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Week 7 Forum
The Divided Union

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The Divided Union

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Saturday, February 13, 2016, 5:01 PM

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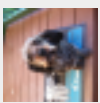
Comparing our sources

by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 3:22 PM

It was interesting to see short clip of the alternative documentary. I was hard to get a true feel for what it was like and how it compares to our other sources because it was so short. However i felt that while short it imparted a lot of facts and really conveyed much of the the information it had in a more direct way than the Ken Burns documentary. I thought using scenes from battle re-enactments was a great touch. From reading the article it would seem though that had much of the same critiques as Burns work. To me they seemed very different, i was drawn to the second documentary a little more i think, I liked the way they were outside in the actual locations and showed re- enactment scenes. Both documentaries seem to be a story mostly told in photographs because that was the dominate medium of the time and in that respect i think Burns imparts more of the feeling of the time with the pictures he chooses to use and choosing to show photos of the dead and severed limbs. With only seeing 12 minutes it is hard to really compare it to the book or other documentary. I think the strength of the Burns documentary is also its weakness. It seeks to create a emotional bond with the viewer. Using photos and letters and music expertly placed to tug at heart strings and connect an audience to a dark and now seemingly distant episode of our past as a nation. In contrast the book seems to me to be a ore detailed fact based account. With its goal being to clearly impart factual information.. I think they work well as a team to create a clear full story, the older documentary less so because it was so short and choppy feeling to me. I can say it hindered me learning about Lee, Grant , The hospitals, or the battle of the wilderness, ect.. The 12 minute clip touched on these subjects a bit but to me did not really impress any new information. It is hard for me to compare the book and the Burns documentary on these specific subject as i have not yet done this weeks reading, but in my previous experience with the two i have felt that the two create a rather complete and complimentary duo. Though to be truthful i have never studied the Civil War seriously before and would not really know what one could be missing.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

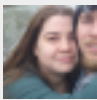
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Re: Comparing our sources
by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:52 PM

I agree that Burns made better choices in the pictures he used in his video. But I have never thought of his strength being his weakness. It is an interesting perspective, but it makes sense. Using his ability to capture peoples emotion, I can see why that can also lead him away from the more detailed account of our nations history. This is one of the main reasons I think the book and the videos compliment each other well. Before this class I had never thought about how much emotion could be involved in it, I just saw it as history. In order to understand it, we need to both have the facts which the book supplies and the emotion that videos.

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Re: Comparing our sources
by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:39 AM

Perhaps "weakness" is the wrong word, i suppose it is the more just the a/the weaker point in his program. However for me his series is the one that makes e feel most connected and interested in the war. It is tough to say something is really the weaker point of either the book or documentary series. They are two different mediums created by two different individuals and those individuals are trying to convey what They found most important. At first i would say i don't agree both are needed, i would be wrong. They do create a powerful team that create a dynamic picture of the whole story vs. dry facts and the more I learn about the War it is clear emotion was a Huge part of the history of the time and the people.

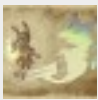
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Re: Comparing our sources
by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 4:47 PM

As for as the information being needed or not needed, I think that the more points of view give you a more critical view. Combine multiple sources with peoples own personal twist they put on things and you can sometimes come out with varying information on the same subject. Overall I liked y our post, that part about needed and not needed grabbed my attention

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Re: Comparing our sources
by [Ryan OToole](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:48 PM

True, but too much recurring information might muddy the message a little. Execution is key here, I suppose. Personal twists are nice so long as they're still factual. Ken Burn's series has gotten a lot of flak over inaccuracies and omissions, so the information that you find in that might clash with the inaccuracies and omissions another piece of information might have, for example.

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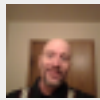
Re: Comparing our sources
by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:56 PM

I completely agree with you. The clip was very short which made it really hard to get an accurate feel for how well it covered the material. I thought it was a decent clip, and a nice change from the Burn's films. The goal of the clip seemed to be more about giving the audience general information about the war. Meanwhile I also felt that the goal of Ken's series was to invoke a feeling in his audience. I get this feeling from the amount of detail that was out into choosing the right pictures, music and voices for the film. The goal of it is really to tug at our heartstrings as we learn about this valuable part of our nation's history. As you said since the clip was only 12 minutes it is hard to accurately judge how effective it is in trying to teach us about the Civil War. It definitely didn't go as in depth when it came to Grant or Lee's background as the Ken Burns films did. I

would say that I prefer to watch the films rather than read the textbook. The textbook is a very factual based account of the Civil war. I feel that this is both a strength and a weakness. It helps the audience learn, but it can seem very bland and be hard to follow at some points. I really liked you opinions about our different sources, good job!

