I will approach it with interest and with some knowledge that there may be areas that are not entirely accurate. I am not a big Civil War buff, so I am not by any means an expert on the subject, not even close. However, there isn't enough bad reviews to make me think that it isn't worth my time and again, just because there are bad reviews does not necessarily make it unworthy of a student's time and effort.

As mentioned above, I am not a Civil War expert and it has been many years since I was enrolled in any type of History class, so any historical inaccuracies would most likely not be noticed by me. There is a slight possibility that I might notice that something doesn't sound like what I have learned in the past, so I would be on the lookout for anything of that nature. From the reviews, it sounds as though for the most part the book is fairly accurate. The reviews do state that there are some inaccuracies, so that does cause a little bit of concern. I am taking this class, for one to fulfill a history requirement, but also to gain some understanding and knowledge of an important part of history. As I have gotten older, I have slowly started to gain an interest in history of the United States, so I would want to feel that I am learning information that is accurate.

I am not sure of which of the sources of the reviews that I would trust the most. The reviews on Amazon are from anonymous people, so I have no idea of their credentials. What makes them feel as though they can fairly and with relative accuracy review a book about the Civil War? I have no idea, so I would not feel secure in entirely trusting everything in those reviews. The online blogger also doesn't mention any credentials, so how am I to know that he knows what he is talking about? Maybe his take on the book is inaccurate. Is the newspaper book reviewer an expert on the Civil War? Again, I have no idea. The book reviewer does mention that it is the best one-volume treatment of its subject that he has ever come across. But how are we to know how many other books about the Civil War he has come across? And what were those books? With all things considered, I think I would trust the book reviewer over the online blogger and the Amazon reviewers. It seems as though, since he is employed by a newspaper to give reviews, that his take on it should be the most trustworthy.

I think that my level of confidence in this book is fairly high. I think that since it is a book that is being used in this class as our textbook, that it should be fairly accurate. That is my hope anyways.