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Week 8 Forum Petersburg

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Petersburg

by [Joe Escobar](#) – Saturday, February 20, 2016, 8:32 PM

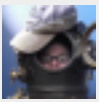
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Petersburg

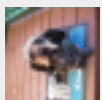
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 4:20 PM

When I watched the video, I was prepared for more Confederate sympathy/propaganda than I saw. It seemed sad and celebrated the victories of the Confederacy less (unlike Burns who played celebratory music while recounting Union victories). So comparatively, the Petersburg video felt a little more respectful in that sense.

As far as the merit of the video, yes I think it was worthwhile to make. It was an important battle in the Civil War and I think it's equally important to see/understand the views of folks that think differently from yourself. With a presidential election impending and the battle having the two sides' commanding Generals going head-to-head, why not focus on this battle?

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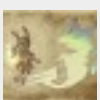
Re: Petersburg

by [Molly Townley](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 8:30 AM

I agree. I thought that it was definitely more respectful towards the confederacy, without being disrespectful to the union. It was a good battle to focus on also.

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Re: Petersburg

by [Ryan OToole](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 12:58 PM

This effort does seem to be a little more historically unbiased than *The Civil War*. I can't really blame Ken Burns' series for wanting to focus on the Union, though. It's fun to root for the "good guys" to win in shows like these. To his credit though, he didn't demonize the South, and he covered them pretty well. It

was still obvious that the real focus was largely on the North, however.

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Re: Petersburg

by [Molly Townley](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 9:25 PM

See what you mean about being less biased. I also undrest and why Burn's would want to focus on the side that won the war. I also think he did a good job not making the south sound like terrible people, but I think more could have been said about their lives in the war and the strategies they used in the battle.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Petersburg

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 4:34 PM

I agree with the part you talked about the Confederate Sympathy, I was anticipating more but also found the Ken Burns film to be more positive for the South. I enjoyed the learning we got from these two films.

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Re: Petersburg

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 3:27 PM

I don't mean to say Burns portrayed the South in a very negative way, just that he celebrated the North more with the way the music is cued.

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Re: Petersburg

by [Caitlyn Vermillion](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10:55 AM

To tell you the truth I hadn't really noticed the music in the Ken Burns series during the Union victories, I'm going to have to re-watch an episode. However I'm not as surprised that the Petersburg video wasn't biased to the Confederacy since it was historians who were giving us the information. As historians there job is more about facts than exaggeration.

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Re: Petersburg

by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 5:56 PM

I want to rewatch as well. I want to take note of which songs they use and how the music is played. I'll post my findings.

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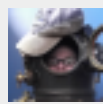
Extra Focus

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 6:45 PM

With the battle/siege lasting 9 ½ months, it made sense to take the extra time and focus to show the many events that happened during Petersburg and the aftermath that followed the battle. It was such a pivotal battle, and a major turning point I do however think more time should have been given to after battle actions as well. That may be out of scope for what they were wanting to show, however it is directly linked to Petersburg. I enjoyed the in depth discussion of this battle, it was different than talking about a battle, saying how long it lasted, the vast amount of casualties lost in however many minutes. This battle showed me the lengths the soldiers were willing to go to in order to have the upper hand. From the vast trenches dug, to the tunnel that led

to the crater, dug in just a matter of days! You can bet they worked all day and night, fashioned their own tools and shoring as well. That showed determination and a belief in their cause that pushed them to exhaustion and beyond, the men were willing to do whatever it took. It really helped me understand this battle much better that just going over it or reading about it.

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Re: Extra Focus
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 3:38 PM

Yes, this was a great battle to put so much focus on. This one battle kid of illustrates the feel of the entire war for me. From all of the incompetence, to the great heroic stuff. I'd rather focus on this battle than say, Gettysburg.

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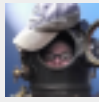


Re: Extra Focus
by [Ryan OToole](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 9:31 PM

I also really liked how it depicted the resolve of the men who fought in the battle. While the battles themselves have been very well defined, how warfare was fought and how it evolved hasn't been touched on quite as much.

We learned about some of the major advancements to be sure, such as the minne ball, but I feel like some of the more subtle elements in the process of telling a grander tale. Which I suppose is inevitable, given the limited nature of documentaries, but it's still very nice to have the additional information regardless.