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Collaborating Sources

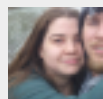
by [Robert Johnson](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 4:04 PM

It looks like all three sources, the McPherson textbook, Ken Burns episode 6, and the Divided Union clip collaborate well with each other on a number of historic Civil War events. One such example sticks out like a sore thumb.

As opposed to a retreat after heavy Union losses, Grant marching the Union troops around Lee's right, (p.726). This, and the clip *Divided Union* (3:00), would be quite complimentary to Ken Burns, *The Civil War*, episode 6.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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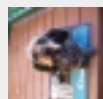
Re: Collaborating Sources

by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 4:50 PM

I think you are right that they collaborate well. Over all i think having multiple sources is nice so you get a more complete story. Often one person thinks of even one or two different questions to focus on and while both cover the same material, having multiple sources in various forms helps create a more dynamic picture of a subject and that is what these do for each other.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Collaborating Sources

by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:37 PM

I agree! I thought they all worked really well together. I think that by using all of hem it helps the reader/viewer understand and comprehend it on a deeper level!

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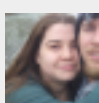
Re: Collaborating Sources

by [Alexander Nonte-Clark](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 10:59 PM

I believe that they collaborate well, but I feel as though the 12 minute clip could be omitted from our course material because it is, in my opinion, further summarizing something that has already been summarized. It takes what has already been crammed into an hour and some minutes, and crams it further, leaving it to be a dryer video in the aspect of detail of the events and persons involved. I don't think it really made as much of an impact on me, like *Battle Cry of Freedom* and the Ken Burns series did.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Collaborating Sources

by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:44 AM

I would have to agree, the 12 minute video did little to nothing to add to the information. It seemed as though the entire documentary probably had interesting information and had the added feature of actually showing the battlefields. However being chopped up into a 12 minute overview any real information it was meant to convey was lost.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Collaborating Sources
by [Ryan OToole](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 12:57 PM

While I, as I've said elsewhere, do enjoy and appreciate having multiple perspectives on the same events, I suppose covering the same event in depth multiple times is rather.... redundant, to say the least. The video is far too short as you said, so it's a little difficult to absorb everything.

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Re: Collaborating Sources
by [Robert Johnson](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 6:05 PM

Ryan,

Remember, the short clip *Divided Union*, in this case though brief, what there was did agree with both the *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and *The Civil War*. All 12 minutes can still can serve as a small example of a good complimentary source of information.

The video clip would never stand alone as a primary source of information.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Collaborating Sources
by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 9:03 PM

You're right! These sources do seem to compliment each other. It is always nice to get multiple sources for the same information. I feel that this helps create a very clear picture about the war, however, I feel that the Ken Burns films do a much better job of describing the rival generals, Grant and Lee than the other sources. His films go more in depth about their background, which may not be very important, but helps when trying to learn and understand them. I think that the "Divided Union" clip and the textbook give a more fact based account of the war, while the Burns film is meant more for entertainment than the others. It does a great job of teaching us about the war, but it seems to try and evoke more emotion from the audience than the other sources. You can see where I am coming from because of the pictures they included, and the amount of thought that went into choosing the right music, etc. All in all I think that these are all really good sources and are really helping me understand the war!

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#) [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Different Forms of Content
by [Alexander Nonte-Clark](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 4:54 PM

I found that, as it tends to go, the book had a lot of info and was able to go into more detail about events and people. I did think, however, that the Ken Burn's episode did have a lot of added content about the two generals, Lee and Grant, which I really liked because you got to know more about them and their lives that they lived aside from the Civil War.

The 12 minute segment of "The Divided Union" was bound to be the least rich in content, given the time span of it. It did touch on the important events, but it was so brief, that I think of it as almost a summary of a summary, where the book is the main body of info, and the Episode 6 was a summary of its information. Overall, I think that these pieces work well together, to drive home the main points of battles and to also gain some insight about the people involved in said battles.

