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# Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction

*James M. McPherson*

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**James M. McPherson : Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ordeal by Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The authority on the Civil WarBy Enrique A. MarquezIt rarely gets more concise than this, enumerating the myriad of reasons the Civil War happened, while also making sure to point out that slavery was the biggest reason. The only issue I had with the book was that several people are given their full name only once and you're stuck with their last name for the rest of the book, which is problematic when you're trying to take notes.I would also have appreciated more in depth coverage on the process by which the confederates decided on what to change in their "new" constitution.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Pages come to lifeBy LynnThis book was needed for my Civil War History class. I love the way the book reads, somehow it is not too dry and boring. I do wish it was not so one sided as it kind of does like most books do and leaves out important African American events other than slaves like Dred Scott but that is just my opinion. My Professor loves the book as it gives us a lot to discuss in our lectures. Yes I would recommend the book and getting it from . was cheaper than our bookstore whether I bought it or rented it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. EVERY CIVIL WAR TEACHER SHOULD USE THISBy LaurynI rented the kindle version for a class and after it was up I really wished I had purchased the text book. James m McPherson is a civil war expert and the go to guy for this war. The writing style is incredibly informative as a text book should be, but is t dry in anyway. It really brings the civil war to life (and death) and is a trove of great tidbits for the civil war lover. Wish I could afford to buy it to read it again more thoroughly. It was the only class I've ever taken where I did every reading assignment.

Written by a leading Civil War historian and Pulitzer Prize winner, this text describes the social, economic, political, and ideological conflicts that led to a unique, tragic, and transitional event in American history. The third edition incorporates recent scholarship and addresses renewed areas of interest in the Civil War/Reconstruction era including the motivations and experiences of common soldiers and the role of women in the war effort.

About the Author James M. McPherson is George Henry Davis 86 Professor of American History at Princeton University where he has taught since 1962. He received his BA from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1958 and his PhD from The Johns Hopkins University in 1963. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow, a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, and a Scaver Institute Fellow at the Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California. In 1999, McPherson received the Public Humanities Award of the New Jersey Council of the Humanities. A leading Civil War historian and Pulitzer Prize winning author, McPherson has written many books including most recently, *What They Fought For, 1861-1865* (1994), *Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War* (1996), *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War* (1997), and *Is Blood Thicker Than Water? Crises of Modern Nationalism* (1998).