



The Negro's Civil War: How American Blacks Felt and Acted During the War for the Union

By James M. McPherson

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In this classic study, Pulitzer Prize-winning author James M. McPherson deftly narrates the experience of blacks--former slaves and soldiers, preachers, visionaries, doctors, intellectuals, and common people--during the Civil War. Drawing on contemporary journalism, speeches, books, and letters, he presents an eclectic chronicle of their fears and hopes as well as their essential contributions to their own freedom. Through the words of these extraordinary participants, both Northern and Southern, McPherson captures African-American responses to emancipation, the shifting attitudes toward Lincoln and the life of black soldiers in the Union army. Above all, we are allowed to witness the dreams of a disenfranchised people eager to embrace the rights and the equality offered to them, finally, as citizens.

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Editorial Review

Review

“McPherson shatters the belief that [blacks] were passive about their freedom. His evidence is telling and, what is more, it is absorbingly retold.” —*The New York Times*

“Vital reading.” —*The New York Times Book Review*

“A highly accurate and praiseworthy contribution.” —*The San Francisco Chronicle*

“Rewarding. . . Fascinating in detail.” —*The Christian Science Monitor*

“Tremendous research. . . Deserves a place on the shelves of readers interested in all phases of the 1861-65 struggle.” —*Houston Chronicle*

“Impressive. . . This collection of material is a valuable contribution to history.” —*Charleston Evening Post*

From the Publisher

The experiences of blacks differed greatly from those of white during America's Civil War. In the North, against great opposition, black soldiers--when given the opportunity--fought valiantly on behalf of the Union. The South was a different story. Aside from life on the plantation, many slaves followed their masters to war, and on occasion fought for the Confederacy. There was also, of course, the underground railroad, helping escaped slaves to freedom. Pulitzer Prize-winning author James McPherson paints a stunning picture of the other side--the Negro's Civil War. If you've read BATTLE CRY OF FREEDOM, you must read this book to get the full picture.

Doug Grad, Editor

From the Inside Flap

In this classic study, Pulitzer Prize-winning author James M. McPherson deftly narrates the experience of blacks--former slaves and soldiers, preachers, visionaries, doctors, intellectuals, and common people--during the Civil War. Drawing on contemporary journalism, speeches, books, and letters, he presents an eclectic chronicle of their fears and hopes as well as their essential contributions to their own freedom. Through the words of these extraordinary participants, both Northern and Southern, McPherson captures African-American responses to emancipation, the shifting attitudes toward Lincoln and the life of black soldiers in the Union army. Above all, we are allowed to witness the dreams of a disenfranchised people eager to embrace the rights and the equality offered to them, finally, as citizens.

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Irvin Ashbaugh:

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