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After reading the reviews on our textbook, I am aware that there are some possible errors in the book that will need to be looked over carefully. It also seems that the beginning of the book is more about the politics leading up to the war, not the war itself as we are studying, so I understand why we are not beginning the book in Chapter one, but rather chapter eight. Overall though it seems from the reviews that the book is well written and a fairly complete overview of the Civil War Era, and it appears to be an appropriate choice as our text.

Reading the reviews will not determine the way I plan to approach the book. When reading anything that is non-fiction I try to simply listen to what the author is trying to convey, without worrying about what other people have said about the information. This allows me to form my own opinions as I consume the information without being biased. When I have finished reading the book, or a particular section, I will take into consideration others opinions on the subject. *likes ... that was the point of this assignment* *are you biased?*

Certainly one of the main things I will consider after reading the book is McPherson's northern bias, and that there is a possibility some truths of the southern part in the war could have been left out, or that facts about the north could have been embellished upon, or perhaps omitted if they were not favorable. *How will you know what those things are after the fact.*

It appears that the majority of the historical inaccuracies mentioned by the reviewers are small. I am studying the civil war just to gain a better understanding of the event as a whole. I am not really worried about the few inaccuracies mentioned. I am worried that the book may be biased towards the union, and I would prefer that it were a completely objective publication. One issue mentioned that I will keep an eye out for though is that the advantage the north had in men and supplies is apparently ignored. This seems like a pretty large fact to leave out. *is there such a thing?*

I actually trust the Amazon reviewers the most. They are not being paid to write their reviews as the blogger and newspaper journalist are. Therefore their reviews do not have to please anybody, and they are able to write the most honestly. The journalist has to please the editors at the paper, and his review is going to be biased towards whatever they want to hear. The blogger has to write to please his readers so that they will continue to frequent the blog, so he is going to write what he thinks they want to hear. *OKay, good pt. (but what about credentials)*

I have a high level of confidence in it as a source to learn the general facts and outlines of the war. If I wanted to learn about every minute detail of the war I would look for a different source that possibly comes in more volumes, as well as sources from authors in both the north and the south. I trust it because McPherson is a United States History Professor Emeritus at Princeton, and the book is a Pulitzer Prize winner. If it was not an

accurate well written account of the Civil War it would not have won this award.

In review, I am looking forward to studying the context of McPherson's text on the civil war, and I will be keeping an open mind as we study it. Who knows, maybe when we finish the course I will move on to more in depth books?

Overall well done.

A few areas of extended analysis were needed (see comments above).

Be sure to proof
Civil War
Amazon.com
Union