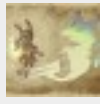
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Re: Extra Focus
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 6:17 PM

I loved how much focus the Petersburg documentary gave to soldiers' perspectives and the way they lived. The letters of Burns' videos and his descriptions weren't quite as nicely detailed.

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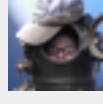


Hallowed Ground and Graveyard
by [Ryan OToole](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 7:21 PM

I found both documentaries to be pretty good sources of information as far as Petersburg goes. One thing that I really liked about *Petersburg: Graveyard of the Confederacy* is how little filler there was throughout the documentary. Ken Burns' *The Civil War* does a fantastic job with presentation, but after so many episodes you begin to notice long pauses in between narrations to show off sound effects and static images. After a while, it gets to the point where I'd honestly like the raw information over the flashy effects. Then again, the poor video and audio quality of *Graveyard* made it very difficult at times to follow along, unfortunately. It was also, admittedly, a little duller than Ken Burns' effort, so maybe some of that hollywood flash helps keep it interesting.

Like with the previous documentary we compared *The Civil War* to, I feel like it's always a beneficial thing to have multiple perspectives on the same event. This time is no different. I certainly feel like the book and *Graveyard* went more in depth with Petersburg than *The Civil War* did, but the book has more time and *Graveyard* doesn't have to deal with the larger scope of the war quite as much, so I suppose that's to be expected.

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Re: Hallowed Ground and Graveyard
by [Ashley Ramos](#) – Thursday, February 25, 2016, 4:01 PM

Hi Ryan, the video quality was very distracting for me as well. I'm trying to see if there are any better versions to stream. I'll let you know if I find any.

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Re: Hallowed Ground and Graveyard
by [Molly Townley](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 9:28 PM

I agree that it is nice to have multiple views, sides, stories whatever you want to call it, about an event in History. Everyone telling has a main focus point in their version, and find different things worth mentioning, which leads to a more overall complete picture when using all the information together.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Hallowed Ground and Graveyard
by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10:48 PM

Ryan,

Similar to my response in an earlier post, I too think that being fed the raw information could be easier. With liking the documentary so much, I noticed the huge difference in video effects also. Ken provides interactive aspects but can at times distract me from what is being talked about and then in the documentary I found myself not as focused because of the more "blah" video effects. I think that adding some better music and a few more photos as well as improving the video quality of the documentary could make it a perfect source. I really enjoyed your insight about the differences between these two sources.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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A worthwhile watch.
by [Kayla Rogers](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 7:54 PM

I believe the documentary added some knowledge just in the fact that it focused more on the military strategies and generals in the battle. The Ken Burns talked about everything within 1864 along with the battle and the generals. The two different focus points helped to paint a clearer picture of that time period within the war. I believe the focus on Petersburg was worthwhile because of the new military strategies put in place by Ulysses Grant along with many other generals within this battle. This battle changed how the rest of the war was fought on both sides.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Petersburg and all that it entails
by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 9:02 PM

Petersburg was a long, drawn out and VERY important battle in the civil war. As with last week’s forum, these three different sources compliment each other very well. The McPherson book provides a lot of information in little writing so I often find it hard to retain and process all of it without re-reading most parts. The alternative documentary was extremely helpful to me in helping to understand the different places of battle and all the detail that came with it such as, times and places, generals and their thoughts, and how each fight ended and what was next to come. For example, when they explained how the canons they had set up to take out the whole line of the confederates, didn’t go off when planned so they sent someone into the whole to figure out why. Little detail like this helps me visualize what really went on, which helps my overall understanding. The video was still a lot of information to take in, but after reading the book chapters, watching the Burns video and this documentary last, it put everything together very nicely. The Burns video was not as detailed as the documentary but that’s to be expected because of it covering multiple chapters and more than just specifically, Petersburg. I found that the Burns video covers a lot more about the generals than anything. He provides great quotes from each general that helps make things a bit more realistic for me. I believe that this documentary was most definitely worth watching. It provided so much more detail than both the Burns video and McPherson reading had together. Especially with the Petersburg being so important and a very big battle with so much to it, it was helpful to have the extra source to focus on just that.



