

# How Has Photography Impacted Society

Alice Leeman

Theory Essay

## How has Architectural Photography impacted on Society throughout the years? (1800-Modern Day)

Throughout the years, Architectural Photography has been a guiding force in the world of photography and the media. From the mid 1800's when architectural photography was the main type of photography being used for experimentation, to modern day when in almost any travel, outdoor or business magazine/guide you see has architectural photography included in it. Throughout these time zones, the way society views architecture has changed and the way architectural photography has been portrayed and used for has many interesting reasons. I will be focusing on different key factors which each have an explanation as to how they have impacted and changed society and people's views on architecture overall.

One of the main reasons architectural photography became the main source of photography was due to the techniques used before cameras and its lenses were invented. Throughout the mid 1800's, techniques like heliography meant there was a long exposure wait for the picture to finally come through on a solid plate/surface, a technique invented by photographer, Nicéphore Niépce in 1826.

On this website, called 'Time: 100 Photos' there is a small paragraph explaining how Nicéphore Niépce came up with the idea of heliography.

"Searching for other ways to produce images, Niépce set up a device called a camera obscura, which captured and projected scenes illuminated by sunlight" (Time, Unknown).

The long exposure meant that buildings were the perfect use of experimentation when taking pictures as buildings stood still, so it was much easier for photographers to capture their most high-quality image without any interruptions.

Due to this rise in architectural photography, people started to get excitement from these pictures, making people focus more on architecture and have a new appreciation for it. With seeing all these different photography experiments, people were able to see the different ways architecture could be portrayed and even see architecture from a different, wider perspective. The rising interest in architecture gave people something to talk about, people from different cultures and backgrounds. This included people of religion. Churches and cathedrals became one of the main focuses for photography in the late 1800's and onwards so it was defiantly interesting for people from different religious backgrounds to view other religious buildings, bringing people together.

Freelance writer and blogger, Dina Indelicato talks about the repercussions of Architectural Photography and quotes "Suddenly it was possible for people from one culture to embrace, reflect over and comment on the building styles of other cultures." (Dina Indelicato, Contrastly, Unknown)

The rise in popularity of photography also gave photographers new sources of inspiration and influence across their work as more and more people were able to share their work across displays and through print.

"They (buildings) display cultural significance, and manifest trends in societies, which is an important matter of photography and its purpose of documentation." (Patina Lee, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016)

Locations in the Middle East and Greece are where the unique and ancient architecture stood. As the appreciation for architecture and architectural photography became more popular in the late 1800's, so did tourism. More and more people wanted to visit these ancient buildings and landmarks, again, bringing people of a different culture and background together.

Architectural photography meant that people on vacation could have personal memories while being away. To vacationers, the location is usually seen as more important than the building itself as they now have proof and a visual memory from their holiday and that location. Additionally, buildings from abroad or outside of your hometown were considered more photogenic and newsworthy. A lot of photographers who were able to visit places across the world now had visual prints of the buildings and architecture to show people who couldn't. As for modern day tourism, a lot of people now would be more interested in visiting locations with photogenic locations, with social media being the main driving force in the way of photography. Modern society are very invested in what they post and how they are portrayed online and posting photogenic photos that would catch

How has photography impacted society is a question that delves into the intricate relationship between this art form and the evolution of human experience. Since its inception in the early 19th century, photography has transformed not only how we perceive the world but also how we communicate, document events, and express ourselves. It has influenced various aspects of society, from journalism and art to social movements and personal identity. This article explores the multifaceted impact of photography on society through its historical development, cultural significance, and contemporary relevance.

# Historical Development of Photography

Photography began as a scientific curiosity and quickly evolved into an essential tool for documentation and expression. Understanding its historical context is crucial to appreciating its societal impact.

## The Birth of Photography

- Early Experiments: The groundwork for photography was laid in the 1820s and 1830s with the invention of the camera obscura and the discovery of light-sensitive materials.
- Daguerreotype: In 1839, Louis Daguerre introduced the daguerreotype, the first commercially successful photographic process, which allowed for detailed and permanent images.
- Accessibility: With advancements in technology, such as the introduction of the roll film by George Eastman in the late 19th century, photography became more accessible to the general public.

## Photography in the 20th Century

- Photojournalism: The emergence of photojournalism during the World Wars showcased the power of photography in conveying the realities of conflict. Iconic images, such as the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima, became symbols of national pride and collective memory.
- Documentary Photography: The work of photographers like Dorothea Lange during the Great Depression highlighted social issues and human suffering, influencing public opinion and policy.

