



# For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War

*James M. McPherson*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War

James M. McPherson

## For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War James M. McPherson

General John A. Wickham, commander of the famous 101st Airborne Division in the 1970s and subsequently Army Chief of Staff, once visited Antietam battlefield. Gazing at Bloody Lane where, in 1862, several Union assaults were brutally repulsed before they finally broke through, he marveled, "You couldn't get American soldiers today to make an attack like that." Why did those men risk certain death, over and over again, through countless bloody battles and four long, awful years? Why did the conventional wisdom -- that soldiers become increasingly cynical and disillusioned as war progresses -- not hold true in the Civil War?

It is to this question--*why did they fight*--that James McPherson, America's preeminent Civil War historian, now turns his attention. He shows that, contrary to what many scholars believe, the soldiers of the Civil War remained powerfully convinced of the ideals for which they fought throughout the conflict. Motivated by duty and honor, and often by religious faith, these men wrote frequently of their firm belief in the cause for which they fought: the principles of liberty, freedom, justice, and patriotism. Soldiers on both sides harkened back to the Founding Fathers, and the ideals of the American Revolution. They fought to defend their country, either the Union--"the best Government ever made"--or the Confederate states, where their very homes and families were under siege. And they fought to defend their honor and manhood. "I should not like to go home with the name of a coward," one Massachusetts private wrote, and another private from Ohio said, "My wife would sooner hear of my death than my disgrace." Even after three years of bloody battles, more than half of the Union soldiers reenlisted voluntarily. "While duty calls me here and my country demands my services I should be willing to make the sacrifice," one man wrote to his protesting parents. And another soldier said simply, "I still love my country."

McPherson draws on more than 25,000 letters and nearly 250 private diaries from men on both sides. Civil War soldiers were among the most literate soldiers in history, and most of them wrote home frequently, as it was the only way for them to keep in touch with homes that many of them had left for the first time in their lives. Significantly, their letters were also uncensored by military authorities, and are uniquely frank in their criticism and detailed in their reports of marches and battles, relations between officers and men, political debates, and morale. *For Cause and Comrades* lets these soldiers tell their own stories in their own words to create an account that is both deeply moving and far truer than most books on war.

*Battle Cry of Freedom*, McPherson's Pulitzer Prize-winning account of the Civil War, was a national bestseller that Hugh Brogan, in *The New York Times*, called "history writing of the highest order." *For Cause and Comrades* deserves similar accolades, as McPherson's masterful prose and the soldiers' own words combine to create both an important book on an often-overlooked aspect of our bloody Civil War, and a powerfully moving account of the men who fought it.

 [Download For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civi ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Ci ...pdf](#)



## **Download and Read Free Online For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War James M. McPherson**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Juan Palmer:**

The book For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. So just why must we leave a very important thing like a book For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War? A few of you have a different opinion about reserve. But one aim which book can give many details for us. It is absolutely right. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you can give for each other; you may share all of these. Book For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and big function for you. You can seem the enormous world by wide open and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

#### **Edward McClung:**

This For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War are usually reliable for you who want to certainly be a successful person, why. The reason why of this For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War can be one of many great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading food but feed anyone with information that maybe will shock your prior knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed ones. Beside that this For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War giving you an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you demo of critical thinking that we all know it useful in your day exercise. So , let's have it and revel in reading.

#### **Edwin Ball:**

This book untitled For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War to be one of several books which best seller in this year, here is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy that book in the book retail store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of the book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason for you to past this guide from your list.

#### **Jack Morgan:**

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book especially book entitled For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe unknown for but surely can be your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a e-book then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get prior to. The For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life with this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing

spare time activity?

**Download and Read Online For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War James M. McPherson #7T0DLUG2OZB**

## **Read For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War by James M. McPherson for online ebook**

For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the 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 For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War by James M. McPherson books to read online.

### **Online For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War by James M. McPherson ebook PDF download**

**For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War by James M. McPherson Doc**

**For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War by James M. McPherson Mobipocket**

**For Cause and Comrades: Why Men Fought in the Civil War by James M. McPherson EPub**