Re: Petersburg and all that it entails
by [Kayla Rogers](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:53 PM

I definitely agree that the Burns videos are much easier to take in than all of the text in the textbook. I liked that the documentary we watched was less for show and more for information as opposed to the Burns videos. Not to discredit Burns in any way for his videos are very informational, the documentary seemed to deep more in depth on the battle itself rather just than the people themselves as you stated about Burns primarily focusing on the generals.



More in depth when concering the south
by [Molly Townley](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 9:34 PM

I thought that it was very informative. It was interesting to hear more about the south. Burns does a good job mentioning failures and accomplishments of both sides but you can tell that his focus is on the Union. It was nice to have just a little more of the picture from the confederacy's side. I overall enjoyed the video and thought that it definitely added to the whole picture.



Re: More in depth when concering the south
by [Ryan OToole](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 9:34 PM

Yeah, I thought so too. It's a little hard to tell if it's personal bias or not, but the series does seem to put its focus on the union far more than the confederacy.

History is naturally going to favor the victors (especially in a conflict such as this, where the victor is, at least in part, defending the freedoms of another people) but we still owe it to the other side to pay just as much attention to them as the winning side, for historical accuracy's sake if nothing else.



Re: More in depth when concering the south
by [Kayla Rogers](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:48 PM

I also liked seeing more of the south. Although they were fighting for a cause deemed less desirable, people forget that many of the generals for the south helped to fight other wars for the United States as a nation. Lee and Grant fought together at the Mexican–American war and both trained at West Point. It was nice seeing military strategies put in place on both sides.



Re: More in depth when concering the south
by [Caitlyn Vermillion](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10:26 PM

I too enjoyed hearing more about the South. I feel like we don't hear as much about the South not only because they lost but also because they are the "bad guys".



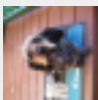
Worthwhile
by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 9:50 PM

I think the documentary was worthwhile because it focused on Petersburg, which was a very important event of the war because it was a great blow to the confederacy. The documentary explained the strategies in more depth

for this battle and it covered the perspective of the people being sieged along with the troops of the battle. I think that it adds to the knowledge we already get from the Ken Burns episode and our book and helps to cement the main points of the battle.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: Worthwhile

by [Molly Townley](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 8:32 AM

I thought that it really help to re-enforce what Burn's has already said in his video, as well as being in a new perspective to the war.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: Worthwhile

by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 4:40 PM

When you mentioned the part of the civilians being under siege as well, I hadn't thought of that part of the war until the lessons from this week. I'm not sure why I hadn't thought of them, but it made me think of all the other wars as well and how they too had impact on the local civilian population. It's something to think about, that they too were at war even if they weren't enlisted. They were located right with the enemy on either side, depending where the war was being fought.

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Re: Worthwhile

by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10:41 PM

Abigial,

I couldn't agree more with you about Petersburg being such an important event of the civil war. In cases like this, I have learned and understood so much more because we were provided with the extra information (documentary and article.) I find it harder to comprehend everything with the larger more detailed battles and those are the ones that are also some of the most important in history.

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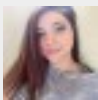
Documentary's addition to the previous information

by [Caitlyn Vermillion](#) – Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 11:19 PM

This documentary did go ahead and tell me a few details that were not in either of the other sources that are available to me for information concerning the war however, the little tidbits of new information did not stop this documentary from seeming repetitive to me as a viewer and reader of the other sources. As a side note, this documentary did not keep my attention as well as the other sources did and I felt the task of watching it to be a little tedious at moments. I do have to say thought that I did like the organization of the documentary.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

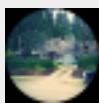
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Re: Documentary's addition to the previous information

by [Abigail Tatum](#) – Friday, February 26, 2016, 5:02 PM

The documentary did go over the same material that the other sources covered, but it did seem to add to them as well. I agree that it was a bit harder to watch than the Ken Burns episodes, and that probably stems from the lack of musical and photographic entertainment that the episodes present along with the information. Instead in this documentary, we just saw the people talking about the event and it felt a bit dry. I liked having another source though, because the repetition of information, with added material makes the subject more solid in my head to think about.