## Photography as a Tool for Communication

One of the most significant impacts of photography on society is its role as a medium of communication. Images can convey complex ideas and emotions quickly, transcending language barriers.

## Visual Storytelling

- Emotional Resonance: Photographs can evoke strong emotional responses, making them powerful tools for storytelling. A single image can capture the essence of an event or experience, often more effectively than words.
- Cultural Narratives: Photography has the power to shape cultural narratives by documenting experiences and perspectives that might otherwise be overlooked.

## Social Media and Instant Communication

- Democratization of Photography: The advent of smartphones and social media platforms has

democratized photography, allowing anyone with a device to share their images and stories.

- Viral Images: Certain photographs, such as the image of a young girl fleeing a napalm attack in Vietnam, can go viral, raising awareness about critical social issues and prompting discussions on a global scale.

## **Photography and Social Change**

Photography has played a pivotal role in social movements and activism. By capturing images of injustice and inequality, photographers have been able to rally support and drive change.

### **Documenting Injustice**

- Civil Rights Movement: Photographs taken during the Civil Rights Movement in the United States brought the struggles of African Americans into the living rooms of white Americans, fostering empathy and support for the cause.
- Environmental Awareness: Iconic images of deforestation, pollution, and climate change have raised awareness and driven activism around environmental issues.

### **Empowerment and Representation**

- Marginalized Voices: Photography has empowered marginalized communities to represent themselves and share their narratives. Projects like "Humans of New York" showcase individual stories, fostering a sense of connection and understanding.
- Gender and Identity: Feminist photographers and artists have used photography to challenge traditional representations of gender, sexuality, and identity, creating spaces for dialogue and acceptance.

## **Cultural Impact of Photography**

Photography has significantly affected culture, influencing art, fashion, and societal norms.

### **Art and Aesthetics**

- Fine Art Photography: As a recognized art form, photography has challenged traditional notions of art. Artists like Ansel Adams and Cindy Sherman have expanded the boundaries of visual expression.
- Cultural Commentary: Photographers often use their work as a form of commentary on societal issues, pushing viewers to critically engage with the world around them.

## **Fashion and Advertising**

- Influencing Trends: Fashion photography shapes cultural tastes and trends, often reflecting and dictating what is considered beautiful or desirable.
- Consumerism: Advertising campaigns rely heavily on photography to create compelling narratives that entice consumers, affecting purchasing behaviors and societal values.

## **The Psychological Impact of Photography**

The prevalence of photography in contemporary society has also had psychological implications, affecting how individuals perceive themselves and their surroundings.

## **Self-Representation and Identity**

- Social Media Influence: Platforms like Instagram encourage users to curate their lives through photographs, often leading to comparisons and unrealistic standards of beauty and success.
- Mental Health: The pressure to maintain a particular image online can contribute to mental health issues, including anxiety and depression, as individuals grapple with their self-worth.

## **Memory and Nostalgia**

- Photographs as Memories: Photography serves as a tangible way to preserve memories, allowing individuals to revisit significant moments in their lives.
- Nostalgia Marketing: Brands often use nostalgic imagery to evoke feelings of comfort and familiarity, leveraging the emotional power of photography to connect with consumers.

## **Conclusion**

The impact of photography on society is multifaceted and profound. From its historical roots to its contemporary manifestations, photography has shaped how we communicate, advocate for social change, and understand our identities. As technology continues to evolve, the role of photography will undoubtedly adapt, further influencing society in ways we have yet to fully comprehend. As we embrace this powerful medium, it is essential to recognize its potential to inspire, provoke thought, and foster connections among individuals and communities. Through the lens of photography, we gain a deeper understanding of the world and our place within it, reminding us of the shared human experience that transcends time and space.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **How has photography influenced public awareness of social issues?**

Photography has played a crucial role in raising awareness of social issues by capturing and disseminating images that highlight injustices, such as poverty, war, and environmental degradation, thereby fostering empathy and action among viewers.

## **In what ways has photography changed the way we document history?**

Photography has transformed historical documentation by providing visual evidence of events, allowing for a more immediate and impactful representation of history, which can be shared widely and preserved for future generations.

## **How has the rise of social media affected the role of photography in society?**

The rise of social media has democratized photography, enabling anyone to share their images and stories instantly, which has reshaped cultural narratives and increased the visibility of diverse perspectives and experiences.

## **What impact has photography had on personal identity and self-expression?**

Photography has become a powerful tool for personal identity and self-expression, allowing individuals to curate their images and narratives, which can lead to greater self-awareness and community connection, but also raises issues of authenticity and mental health.

