



Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War

By James M. McPherson

Download now

Read Online →

Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson

James M. McPherson is acclaimed as one of the finest historians writing today and a preeminent commentator on the Civil War. *Battle Cry of Freedom*, his Pulitzer Prize-winning account of that conflict, was a national bestseller that Hugh Brogan, in *The New York Times*, called "history writing of the highest order." Now, in *Drawn With the Sword*, McPherson offers a series of thoughtful and engaging essays on some of the most enduring questions of the Civil War, written in the masterful prose that has become his trademark.

Filled with fresh interpretations, puncturing old myths and challenging new ones, *Drawn With the Sword* explores such questions as why the North won and why the South lost (emphasizing the role of contingency in the Northern victory), whether Southern or Northern aggression began the war, and who really freed the slaves, Abraham Lincoln or the slaves themselves. McPherson offers memorable portraits of the great leaders who people the landscape of the Civil War: Ulysses S. Grant, struggling to write his memoirs with the same courage and determination that marked his successes on the battlefield; Robert E. Lee, a brilliant general and a true gentleman, yet still a product of his time and place; and Abraham Lincoln, the leader and orator whose mythical figure still looms large over our cultural landscape. And McPherson discusses often-ignored issues such as the development of the Civil War into a modern "total war" against both soldiers and civilians, and the international impact of the American Civil War in advancing the cause of republicanism and democracy in countries from Brazil and Cuba to France and England. Of special interest is the final essay, entitled "What's the Matter With History?", a trenchant critique of the field of history today, which McPherson describes here as "more and more about less and less." He writes that professional historians have abandoned narrative history written for the greater audience of educated general readers in favor of impenetrable tomes on minor historical details which serve only to edify other academics, thus leaving the historical education of the general public to films and television programs such as *Glory* and Ken Burns's PBS documentary *The Civil War*.

Each essay in *Drawn With the Sword* reveals McPherson's own profound knowledge of the Civil War and of the controversies among historians,

presenting all sides in clear and lucid prose and concluding with his own measured and eloquent opinions. Readers will rejoice that McPherson has once again proven by example that history can be both accurate and interesting, informative and well-written. Mark Twain wrote that the Civil War "wrought so profoundly upon the entire national character that the influence cannot be measured short of two or three generations." In *Drawn With the Sword*, McPherson gracefully and brilliantly illuminates this momentous conflict.

 [Download Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the America ...pdf](#)

Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War

By James M. McPherson

Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson

James M. McPherson is acclaimed as one of the finest historians writing today and a preeminent commentator on the Civil War. *Battle Cry of Freedom*, his Pulitzer Prize-winning account of that conflict, was a national bestseller that Hugh Brogan, in *The New York Times*, called "history writing of the highest order." Now, in *Drawn With the Sword*, McPherson offers a series of thoughtful and engaging essays on some of the most enduring questions of the Civil War, written in the masterful prose that has become his trademark.

Filled with fresh interpretations, puncturing old myths and challenging new ones, *Drawn With the Sword* explores such questions as why the North won and why the South lost (emphasizing the role of contingency in the Northern victory), whether Southern or Northern aggression began the war, and who really freed the slaves, Abraham Lincoln or the slaves themselves. McPherson offers memorable portraits of the great leaders who people the landscape of the Civil War: Ulysses S. Grant, struggling to write his memoirs with the same courage and determination that marked his successes on the battlefield; Robert E. Lee, a brilliant general and a true gentleman, yet still a product of his time and place; and Abraham Lincoln, the leader and orator whose mythical figure still looms large over our cultural landscape. And McPherson discusses often-ignored issues such as the development of the Civil War into a modern "total war" against both soldiers and civilians, and the international impact of the American Civil War in advancing the cause of republicanism and democracy in countries from Brazil and Cuba to France and England. Of special interest is the final essay, entitled "What's the Matter With History?", a trenchant critique of the field of history today, which McPherson describes here as "more and more about less and less." He writes that professional historians have abandoned narrative history written for the greater audience of educated general readers in favor of impenetrable tomes on minor historical details which serve only to edify other academics, thus leaving the historical education of the general public to films and television programs such as *Glory* and Ken Burns's PBS documentary *The Civil War*.