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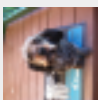
Re: Different Forms of Content
by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 5:52 PM

I also thought the Ken Burns episode had a lot of interesting information about the two generals and really painted a picture of their lives and them as men. However as you said It is just the way it tends to go that it is hard to put into video all the a book can hold. I think you are very right the 12 minute segment was more

of a summary of a summary, almost a list of topics.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Different Forms of Content

by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:42 PM

I agree that the video helps give more meaning to Lee and Grant meaning who they were as Generals and as people. I think this gives the viewer the opportunity to not just see it as war but also about the great men and women that served in the war fighting for what they believed in, or what was important to them.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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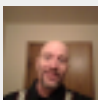
Re: Different Forms of Content

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 4:53 PM

I also liked how the short clip really humanized both Grant and Lee. I can only imagine the pressure placed on them by their own governments, but with there personalities they also probably put pressure on in their own form. I think Lee would ave put the most pressure on himself due to his history and past. All eyes were on him from both sides. The short clip really broke them down as people. It wasn't in depth and overwhelming with facts, it just had a subtle feel that these two men were people.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Different Forms of Content

by [Robert Johnson](#) – Thursday, February 18, 2016, 10:06 PM

Alexander,

As far as “*The Divided Union*” clip went, I would agree. While it does collaborate well with our course text, and “*The Civil War*” by Ken Burns, it was as you say, very brief.

But it wasn’t so brief that it still didn’t as you say again, touch on all the important events. However, from what is on the clip we seen, that’s not all together the case either.

In the 12–minute clip I seen, the one Huge factor that wasn’t touched on at all was slavery. Although indeed, according to the New York Times article, “*The Divided Union*” points out that the basic issue was slavery.

Now I have to watch it.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Different Forms of Content

by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 9:11 PM

I think that the book is able to give us a lot more information than any movie would be able to. It would be hard to fit all the information and details from the book in a short number of episodes, however, I think that the Burn's films do a really great job of briefly going over what was covered in the text. These are both great sources. The 12 minute clip was obviously the least helpful of the three sources, based on its limited time span. Not a lot of useful information could be packed into such a short clip, especially considering the broadness and sheer volume of information about the subject. I completely agree with you. The textbook is really where we get most of our information. The Ken Burns films are more of a summery of the text, and help with really clarifying important details. It also helps with our understanding of important figures because of the background info it gives us on them. The episodes really help me understand the important figures as people outside of the war. As you said the clip is pretty much a summary of the summary. It didn't contain a lot of information. I think it would have been really helpful had it been longer.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

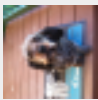
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Different Perspectives
by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 6:34 PM

A major weakness that caught my attention, was the line in the article that read, “Occasionally, for good measure, clips from movies are thrown in.” When I read that it made me think that whoever had an interpretation of what may have happened has a say in offering that to others as history. I didn’t get a lot from the small article except for thinking it was very lax in its authenticity and care for accuracy. It made me appreciate the Ken Burns material that much more, although his too can be opinionated, the thought and concern in making it more historic is apparent. Also in the Ken Burns video I liked how the hospitals and medical facilities were given attention and how he explained how they were progressing as a whole and what a crucial part they played in the war. The small details of 10,000 loafs of bread a day, 400 keg brewery makes you appreciate the severity of the wounded and dying and the numbers of those in these hospitals, with a save rate of 1 in seven. Both Ken Burns and short clip do great at expounding on the medical field and saying how sometimes the care for the injury was more dangerous than the wound itself. The small 12-minute clip does a great job on the Cold Harbor battle and putting it into perspective from Grants point of view and shows how it came across to others. Lincoln saying, he wasn’t sure if they would survive the casualties.

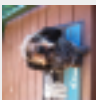
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Re: Different Perspectives
by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:45 PM

I like your view on this. I didn't even think about the detail that Ken Burns put in his video about the hospitals, but you make a good point about why it was important that he did. When watching the video I did like that he mentions this, but again never really thought about the importance that it actually had.

