

a simulated emergency or crisis for training purposes.

- Notes, a selected bibliography for additional references, and a detailed index.

This book is ideal for anyone tasked with preparing their unit, business, organization, or even their family for an emergency or crisis—be it hurricane, arson, hostage-taking, or an industrial

accident. The authors' proactive style of writing is contagious, leading to a proactive manner of preparing for emergencies. They recommend solutions that could make the difference between an organization suffering from a crisis or weathering it. They know what works and what doesn't.

The price of this book may preclude many individuals from purchasing it for personal use. However, the value to

be gained from exposure to the "practical, step-by-step advice on evaluating needs, planning responses, and carrying out effective disaster management" should encourage units and libraries to acquire it. It is well worth the time and effort.

USMC

>Capt Allen, a recent graduate of Communication Officers School, is currently a platoon commander at Officer Candidate School.

Civil War

reviewed by LtCol J. David Phillips,
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BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM: The Civil War Era. By James M. McPherson. Oxford University Press, New York, 1988, 904 pp., \$35.00. (Member \$31.50)

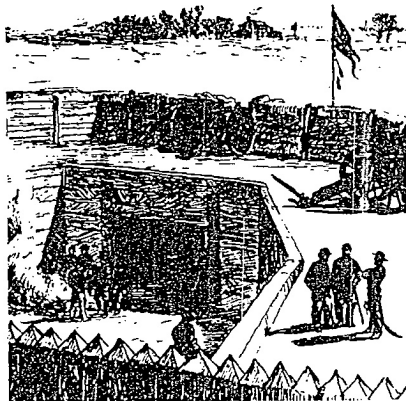
A writer for the *New York Times* calls *Battle Cry of Freedom* "the best one-volume treatment of its subject I have ever come across." I would have to agree, and I believe it will eventually be ranked with the works of Freeman and Catton.

What sets this book apart from the others is that James McPherson integrates all relevant historical events, both foreign and domestic, in his quest to tell the whole story about the Civil War era. Most other accounts of the Civil War have a one dimensional approach as they deal with the land battles of opposing armies and leave one with the impression that, as terrible as that was, the land battles were all there was to the war. Not so with James McPherson's fine volume.

He writes about the Civil War era starting with the Mexican War and the heightening acrimony between North and South in the 10 or more years leading up to the war. He then takes the reader through the war itself, from the first shots fired at Fort Sumter to its heartbreaking end at Appomattox Courthouse. He deftly blends in other concurrent and related events along the way, and closes with insight into the years after the war that left a South defeated and poor. McPherson presents both sides of the North-South argument, although it would appear there is bias for the North since more positive things were occurring there than in the South.

This book moves through all the as-

pects of the Civil War to include the naval battles, river operations, politics of the era, black units in action, women's roles, and foreign involvement. What's more, McPherson weaves these intricate stories together in a fast moving, clearly understandable style that will leave the reader wishing that this was the first book he or she had read on the great Civil War.



McPherson succinctly relates the grotesque and aimless slaughter of thousands of Americans, and also captures the social, economic, political, and other factors that led to the war, prevailed during it, and were endemic throughout the South and victorious North when Appomattox finally began to close this gruesome chapter in our history.

McPherson takes the reader into Abe Lincoln's White House and shares the agony, idealism, and stalwart dedication to the prosecution of this war by a President who never wavered from his goals of keeping the Nation united and bringing freedom to millions of black Americans.

You will travel with Sherman on his

march north after burning Atlanta and devastating nearly everything else in his path. You will see Sherman severely punish South Carolina for having fired the first shot in this war. And by the time Sherman reaches Goldsboro, NC, you will see some of the hatefulness leave his Army as he deals more kindly with that state.

The defeat of Japan by the atomic bomb pales in comparison to the ruin and devastation of the South when the Civil War is finally over. A destroyed economy, major cities totally demolished, railroads and industry decimated, one-fourth of the military-aged males dead, and the South's labor base completely wiped out with the freeing of slaves were all that was left at the war's end.

The portrayal of the surrender at Appomattox has never been captured so completely as by McPherson. There was Gen Robert E. Lee who would rather "die a thousand deaths" than go to see Gen Ulysses S. Grant and surrender his proud Army of Northern Virginia, which now resembled a field of scarecrows because of the continuous pressure from Grant and the lack of food. Then Grant sent three-day's rations for the 25,000 rebels of Lee's Army of the Potomac. And anyone who has been associated with fighting men cannot help but feel the emotion as Grant's soldiers honored the surrendering rebels with the rifle salute as they marched in to stack their arms in surrender.

For Civil War historians and buffs, the serious reader of military, politics, and economics, as well as those seeking the answers to the reasons for the war, McPherson offers something for all, as well as his own thesis for why the Civil War was inevitably fought. This book is a must read.

USMC

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