

Response to Reading: The Civil War

Core Theme: Dominion of War

Seminar Date: 4 February 20

James M. McPherson, *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Why did the soldiers of the Civil War—Confederate and Union—risk their lives through countless bloody battles and four long, awful years? Drawing on more than 25,000 uncensored letters and nearly 250 private diaries from men on both sides, James McPherson shows that the soldiers of the Civil War remained powerfully convinced of the ideals for which they fought throughout the conflict. These men wrote frequently of their firm belief in the cause for which they went to war: the principles of liberty, freedom, justice, and patriotism.

For Cause and Comrades lets these soldiers tell their stories in their own words to create an account that is both deeply moving and far truer than most books on the war. (*From the publisher*)

Write a one to two page, double-spaced, typed response to the following question:

Discuss the differences between the motivations for fighting between union and confederate soldiers