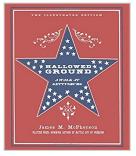
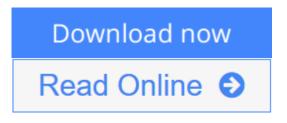
# Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg



By James M. McPherson



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# Enjoy this fully illustrated edition of *Hallowed Ground* by James M. McPherson, one of today's greatest Civil War historians.

James M. McPherson, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and arguably the finest Civil War historian in the world, walks readers through the Gettysburg battlefield-the site of the most consequential battle of the Civil War.

McPherson makes stops at Seminary Ridge, the Peach Orchard, Cemetery Hill, and Little Round Top, as well as other key locations. He reflects on the meaning of the battle, colorfully describes the events of those terrible three days in July 1863, and places the battle and war in the greater context of American and world history. Along the way, he provides stories of his own encounters with the place and debunks several popular myths.

This is the first illustrated version of this groundbreaking and important book and includes vintage photographs, memorabilia, and maps, as well as full-color photography of the battlefields and historical landmarks as they stand today. Sidebars written by contemporary soldiers, statesmen, and women of the day, as well as pieces by some of today's best-known historians and writers, add context to this engaging and popular book.

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# Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg By James M. McPherson Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1049606 in Books
- Published on: 2015-05-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 11.25" h x .88" w x 9.63" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 224 pages

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## **Editorial Review**

### From Publishers Weekly

The country's most distinguished Civil War historian, a Pulitzer Prize winner (for Battle Cry of Freedom) and professor at Princeton, offers this compact and incisive study of the Battle of Gettysburg. In narrating "the largest battle ever fought in the Western Hemisphere," McPherson walks readers over its presently hallowed ground, with monuments numbering into the hundreds, many of which work to structure the narrative. They range from the equestrian monument to Union general John Reynolds to Amos Humiston, a New Yorker identified several months after the battle when family daguerreotypes found on his body were recognized by his widow. Indeed, while McPherson does the expected fine job of narrating the battle, in a manner suitable for the almost complete tyro in military history, he also skillfully hands out kudos and criticism each time he comes to a memorial. He praises Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine, but also the 14oth New York and its colonel, who died leading his regiment on the other Union flank in an equally desperate action. The cover is effective and moving: the quiet clean battlefield park above, the strewn bodies below. The author's knack for knocking myths on the head without jargon or insult is on display throughout: he gently points out that North Carolinians think that their General Pettigrew ought to share credit for Pickett's charge; that General Lee's possible illness is no excuse for the butchery that charge led to; that African-Americans were left out of the veterans' reunions; and that the kidnapping of African-Americans by the Confederates has been excised from most history books. This book is a very good thing in a remarkably small package.

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#### From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-McPherson focuses on the period July 1-3, 1863, and explains why readers should know about the battle 140 years later. The book is concise, sprightly, and full of personality-both McPherson's and the participants' in the conflict. A prologue and epilogue flank the three chapters on the battle (each covering one day), relating why it happened and what followed. The author walks readers through Gettysburg from beginning to end, telling a story of simple personal decisions that had a global impact. The importance of the battle is elucidated in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. When readers have finished this book, the only way they can know Gettysburg better is by going there.

Hugh McAloon, formerly at Prince William County Public Library, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### From **Booklist**

\*Starred Review\* Without rival as the most popular Civil War destination, the Gettysburg battlefield makes a profound and lasting impression on visitors, who, consulting contemporary photographs of the carnage, can stand precisely where soldiers gave "the last full measure of devotion." McPherson says that this eerie experience, which provokes both empathy and one's imagination, brought him and his students to tears as he guided them around Gettysburg, a tour he replicates here. In structure, McPherson follows the topographical three-day course of the cataclysmic combat, handicapping "myths" that surround arcana of the battle as well as criticism, particularly vociferous among the losing Rebels, of the performance of generals such as James Longstreet. Second-guessing seems second nature to any narrative of the battle, having its echoes even in tiffs over the placement of monuments, as McPherson recounts. If it were only a pointer to the physical ground and commemorative markers, this guide would be ordinary, but McPherson so articulately injects reminders--as of a free black farmer who fled the approaching battle lest Confederates enslave him--of what the Civil War was about as to display the crystalline style that has made him one of our finest Civil War historians. *Gilbert Taylor* 

## **Users Review**

### From reader reviews:

### **Michael Johnson:**

This Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book will be information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get info which is getting deeper you actually read a lot of information you will get. That Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg without we recognize teach the one who looking at it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg can bring once you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even telephone. This Hallowed Ground: A Walk at Gettysburg having great arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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