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### America Through the Lens: Photographers Who Changed the Nation

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Sandler, Martin W.. *America Through the Lens: Photographers Who Changed the Nation*. Henry Holt & Company, LLC, 2005. ISBN 0805073671. \$19.95. 182 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Informational Books;

Subject: Photography, Artistic--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

From ". . . the first, I regarded myself as under obligation to my country to preserve the faces of its historic men and mothers," says Matthew Brady, the photographer who went from taking daguerreotypes to chronicling the Civil War. Brady is one of the eleven photographers whose works are featured in this book. Sandler devotes one chapter to each photographer, offering brief biographical profiles with information on how his or her work changed the way people looked at some aspect of American life. The photographs of Jacob Riis depicted the tenement neighborhoods of immigrants in New York City. Lewis Hines' work called public attention to the exploitation of child laborers and was instrumental in pressuring Congress to create child labor laws. Edward Curtis spent thirty years compiling a comprehensive photographic record of the customs and traditions of over 80 Native American tribes. Dorothea Lange documented the life of the dispossessed of the Great Depression. The final chapter showcases NASA's images of the universe and NOAA's images of ocean life. While the text is well-researched and accessible, it is the plentiful black-and-white photographs that are most affecting and draw the reader in. Martin Sandler is a television producer who has won five Emmy awards and been nominated twice for a Pulitzer Prize.