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McPherson Assignment

HST 209

The topic of this assignment intrigued me right away due to the fact I purchased my copy of the book from Amazon. I noticed when ordering the book that it had very high ratings from Amazon reviewers, including a majority of those reviews being of the five star

variety. Right then I thought this would be a good book to be using for this class. I couldn't

help but get excited to begin reading it. While at the same time, being a customer of

Amazon myself I know you can't always trust the reviews on the site completely. There will

always be people posting reviews that have a certain bias one way or the other and they will post their reviews in favor or not due to this. It was nice to read a couple positive reviews from different sources as well. Getting the view of a newspaper columnist and a blogger helped to reinforce the quality of the book with me.

I don't really get a feeling of needing to worry about historical accuracy very much with

this book. From all of the reviews I have seen, people seem very confident in the accuracy

of it's parts. It seems there will be a lot of information regarding the various battles of the war. This should be very interesting. To me the biggest parts of the war that could be disputed for accuracy are the battles. Due to varying personal accounts of what happened and also depending on what side of the war the information is coming from. I look forward to

getting into the book and see how this is done.

I tend to put about the same amount of weight into all three of the different sources for reviews on the book. Considering they are three different types of sources, I'd like to put stock in each of them and then come to my conclusions after reading the book. If I had to pick a single source of the three to trust most it would probably be the Amazon reviewers. This is due to the fact they are the most numerous and also the most diverse of the three sources we looked at.

Overall, after looking at all of these reviews I feel great about this book being our main source of information for the class. The reviews we have seen are all overwhelmingly positive, and they are from three very different sources. This by itself makes me feel good about it being our choice of book for the term. I look forward to getting into it and learning more about the Civil War.