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working together to further understanding
by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 7:02 PM

I thought they worked good together. They provided most of the same information, but I think the video covered some areas that weren’t covered in our text. At the same time the text had topics not covered in the video. I feel like the article had the most variation though. Overall I think you need all of them to get a complete picture. If you only had access to one you would have a good idea of what the true history was, but you always benefit from looking for more resources such as the video, article or text, to either confirm or deny what the previous said, as well as to further your understanding of the previous. Sometimes you retain or understand things better when you hear it versus read it or when it says the same thing as a previous source but said in a slightly different manner. Again overall I liked all of them, and they complimented each other well.

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Re: working together to further understanding
by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 8:02 PM

I really liked your title "Working together for better understanding". That is very much how i felt about the different information sources we are using.

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Re: working together to further understanding
by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 4:54 PM

I also liked the title, Working together for further understanding. This is a crucial step when learning and taking in information. Well said

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Re: working together to further understanding
by [Alexander Nonte-Clark](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 10:43 PM

I also believe that the three sources as a collaboration of information worked very well. I think, however, that when you say, "If you only had access to one you would have a good idea of what the true history was..." it is a bit iffy depending on the source that you pick. For example, the 12 minute clip from "The Divided Union" was so short, I feel as though it didn't have enough content for you to learn and absorb as much as you could from the other two sources.

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One Source is not Enough

by [Sebastian Warren](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:19 PM

I agree one source is not enough. If I had to chose one of the three sources that would be the best on its own, I would choose the book. While it lacks pictures, the book has much more information than the Ken Burns film.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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working together to further understanding

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 7:12 AM

I agree with the part you talked about retention and how people retain things differently. Myself, I know sometimes I will read something but it won't really be retained until I review the material again, or I am asked a question on the subject and I have to find the answer, then realize I have already read that. I think for me reading and viewing the episodes has worked well because it gives me a chance to visualize things as well, not just read about them. As far as the article goes, I too agree it had the most variability. Good Post!!

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: working together to further understanding

by [Ryan OToole](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 12:34 PM

Yeah, they work very well together. I do find that a lot of information is repeated between the book, the series, the clip, and the article, but that's not necessarily a bad thing. As you said, the differing information between the four helps facilitate a more complete picture, but at the same time I feel like having multiple perspectives on the same event makes it far easier to understand and remember it.

Having multiple styles of presentation doesn't hurt either. As you said, sometimes people retain things better when they're read and other times when they're seen.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: working together to further understanding

by [Sebastian Warren](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 10:55 PM

I also thought they worked very well together. I belive that all were needed to provide a full picture. I think you made a point when you said you retain information better when you hear it from multiple sources.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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The cause of civil war

by [Ryan OToole](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:38 PM

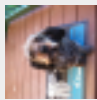
I felt like the three sources worked fairly well together, although that's largely because they all present different perspectives on the same events. One thing I find interesting is how the sources imply how the war was caused. On this issue I've found that the book attempts to, for the most part, stay factual and informative on the subject.

Ken Burn's show, on the other hand, leaves out important information, I feel. It was fairly rare for me, if I recall correctly, to actually hear why the civil war was occurring. He did a pretty good build up of certain factors, such

as setting up the abolitionists and secessionists, but often I found it hard to pin down why the South seceded, based on the information the video series gave me. It seemed to me that the video series wanted to get to the action as soon as possible, but suffered some vital build up to do so.

With this being said, I found the *Divided Union* video and it's accompanying article to have some interesting information. I like how the article mentions that *Divided Union*, while staying factual, was not unsympathetic to the South, stating that "It's hard to imagine how the ruling class of the South would have voluntarily agreed to its own extinction." When referring to the vast economic and cultural strength that slavery held in the southern states.

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Re: The cause of civil war
by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:58 PM

I agree with your statement that the book tries to keep it more factual and informative, this also seems to be the view of quite a few others. I also agree that Burn's videos are sometimes hard to get his full intent from them. I find myself skipping back to make sure I fully understood certain parts of his videos.

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Re: The cause of civil war
by [Robert Johnson](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 12:19 AM

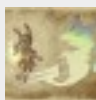
The Ken Burns show “*The Civil War*” in episode 1, “The Cause” actually details the multiple factors that led the North and South to Civil War in 1861.

Such as four million African Americans held in bondage in the South, serving as forced labor to harvest cotton.

