



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

*Alan Trachtenberg*

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**Reading American Photographs: Images As History, Mathew Brady to Walker Evans** Alan Trachtenberg

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photographs, presenting them not as static images but rather as rich cultural texts suffused with meaning and historical content.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.

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