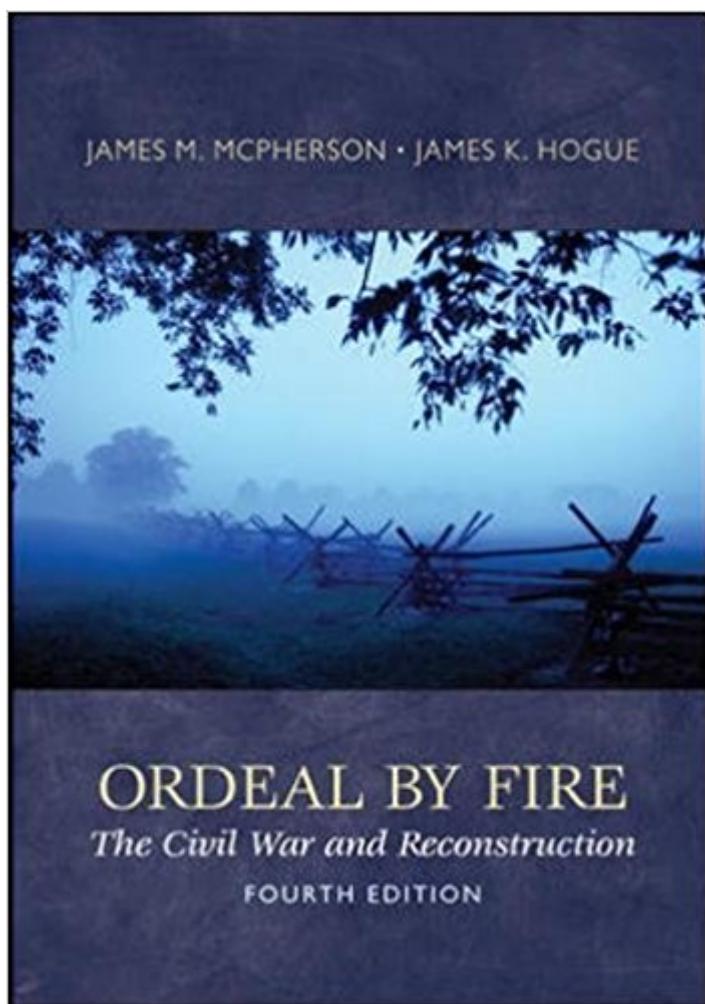


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# Ordeal By Fire: The Civil War And Reconstruction



## Synopsis

Ordeal by Fire blends the most up-to-date scholarship with interpretations based on decades of teaching, research, and writing, to tell an important story—that of the American Civil War and Reconstruction. 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 fourth edition welcomes the addition of coauthor James Hogue of University of North Carolina, Charlotte. Hogue brings his Reconstruction expertise to the third section of the book, bringing more up-to-date scholarship and interpretations to the story of repairing a nation.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

James M. McPherson is George Henry Davis 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).

It 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.

This 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.

I 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.

I ordered this as a required text for one of my courses. I expected it to be a typical, poorly laid out textbook, but it was very clear. The author pulled from many original sources to give an accurate picture of the civil war and just how much of an impact in had on our country. It also was a very easy read. I could sit down and read it again without thinking of it as a task, but rather for enjoyment. Would recommend this book to anyone looking to brush up on their Civil War history!

I love reading McPherson--and this book is no exception. However, the physical object is a problem: the print is faded--legible, but light--and worse, the binding is terrible. It has already developed a crack in it and it won't be long before some of the pages will have come loose. And I treat books as gently as I can. Plus, I coughed up the \$75 to get a new copy of the latest edition. So, disappointed

on that end.

Really well written text, thoroughly explaining the complexities that led to the American Civil War and all that followed.

Don't waste your money order the Third Edition it is the exact same book.

Great Book!!!! Excellent perspective on the Civil War.

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