

History of the Civil War

I don't believe I can come to an early decision about whether or not this book is entirely accurate so I guess that means I will approach this book with an open mind. I always worry that books or articles written about wars are politically slanted to the writers views and this book is no different. It seems "southern" writers put the Civil War in a different perspective than "northern" writers and now I wonder about "Republican" and "Democratic" as may be told in this book. Given today's governmental mess, won't it be interesting to see how much has changed? Or maybe not?

I come from the Viet Nam era, so all information obtained is to be questioned and sources are to be researched. I guess that the misleading news reports, government cover-ups and even battle result errors of that time have caused me to question all such information. My hope is that at this point there is nothing to be gained by misleading people about the Civil War era politics, policies, battles or people involved.

I would have to say I don't "trust" any reviews as I prefer to make up my own mind. I certainly will store the information from all 3 reviews and keep them in mind as we progress through this class. One review says "compelling read" and the other "dry, text like" so right there you have conflicting opinions. Since reviews are just that, opinions, we will see.

I do feel that this book will be accurate as far as the battles are concerned. Battles won/lost are a matter of absolute history in this case, but the political climate, the reasons behind the battles can be slanted toward the writers beliefs. Two reviews did say this book seems to focus on the north, or be slanted toward the north. I have another book called "The Civil War Day By Day". It will be interesting to see if there are any differences of opinions or historical differences between these two accounts and I believe we will be watching some videos also.

I have been to all the big battlefields and read many Civil War accounts of battles, watched Lincoln, the movie, and I am still confused as to the political climate of that time and the real reasons for the war. I have read that northern settlers came to create good lives and a good society, but for the most part, southern settlers came to make money, as much money as possible and then leave with no thought to anything but themselves. An obvious bias I hope we don't find in this book. I have heard that slavery was not the main cause of the Civil War and that Lincoln had not decided to free the slaves. I wonder where the South's holding on to white supremacy and segregation comes from. I am hoping for some clarity from this book and this class.