



The North American Indian: The Complete Portfolios

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A pictorial record of more than 80 American Indian tribes, their traditions and customs. The photographs are accompanied by a selection of Curtis's texts.

The North American Indian: The Complete Portfolios Details

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Author : Edward S. Curtis

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From Reader Review The North American Indian: The Complete Portfolios for online ebook

Nick says

Edward Curtis devoted his adult life to photographing Native Americans, living among them, gaining their trust, and capturing their fast- vanishing way of life. 23 years, 20 volumes of photographs and 80 tribes later, Curtis' record is like no other. It is beautiful, fascinating, and exhaustive. And very hard to find. This paperback edition reduces the photographs to 4x5 or smaller, and the result is to rob the viewer of the full effect. But the original twenty-volume folio edition is rare and expensive, so this is the edition that most of us will see. If you want to understand the first Americans, this is the place to start.

Malou Brouwer says

Even though Curtis' photography and documentation on American Indians is often contested, it has been (and still is I suppose) an important source. Taschen did a great job making his photography accessible (at affordable price) to common people and not just old, dusty history professors.

Beverly J. says

I loved this so much. The striking portraits, the stunning scenery, it was like stepping back in time. I stumbled upon this at the library and am certainly glad i picked it up

Sheila says

Unbelievably beautiful. A treasure.

Jennifer says

This was a great companion while reading Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher.

Jess says

Less read and more looked, but the looking gets 4 stars because of the wonderful and historically relevant pictures. This is such a beautiful book.

Hanny says

[<http://curtis.library.northwestern.edu/>]

Addicted to Books says

5 - brings- me -to -my -childhood- days-amazing-stars

I saw this book when I was 12 and it was so expensive and I had to save up for 4 months to purchase this book with a discount coupon and sometimes I would relive that childlike excitement.

I am a big fan of native american culture and many a times I used the pictures in the book to write short stories. Over the years it always stayed with me. My copy has survived well with no dog ears with only minimal damage at the spine. My copy was not only well loved but carefully handled as well.

The book contains 800 photographs of the native american culture during their early days at the reservations.(That heartbreaking history of America). The pictures sometimes are clearly not ethical as they looked staged with the use of props and may be carefully calculated to portray a certain reality. Knowing native american history well enough, I can clearly see that sometimes the reality seen in these pictures were not the reality the Indians were living.

That being said, some of the pictures are stunning and can sometimes seem devastating

One of my favorite pictures:

This man's stunningly sophisticated beautiful face speaks volumes of his pain.

Other pictures :

Cicada says

Pictures are intriguing and beautiful but unfortunately very racist introduction (and that is from the writer, not just the historical context of these photos...) - I think they should've revised the Intro for a 2014-16 reprint.

Vicki says

Like most Americans, I have seen Curtis' work throughout the years. But a recent visit to Santa Fe where we saw some original reproductions from his portfolios put his work in a whole new light. This Taschen book (not expensive - \$20 - for such beautiful repros!) has all of his portfolios, and they are the oeuvre of a true genius. Leafing through these pages gives you a profound sense of what we lost in our culture when we decimated the American Indians and their culture. As someone who lives in the West, the pictures of well-known natural monuments and plains with the original peoples in the landscape is moving beyond words. I can't recommend this book highly enough.

Q says

Edward Curtis's photos are exquisite and share the deepest truth of cultures and people ravaged by our government because of differences and greed. The photos capture a people and place and time of history not to be forgotten.

Byrd Alyssa says

This is the invaluable tome of Edward Curtis. It is rich with images of American Indians – but many of the pictures were staged by Curtis, so it must be viewed with this knowledge. The pictures are from approximately 1907-1930, and elicit great emotive response. Many of them are stunningly beautiful, awe inspiring, and thought provoking. The geographical range of the myriad tribes represented include Arctic and Subarctic, through the Northwest, Plains, Plateau, Prairie Plains, Great Basin, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest and California culture regions.

Aiga Al says

A book that is a work of art. Beautiful and breathtaking. And somewhat sad.

Paquita Maria Sanchez says

I was fortunate enough to examine several extremely early editions of Curtis's portfolios, and I must confess that they are quite breathtaking when viewed full-sized. The devotion that Curtis exhibited toward the cause of creating a reverent, informative, and thorough visual history of North American Indians overshadows the moral issues raised by his use of props and his questionable creation of staged "candid" which did not necessarily create a completely accurate portrayal of some tribal customs, costumes, and rituals. Despite its oftentimes harmlessly intended yet deceptive qualities, this is a beautiful collection of images from a master craftsman, and one worth viewing with full awareness of the hostile sociopolitical contexts within which they were created.

Kayla Vitalia Marcantonio says

The photography is exceptional. Particularly the portraits.