Re: Documentary's addition to the previous information

by Caitlyn Vermillion - Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10:47 AM

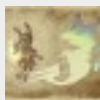
I really liked what you said about the repetition of information helping you remember the information better and I do agree that the repetition helps the information to stick better.



Re: Documentary's addition to the previous information

by Ryan Ritchie - Sunday, February 28, 2016, 7:10 PM

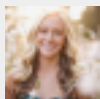
I am the same way, but also with the repetition I think us spending twice the time on one battle helped. We watched over two hours of video over the same battle, verse the normal one hour. I enjoyed this weeks videos.



Re: Documentary's addition to the previous information

by Ryan OToole - Sunday, February 28, 2016, 12:55 PM

Yeah, it was a bit tedious at times, but I liked how it just gave you the raw information up front, rather than drawing things out for cinematic effect like Ken Burns' series does. Still, they probably could have afforded to make things a little more exciting, maybe not have the camera focus on only one guy talking about a certain event for 20 minutes without any cuts.

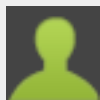


Re: Documentary's addition to the previous information

by Katelyn Rasmussen - Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10:38 PM

Caitlyn,

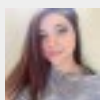
I found myself feeling very similar when it came to the documentary. It was not near as intriguing nor attention grabbing. Burns has interactive pictures and music that he incorporates in his videos which definitely making watching much easier. The documentary, repetitive and all, helped immensely. I find myself retaining this crazy civil war history much better when I hear and see these things over and over. I also have to agree with your comment about the organization of the documentary.. I find the Burns series jumping around from time to time and it is a bit harder for me to keep up.



More in Depth

by Kyle Quinoveva - Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 11:47 PM

The Video certainly added to my in depth knowledge of the campaign. While certainly broad strokes are necessary for studying such a large event as the civil war in a limited number of time I find it incredibly valuable to occasionally go into extreme depth on a small slice of the subject to help give a better view as to the intricacies and nuances of the whole, or part of the whole, event. The Video certainly adds to this and while in some ways is redundant, as we have now recounted the events of Petersburg three times, but it adds even further depth and detail to the siege and helps to show more clearly what exactly was going on during the campaign both on a large and small scale from a slightly different perspective.



Re: More in Depth

by Abigail Tatum - Friday, February 26, 2016, 4:51 PM

I agree that taking the time to look into the inner workings of certain events can give us a better look at the event as a whole. I enjoyed the different perspective, and the information that it gave us about how this battle was fought. The documentary definitely was more worth taking the time to watch than the last one we compared to our two main sources, because it gave a lot of information on this single topic instead of skimming along a few major points of a greater time span. It helped to give a more complete picture of Petersburg and the people involved in it.

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Re: More in Depth
by [Kayla Rogers](#) – Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:44 PM

I agree having a more in depth perspective is important. The extra documentary described how the battle was fought and the strategies used by both parties during the battle. I think it is important for detailed descriptions because rarely do you experience the great efforts put in by the soldiers and generals, you only hear who won and who lost and it is left at that.

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Re: More in Depth
by [Ryan Ritchie](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 7:08 PM

Another aspect of this battle that I learned about was the amount of time the Generals spent in time and preparation in order to offer up the most to their men they could. They were truly engaged in battle even though they were not on the front lines. Several times General Lee is mentioned standing up in his saddle or grasping at his reins of his horse. This reminds me of a fighter or boxer watching a fight on TV, and while it is in the heat of the moment, flinching or practicing a punch. They are just observing, but their spirit is in every minute of the fight and every detail. This is what I thought of while hearing about the General being engaged from a distance.

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Re: More in Depth
by [Katelyn Rasmussen](#) – Sunday, February 28, 2016, 10:32 PM

Kyle,

I found it extremely helpful as well in this being such a complex subject and so intricate, having the more detailed version as well as the more broad video that covers everything. So much studying could be put into this and I still would feel like I couldn't fully understand everything that went on. I also agree that it was nice to have not only a more in depth video but it shows it from a little bit more on the other side. With Burns' video and this one, they both provide good insight and detail that helps us further our knowledge on the civil war.

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