Each essay in *Drawn With the Sword* reveals McPherson's own profound knowledge of the Civil War and of the controversies among historians, presenting all sides in clear and lucid prose and concluding with his own measured and eloquent opinions. Readers will rejoice that McPherson has once again proven by example that history can be both accurate and interesting, informative and well-written. Mark Twain wrote that the Civil War "wrought so profoundly upon the entire national character that the influence cannot be measured short of two or three generations." In *Drawn With the Sword*, McPherson gracefully and brilliantly illuminates this momentous conflict.

Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #753515 in Books
- Published on: 1997-12-18
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.30" h x .80" w x 7.80" l, .48 pounds

- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages

 [Download Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the America ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

McPherson's scholarly breadth and intellectual depth place him in the front rank of Civil War historians. All but one of the 15 pieces in this anthology have appeared elsewhere, but in a spectrum of publications so wide that their appearance between one set of covers is especially welcome. They cover four themes: the war's origins, its social consequences, the reasons for its outcome and Abraham Lincoln's central role. Topics range from an analysis of Uncle Tom's Cabin to an argument that the Confederacy almost won. The essays are, however, connected by McPherson's conviction that the Civil War's origins and outcome were in no way predetermined: the campaigns, battles and elections that determined the war's course were shaped by specific contingencies. The final piece, provocatively dissecting the failure of contemporary academic historians to reach general audiences, is by itself worth the price of a book that belongs in all Civil War collections. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

Historian McPherson (*Battle Cry of Freedom*, LJ 3/1/88) has compiled a series of thoughtful essays on some of the most thought-provoking questions of the Civil War. All of the essays were published earlier but have been updated and revised for this compilation. The topics deal with such subjects as the origins of the Civil War, the slavery question in both North and South, why the North won the war and why the South lost, President Abraham Lincoln, and the change in historical writing. In these essays the author has proven that history can be accurate, informative, and interesting. For informed readers. ?W. Walter Wicker, Louisiana Tech Univ., Ruston
Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

The Civil War endures as a topic of fascination for scholar and buff alike. The latest "gift" --as we, his grateful readers, perceive it--from one of our finest Civil War historians is a collection of essays, all but one of which previously appeared in various journals and as book chapters and are now updated. The essays are gathered under five general headings, including "Origins of the Civil War" and "The Enduring Lincoln." Within these categories appear such specific titles as "The *Glory* Story," a critique of the well-received movie *Glory*, about a black regiment in the Union army; "Antebellum Southern Exceptionalism," a fresh look at whether the South before the war was a unique and separate entity from the rest of the nation, and if so, why and how; and "Lee Dissected," a separation of the real from the mythical Robert E. Lee. Clear, luminous writing matched by incisive, original thinking makes this collection irresistible to anyone interested in U.S. history. *Brad Hooper*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Crumrine:

This Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War book is simply not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is usually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. That Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War

without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War can bring once you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War having very good arrangement in word and layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Traci Farris:

You could spend your free time to learn this book this book. This Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War is simple bringing you can read it in the area, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not have much space to bring typically the printed book, you can buy the actual e-book. It is make you simpler to read it. You can save the particular book in your smart phone. Thus there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Daniel Young:

In this era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple method to have that. What you should do is just spending your time very little but quite enough to possess a look at some books. Among the books in the top checklist in your reading list is definitely Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War. This book which can be qualified as The Hungry Slopes can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking upward and review this publication you can get many advantages.

Marcela Beach:

Do you like reading a reserve? Confuse to looking for your selected book? Or your book was rare? Why so many query for the book? But just about any people feel that they enjoy with regard to reading. Some people likes reading, not only science book but also novel and Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War or even others sources were given information for you. After you know how the good a book, you feel desire to read more and more. Science reserve was created for teacher or perhaps students especially. Those guides are helping them to add their knowledge. In additional case, beside science reserve, any other book likes Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War to make your spare time much more colorful. Many types of book like this.

Download and Read Online Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson

#RFH8GAXVM0K

Read Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson for online ebook

Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson books to read online.

Online Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson ebook PDF download

Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson Doc

Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson Mobipocket

Drawn with the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War By James M. McPherson EPub