

85/100

469
min

Assignment 1: Battle Cry Freedom Textbook

“To each eye, perhaps, the outlines of a great civilization present a different picture. In the wide ocean upon which we venture, the possible ways and directions are many; and the same studies which have served for my work might easily, in other hands, not only receive a wholly different treatment and application, but lead to essentially different conclusions”. This quote by Jacob Burckhardt represents my approach to not just history, but education in general, as each individual has a different learning styles, it stands to reason that they would interrupt the knowledge differently and then put that knowledge to diverse use. My approach to this book will be to trust that the information is historically accurate, yet may have a flavor, or personal bias that differs from mine.

History is a montage of fact proven by documentation or papers and laws passed and written under oath, physical evidence, eyewitnesses, and oral teachings. I have always had a love of history; “old” things have always fascinated me. And history is much more than just the hard fact, it depends on the bias of the people living it. Having grown up in the South I understand the importance of oral history or as my grandfather called it storytelling. It was a way to pass down family history, and community history, or what my grandma called “gossip” which he would always say “its not gossip if I seen it with my own eyes”. History is taken seriously in the south, especially the Civil War, which is still passionately debated on many a front porch, and I have learned over time that if I have any issues with its accuracy, I need to do the research myself.

I am just not able to rely on the views of the consumers. Especially Amazon customers, as anyone can write a review and I don't know the purpose behind their reading of the material. If they read the book for pleasure, as a textbook, or used it for research. If I were to take to heart any of the reviews that I read I would have to go with the newspapers review as I know he read it because it is his job. So he has less reason to either pump it up or knock it down and is more likely to just say it as he sees it.

I am hopefully confident in this as a source of information about the Civil War, as it was chosen to be used as a textbook in a college level class and with the high level of credentials of the author it does tend to raise my expectations for the book. Also the high amount of good versus bad reviews is also encouraging, even if it is Amazon customers the sheer volume of good reviews tends to impress. I do have to say that I will continue to reserve judgment as I have only read three chapters.

#1 - long quote

#2 - personal story - good, but paper is at minimum length

less than half of the paper dealt with my questions. No specifics were included, and it lacked a depth of analysis. I was sure a southerner would have taken McPherson to task about his No. 100,000... but no mention.