



Fields of Fury: The American Civil War

By James M. McPherson

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Pulitzer Prize award-winning historian James M. McPherson has written for young readers a stirring account of the greatest conflict to happen on our nation's soil, the Civil War, bringing to life the tragic struggle that divided not only a nation, but also friends and family. From the initial Confederate attack on Fort Sumter, to the devastating loss of life at Shiloh as Ulysses S. Grant led the Union to unexpected victory, to the brilliance of Stonewall Jackson's campaign at Shenandoah, to General Pickett's famous charge at Gettysburg, to the Union's triumph at Appomattox Court House, *Fields of Fury* details the war that helped shape us as a nation.

Also included are personal anecdotes from the soldiers at the battlefield and the civilians at home, as well as profiles of historical luminaries such as Robert E. Lee, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and Ulysses S. Grant. McPherson also explores the varied roles that women played during the war, healthcare on the battlefield, and the demise of slavery.

McPherson's narrative is highlighted with black-and-white photographs taken by Civil War photographers Mathew Brady and Timothy O'Sullivan, period oil paintings, and key campaign and battlefield maps, that make *Fields of Fury* the consummate book on the American Civil War for kids.

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Fields of Fury: The American Civil War By James M. McPherson Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Civil War historian James M. McPherson's *Fields of Fury* does for kids what the author's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of Freedom* did for adults.

The well-organized, well-executed, kid-friendly history of the Civil War was a brilliant idea if there ever was one. It's difficult to imagine anyone doing a better job than McPherson at breaking down this complex, interrelated series of events into such compelling and easily digestible chunks. Except for a handful of longer entries, each major battle and section receives a single, concise, two-page spread that includes McPherson's summary and analysis, eyewitness accounts from all sides of the conflict (many from kids!), a few "Quick Facts," as well as carefully chosen maps, photographs, and other illustrations (some of which, appropriately, border on the macabre, a fact kids will appreciate). *Fields of Fury* also includes a glossary, an index, a list of related Web sites, a bibliography, and a timeline in the endpapers.

McPherson succeeds not just by grabbing attention and keeping it, but by doing so with such economy--and never without context that relates each entry back to the whole. (In fact, grownups who lacked the time or interest to weather McPherson's 904-page *Battle Cry* shouldn't be surprised if they find themselves "borrowing" *Fields of Fury* after their kids hit the sack.) (Ages 9 to 12) --*Paul Hughes*

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8-A distinguished historian has used his formidable talents to produce a concise, accessible, and appealing history in an attractive format. In 41 well-written one or two page chapters, McPherson summarizes the major facts of the war and relates anecdotes that bring to life the conflict's participants, from the commanders in chief to the soldiers on the front lines. Interspersed with accounts of the principal battles are discussions of other important issues, such as slavery, how the war was financed, the roles of African Americans and women, life on the home front, treatment of prisoners of war, and the effects of Reconstruction. Each chapter contains a sidebar of "quick facts," and the book as a whole is enhanced by a profusion of illustrations, many full page, including vintage black-and-white photographs and drawings, period oil paintings in full color, and color maps depicting the locations of campaigns and battlefields. A good pick for researchers and browsers alike.

Starr E. Smith, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-8. This large-format book provides an attractive and readable introduction to the Civil War. A Pulitzer Prize-winning writer who has published many books on the war, McPherson writes with authority, offering a broad overview as well as many details and anecdotes that give his account a human dimension. A typical double-page spread comprises several paragraphs of text focused on a single topic; a sidebar of quick facts; a small, captioned picture; and a large, full-page picture. The many fine illustrations include period photographs, paintings, prints, some excellent maps and, on the endpapers, a time line of the war. Topics include single battles and leaders as well as broader subjects, such as the Emancipation Proclamation and African American soldiers. Completing the presentation are a lengthy glossary, a bibliography, and a list of recommended Web sites. A good balance of information and illustration on a topic of perennial interest.

Carolyn Phelan

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lisa Morgan:

In this 21st century, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive right now, people have to do something to make these people survive, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Yeah, by reading a reserve your ability to survive increase then having chance to endure than other is high. In your case who want to start reading the book, we give you this Fields of Fury: The American Civil War book as beginner and daily reading reserve. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Angela Dreiling:

The actual book Fields of Fury: The American Civil War will bring one to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. In case you try to find new book to read, this book very appropriate to you. The book Fields of Fury: The American Civil War is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Phillip Permenter:

The guide with title Fields of Fury: The American Civil War possesses a lot of information that you can understand it. You can get a lot of benefit after read this book. This kind of book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world today. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you throughout new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Donna Nichols:

As we know that book is very important thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a book we can know everything we would like. A book is a range of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year seemed to be exactly added. This publication Fields of Fury: The American Civil War was filled with regards to science. Spend your extra time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has distinct feel when they reading some sort of book. If you know how big selling point of a book, you can feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book that you just wanted.

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