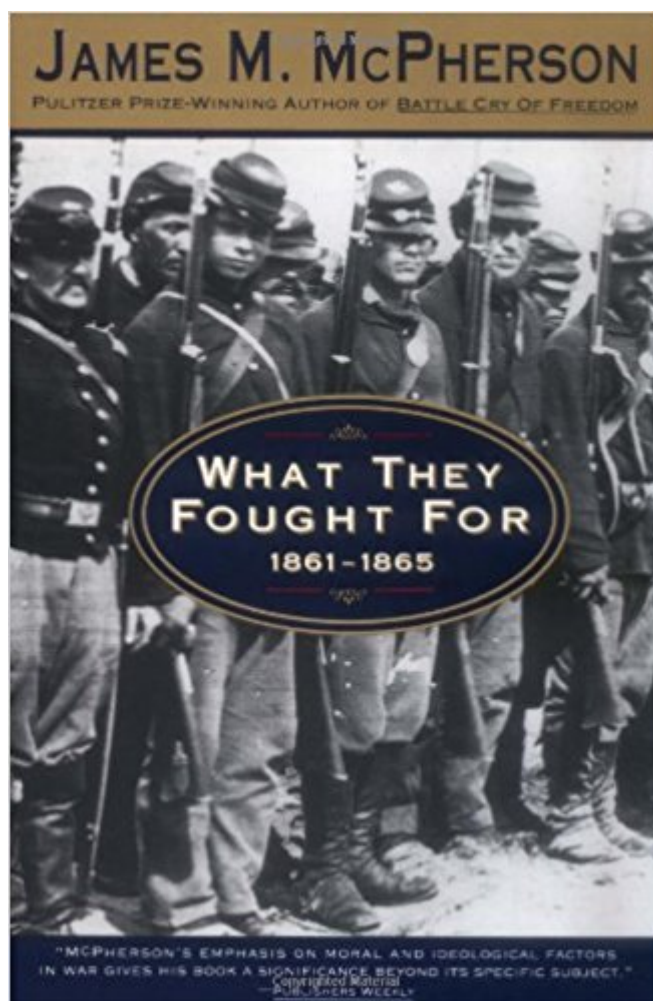


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What They Fought For 1861-1865 (Walter Lynwood Fleming Lectures In Southern History, Louisiana)



Synopsis

In *Battle Cry Of Freedom*, James M. McPherson presented a fascinating, concise general history of the defining American conflict. With *What They Fought For*, he focuses his considerable talents on what motivated the individual soldier to fight. In an exceptional and highly original Civil War analysis, McPherson draws on the letters and diaries of nearly one thousand Union and Confederate soldiers, giving voice to the very men who risked their lives in the conflict. His conclusion that most of them felt a keen sense of patriotic and ideological commitment counters the prevailing belief that Civil War soldiers had little or no idea of what they were fighting for. In their letters home and their diaries--neither of which were subject to censorship--these men were able to comment, in writing, on a wide variety of issues connected with their war experience. Their insights show how deeply felt and strongly held their convictions were and reveal far more careful thought on the ideological issues of the war than has previously been thought to be true. Living only eighty years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Civil War soldiers felt the legacy and responsibility entrusted to them by the Founding Fathers to preserve fragile democracy--be it through secession or union--as something worth dying for. In *What They Fought For*, McPherson takes individual voices and places them in the great and terrible choir of a country divided against itself. The result is both an impressive scholarly tour de force and a lively, highly accessible account of the sentiments of both Northern and Southern soldiers during the national trauma of the Civil War.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"[McPherson] [makes a persuasive case for his interpretation.](#)" -- The Washington Post Book [World](#). "Mcpherson's emphasis on moral and [ideological factors in war](#) gives his book significance [well beyond its specific subject.](#)" -- [Publishers Weekly](#).

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I was impressed with the research that the author had done concerning the soldiers true feelings, through their letters home. that's the good part. the down side is that it's more like a pamphlet than a book. it's compiled from lectures the author gave previously, and though extremely interesting, made it a very short read indeed and that's why I gave it only three stars.

Very good book which explains the war from another viewpoint.

Was a class assignment. Good book

good

I needed this book for my history class and I needed it by the end of the month, so I came here on .com and ordered it, hoping it would come fast. Ten days later, I recieved a no longer in print book in mint-condition. Wow! I am whole-heartedly recommending this distributor to you (as if it will influence your mind any further).

enjoyed book. very educational. helped me with reasearch for project. I love history and the civil war, iam form the deep south.

Short but very thought provoking. Full of valuable information. Left me wanting more to read. Well researched and well written.

McPherson is a wonderful scholar on the Civil War. This book will fit in your back pocket, and is worth reading. Go for it.

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