## **How has photography contributed to the evolution of journalism?**

Photography has greatly enhanced journalism by providing compelling visual storytelling that captures the essence of news events, making stories more engaging and helping audiences connect emotionally with the content.

## **In what ways has photography been used as a tool for activism?**

Photography has served as a vital tool for activism by documenting protests, human rights violations, and environmental issues, effectively mobilizing support and sparking change through powerful visual narratives.

## **How does photography shape cultural perceptions and stereotypes?**

Photography can either reinforce or challenge cultural perceptions and stereotypes by selectively portraying individuals and communities, influencing societal attitudes and contributing to the construction of identity.

## What role does photography play in preserving cultural heritage?

Photography plays a significant role in preserving cultural heritage by capturing traditional practices, rituals, and artifacts, which helps document and celebrate diverse cultures and histories for future generations.

## How has the advancement of technology influenced photography's impact on society?

Advancements in technology, such as smartphones and editing software, have made photography more accessible and versatile, allowing for instant sharing and manipulation of images, which has transformed social interactions and cultural production.

Find other PDF article:

<https://soc.up.edu.ph/01-text/files?ID=MOI22-6064&title=20-minute-interview-presentation-template.pdf>

## How Has Photography Impacted Society

have had has

have has had “ ” 2 have has have

### *Chat Support Help*

Official Chat Support Help Center where you can find tips and tutorials on using Chat Support and other answers to frequently asked questions.

### **Troubleshoot YouTube video errors - Google Help**

Run an internet speed test to make sure your internet can support the selected video resolution. Using multiple devices on the same network may reduce the speed that your device gets. You can also change the quality of your video to improve your experience. Check the YouTube video's resolution and the recommended speed needed to play the video. The table below shows the ...

have, had, has -

have has “ ” has , have ...

### *Fix issues when you install Chrome - Google Chrome Help*

If you install an application for the first time and you get one of these errors, report this issue in the Chrome Help Forum.

### *Manage your storage in Drive, Gmail & Photos - Google Help*

When your account reaches its storage limit, you won't be able to upload or create files in Drive, send or receive emails in Gmail, or back up photos or videos to Google Photos. If you're over your

storage quota for 2 years, we might delete your content across Gmail, Drive, and Photos. Learn more about Google storage policies.

### reCAPTCHA Help - Google Help

Official reCAPTCHA Help Center where you can find tips and tutorials on using reCAPTCHA and other answers to frequently asked questions.

file corrupted!.. This program has been ...

This program has been 1

### Refine searches in Gmail - Computer - Gmail Help - Google Help

You can use words or symbols called search operators to filter your Gmail search results. You can also combine operators to filter your results even more. Use a search operator

### Fix Chrome if it crashes or won't open - Google Help

To know whether this is a problem with the webpage or Chrome, try to open the page in another browser, like Firefox or Safari. If it works in another browser, try the steps below: Uninstall and reinstall Chrome: There could be something wrong with your Chrome profile that's causing problems. Uninstall Chrome and make sure to check the box to delete browsing data. Then ...

have had has

have has had " " 2 have has ...

### Chat Support Help

Official Chat Support Help Center where you can find tips and tutorials on using Chat Support and other answers to frequently asked questions.

### Troubleshoot YouTube video errors - Google Help

Run an internet speed test to make sure your internet can support the selected video resolution. Using multiple devices on the same network may reduce the speed that your device gets. You ...

have, had, has -

have has " " has ,

### Fix issues when you install Chrome - Google Chrome Help

If you install an application for the first time and you get one of these errors, report this issue in the Chrome Help Forum.

### Manage your storage in Drive, Gmail & Photos - Google Help

When your account reaches its storage limit, you won't be able to upload or create files in Drive, send or receive emails in Gmail, or back up photos or videos to Google Photos. If you're over ...

### reCAPTCHA Help - Google Help

Official reCAPTCHA Help Center where you can find tips and tutorials on using reCAPTCHA and other answers to frequently asked questions.

file corrupted!.. This program has been ...

This program has been 1

□□□□□□□□

### Refine searches in Gmail - Computer - Gmail Help - Google Help

You can use words or symbols called search operators to filter your Gmail search results. You can also combine operators to filter your results even more. Use a search operator

### *Fix Chrome if it crashes or won't open - Google Help*

To know whether this is a problem with the webpage or Chrome, try to open the page in another browser, like Firefox or Safari. If it works in another browser, try the steps below: Uninstall and ...

Explore how photography has impacted society

[Back to Home](#)