Then the institution of slavery led to an abolitionist movement in the North. Harriet Beecher Stowe and William Garrison called for an end to slavery. The Dred Scott case, "Bleeding Kansas," and Stowe's book Uncle Tom's Cabin increased North/South tensions over the slavery issue.

Then Abraham Lincoln was elected in 1860. These are the factors stated in episode 1, that led southern states to secede from the Union. Confederate troops then fired on Fort Sumter, beginning the Civil War.

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Re: The cause of civil war
by [Ryan OToole](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 12:14 PM

Oh jeez, I guess it's been like, two months, but still I can't believe that I forgot that! I mean, I remember the episode detailing some of this stuff, but largely I remember learning this stuff from alternate sources.

Episode 1 is even titled "The Cause." That's..... Embarassing..... Whoops!

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Re: The cause of civil war
by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 7:30 AM

It is hard to believe that some of the readings and videos have been watched over 2 months ago! We have covered a lot of information and sometimes it does take a little review to remember what we learned. For me anyways I know I have to do review or else my facts and remembrance gets a little fuzzy. Good post though, I enjoyed reading it.

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The Divided Union
by [Sebastian Warren](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:39 PM

Ken Burns series of the civil war seems similar to The Divided Union in some ways. They both use information from various historians and incorporate photographs from the past. Ken Burns series is obviously more visually striking than The Divided Union. I did like the use of video from staged battles The Divided Union used. This put an color image of what the soldiers look like in the battlefield. Sometimes while reading the McPherson text, the details of battle can be somewhat difficult to grasp.

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Re: The Divided Union
by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 11:01 PM

I agree that if you just had the text it makes some of the detail very difficult to understand. That's why I think the videos work so well with the text. Giving visual and sound to what was read in the text.

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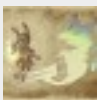
Re: The Divided Union
by [Robert Johnson](#) – Thursday, February 18, 2016, 11:08 PM

Molly,

I feel the same way about the videos working so well with the book. They definitely help me visualize the text with a more unobstructed view.

The Ken Burns series puts a more accurate picture to many a scene in our course text, than I would probably ever imagine as clearly without them. For example, the coverage on slavery in “*The Civil War*”, or the letters from the soldiers. It all helps to capture my feeling, which results in my interest.

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Re: The Divided Union
by [Ryan OToole](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 12:50 PM

The text is just a tiny bit dense. I'm personally not very good with textbooks, so I'm incredibly grateful that we have documentaries to rely on in addition to the text. It really breathes life into what I've read earlier to see it more or less reenacted and narrated in Ken Burn's series.

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Re: The Divided Union; comparing sources
by [Mariah Marelli](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 10:42 PM

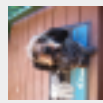
What were the strengths and weakness of these three different sources when compared to one another?

I think that the documentaries are strong, because some people learn best visually and it’s easier for them to learn by hearing the information and seeing actual pictures of the people and the battles. The Divided Union series does a great job of comparing the North and the South when it comes to military leaders. The Confederacy had leaders with lots of training mostly at West Point. The downside is that they were traditional generals and leaders, who lacked imagination when it came to battle strategies. The historians say that Lee was the last great traditional generals and say that Grant and Sherman were more like modern generals. The article was not very strong. It was just a review of the documentary series, so there wasn’t a lot of useful information.

The Ken Burns series is great. It focuses mostly on the battles and not much on what else was going on in the country. Although I think they did a better job of describing the generals than the Divided Union did. The Ken Burn’s series goes more in depth when it comes to the leaders of both sides. It talked about their history and

how they got to the positions they were in. I found that to be interesting and kind of helpful in easing my understanding. However, I think that I liked the Divided Union documentary better. It was more clear when describing some of the battles and the leaders of the North and South.

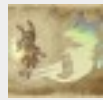
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Re: The Divided Union; comparing sources
by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 11:04 PM

I completely agree. Me being on of those people that comprehend things better when there is sound and visual vs. me reading it. That's why I like to read the text before watching the video, because what I don't remember from the text I get from watching the video.

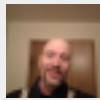
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Re: The Divided Union; comparing sources
by [Ryan OToole](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 12:19 PM

The Civil War really is excellent when describing the war itself. It's not too bad at detailing the events surrounding the war either, though it could be better. *The Divided Union* is really good at sort of picking up the slack in that area. These sources go together really well since they cover each other's shortcomings, I feel.

