

Two chapters in and I am thoroughly enjoying James McPherson's, "Battle Cry of Freedom." I approach college level reading with more curiosity than judgment. I want to know why and how people acted in trying times. What their mistakes may have been or their accomplishments. I feel as if it is duty to know about our past, paying respect to those who have lived before us. I do not seem to care what political views historical authors may have. If the facts are facts then leave it at that. If bias is found in a historical book then possibly you are bias to their word choice or placement of events in the text. Being bias in writing historical events may also benefit the reader. Say the author favored one side, wouldn't that side be written about more? More facts given and in greater detail. I think the question it all comes down to is the validity of the author.

Being historically accurate about every detail that you did not witness first hand can't be easy. I have confidence that James McPherson used all the records, books, and his knowledge of the subject to back his writing. What troubles me the most about historical accuracy is that people can be dishonest for any kind of reason. May it be the author or the soldier counting the dead bodies that lay on a battlefield. Or the Lieutenant told to explain his actions during a battle. I feel as if there are too many variables to tell a completely accurate historic event. As a reader we have to decide for ourselves what to believe.

I tend to trust the experts rather than the common reader for a review. The expert is most likely paid, it is their profession or they have a strong passion for reading historical books. The expert has their own site, either a part of a newspaper or magazine. It may be shallow but I trust the one getting paid over a person on the Amazon comment board. The Internet has allowed everybody to have their opinion voiced and heard. Seems to be much harder now days to sift through the bull crap.

I am very confident in this book and looking forward to the course. Though James McPherson may favor the guys in blue I'm sure it won't take away from the historical accuracy. The way he went into detail about the inner workings of the government before the war great. The process states and legislators had to go through if they were going to succeed or not was interesting. James McPherson is a professor at Princeton, and if you live in the same world I do then he needs no more credibility. The author sounds like a distinguished individual and he has my trust.