



The Power of Photography: How Photographs Changed Our Lives

By Vicki Goldberg

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The Power of Photography is a seminal work of such importance that it should become mandatory reading in the fields of communications, media, photography, and sociology. Taking specific images from the history of photography, Vicki Goldberg weaves her analysis of the impact that specific images have had on society. The quality of research and Goldberg's keen perception, along with her personable writing style, combine to keep the reader interested and entranced. . Unquestionably the only book of its kind. --*Choice*

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"The influence of photography has been more carefully considered than the influence of particular photographs," writes Goldberg (Margaret Bourke White) in defining the purpose of her original, entertaining and informative illustrated social history. "Unforgettable" pictures of the dead at Gettysburg, the airship Hindenburg exploding, the flag-raising at Iwo Jima and the book's cover image, a young woman wailing over an antiwar protestor shot dead at Kent State--all these have "influenced events," the author cogently demonstrates. In her analysis of the impact of specific photographs, Goldberg identifies some lasting and influential portrait "icons," including Dorothea Lange's 1936 migrant mother as well as the benign head shot of Mao massively reproduced as an instrument of rule. Most telling of all is her account of how the widespread dissemination of certain pictures--black demonstrators attacked by dogs and firehoses, a Saigon curbside execution, a child burned by napalm--helped goad the public toward pressing for civil rights legislation and withdrawal from Vietnam.

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From School Library Journal

YA-- The photograph, the most "living" of 19th-century inventions, is explored in all of its manifestations and roles in this lavishly illustrated, large-format book. Part history and part social essay, it traces the medium from its beginnings with the French daguerreotype of the 1840s to the powerful social tool and all-pervasive "eye" it has become. Utilized by social reformers such as Jacob Riis and Lewis Hine to depict the horrors of urban slums, by photohistorians from Matthew Brady to Margaret Bourke-White to record the carnage of war, and by great portraitists from Nadar to Eisenstadt to Karsh to preserve for posterity the faces of the great personalities and the commonplace scenes of bygone eras, the photograph has become a prestigious art form and an instrument of propaganda unsurpassed in its influence. A most absorbing study. -

-Richard Lisker, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

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From Library Journal

This book, which covers the same territory as Gail Buckland's *First Photographs* (LJ 1/15/81) and Lorraine Monk's *Photographs That Changed the World* (LJ 1/90), includes familiar images: Brady and Gardner's Civil War dead, Dorothea Lange's "Migrant Mother," and Sam Shere's exploding "Hindenberg." It is a pastiche of 19th- and 20th-century photographs and their stories, retold in epigrammatic style. Interested lay readers will be fascinated by the images in this book, but subject specialists will find the treatment more journalistic than analytical or scholarly. The text and photos published here do not seem to be the result of Goldberg's own primary-source research and original discoveries. Instead, she compiles material first published by photohistorians and other researchers in scholarly essays and books. Citations are imprecise; one footnote usually covers an entire paragraph of sources. Captions omit process and dimension information. The lack of a separate bibliography in a book that relies so heavily on the work of others is disappointing and frustrating.

- Kathleen Collins, Great Barrington, Mass.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lourdes Williams:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students as they are still students or the item for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that query above. Every person has several personality and hobby for every other. Don't to be pushed someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great as well as important the book *The Power of Photography: How Photographs Changed Our Lives*. All type of book could you see on many resources. You can look for the internet methods or other social media.

Paulette Rodriguez:

The reason? Because this *The Power of Photography: How Photographs Changed Our Lives* is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking means. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

Leonel Burton:

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Susan Granger:

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