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No Contradictions
by [Robert Johnson](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 5:45 PM

As for Ken Burns “*The Civil War*” series, and our course text book, they’re a perfect match. So far I haven’t found any points where one would contradict the other. The film adds a lot of personality to some of the same exact events in the book. Take what Grant said for example.

In episode 6, Grant remarks to the brigadier, being tired of hearing about Bobby Lee. I thought writer Shelby Foote done a good job of telling that story. This same event is discussed in our course text, (p.726).

The film just gives it that little extra something personal, and very complimentary.

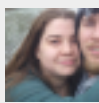
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Re: No Contradictions
by [Alexander Nonte-Clark](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 10:51 PM

I remember during the second week of class, i believe, that we had the forum over how credible Ken Burns' films could be and in one of the two documents, it pointed out how some of the content of the films is a bit off or stated in a way that doesn't always sound correct in some events. That aside, I do believe that our book and the episodes definitely work very well together in touching on subjects, and reiterating to us the importance of the events of the war and the people involved. I think that reading something and then having someone talk out loud about what we read each week is very helpful in teaching us the material.

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Re: No Contradictions
by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:54 AM

That is a good point. It is important to have the book to back up what we learn from the video because as we have seen the Burns series can "sensationalize" some of the details.

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Re: No Contradictions

by [Robert Johnson](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 1:13 PM

Alexander,

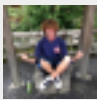
Back in the 2nd week of our class forum, I don't think there were any documents to actually discredit the overall accuracy of "The Civil War". It was more of a judgement call type scenario, specifically a "creative license" issue.

It was involving a debate over whether the creative license taken by Burns with the Ballou letter was a detractor of historical accuracy. The accuracy of the letter itself was in question. Apparently it had been modified, or polished up a bit, and some things possibly private, maybe left out. My position on it is still the same as it was back then.

These certain details of "creative License" taken, did not take away from the accuracy of the overall big picture. For me it only made the picture more relative to emotion.

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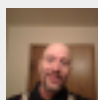
Another tool

by [Sebastian Warren](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:33 PM

I agree that the book and the series pair well with each other. Seeing and then reading has worked very well for me. But the addition of the third source was definitely useful as another visual learning tool.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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After 12 Minutes

by [Robert Johnson](#) – Friday, February 19, 2016, 7:04 PM

As a complimentary source of information, "The Divided Union" clip, I seen enough to make me curious.

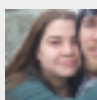
This short clip seems to cover a lot about the tactics aspect of the war, interesting breakthrough's in technology, and medical conditions, as do both other sources. Take the trained ambulance corps for instance.

The ambulance corps discussed in our course text (p.485), and in episode 6 of *The Civil War*, is a good example of the agreements between all 3 sources here.

Possibly if we had watched the entire film, rather than only 12 minutes, we would have seen the portrayal of slavery in "*The Divided Union*". I also wonder if the rest of it has any letters from soldiers like Union Private Rhodes, or Confederate Sam Watkins, like in "*The Civil War*".

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Re: After 12 Minutes

by [Mychal Hilario](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:52 AM

I agree , the clip was short and showed little but what it did show lead me to believe it probably covered some different topics in better detail. It left me interested as well and i think i would like to see the whole thing. It seemed to be a resource that focuses on the tactics and battlegrounds and that would be helpful to me as that is an area i struggle with.

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History is Dynamic

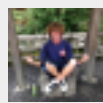
by [Woodrow Elsass](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:54 PM

When studying history, it is always important to gather information from several different sources. The best way

to learn and understand something like the Civil War is to hear every angle of every story to put together the puzzle of what really happened. These three pieces work fairly well together because we get to hear different analysis from several historians who explain things differently. From there we can make our own understandings of what happened. History is an extremely dynamic subject and events such as the civil war, where we don't have as much documentation, have to be dissected thoroughly to completely understand. The more pieces you put together, the stronger your understanding will be.

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Investigating History

by [Sebastian Warren](#) – Sunday, February 21, 2016, 8:16 PM

I agree that the more perspective you have on a subject, the better of an understanding you will have. This idea was very important while analyzing the pieces from the previous forum (investigative photography). I also thought it was nice getting a perspective from one more historian.

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