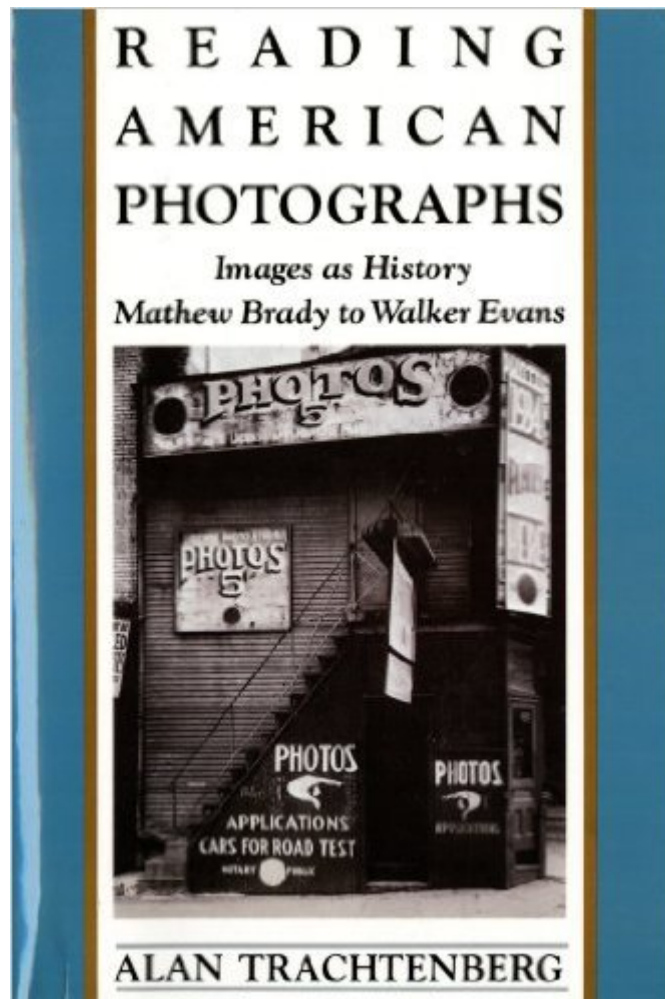


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# Reading American Photographs: Images As History, Mathew Brady To Walker Evans



## Synopsis

Winner of the Charles C. Eldredge Prize! In this book, Alan Trachtenberg reinterprets some of America's most significant photographs, presenting them not as static images but rather as rich cultural texts suffused with meaning and historical content. *Reading American Photographs* is lavishly illustrated with the work of such luminaries as Mathew Brady, Timothy O'Sullivan, and Walker Evans--pictures that document the American experience from 1839 to 1938. In an outstanding analysis, Trachtenberg eloquently articulates how the art of photography has both followed and shaped the course of American history, and how images captured decades ago provocatively illuminate the present.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Trachtenberg's subtitle of *Images as History*, from Mathew Brady to Walker Evans does not do the contents of the book justice. This well-written and constructed book covers much more than from Mathew Brady to Walker Evans; it also broaches photography subjects that were previously found in the realms of art history, architectural photography, and of sociology, African American representations. This book is a treasure for anyone interested in photography, America and its history.

If you're interested in the mind of America, what we think and why we think it, Trachtenberg is your man. This is a very detailed, dense, and enjoyable work on the topic. Its premises are taken from

the evidence gleaned from photographs and the history of the profession, a relatively new one (in the process of its own revolution from chemical to digital).

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