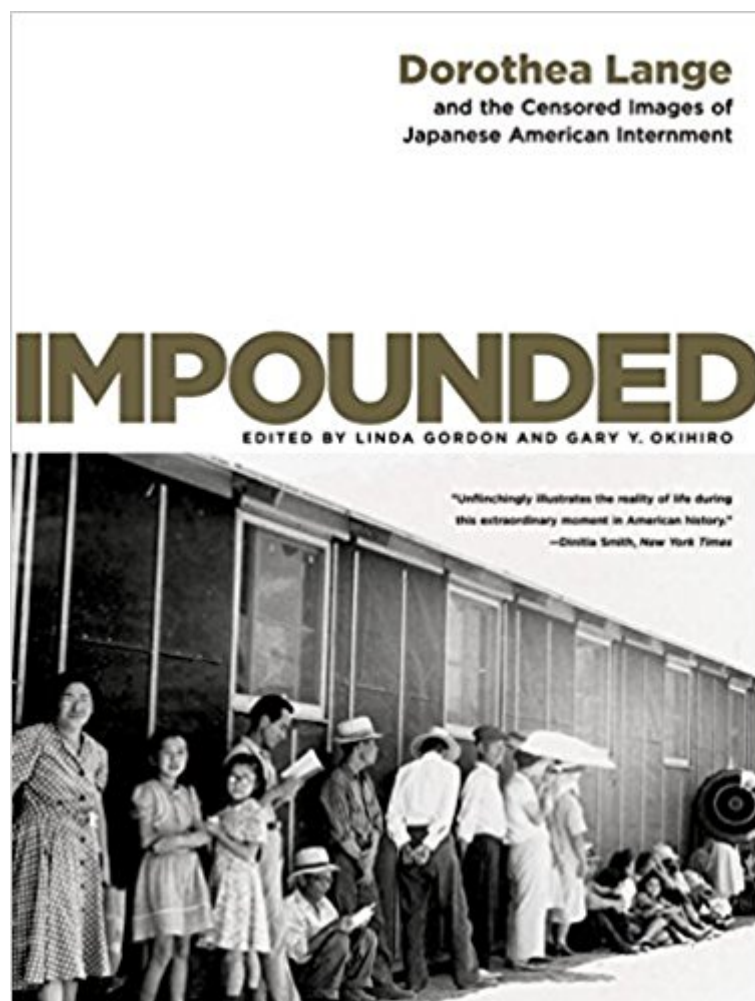




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# Impounded: Dorothea Lange And The Censored Images Of Japanese American Internment



## Synopsis

"Unflinchingly illustrates the reality of life during this extraordinary moment in American history." —Dinitia Smith, *The New York Times*

Censored by the U.S. Army, Dorothea Lange's unseen photographs are the extraordinary photographic record of the Japanese American internment saga. This indelible work of visual and social history confirms Dorothea Lange's stature as one of the twentieth century's greatest American photographers. Presenting 119 images originally censored by the U.S. Army — the majority of which have never been published — *Impounded* evokes the horror of a community uprooted in the early 1940s and the stark reality of the internment camps. With poignancy and sage insight, nationally known historians Linda Gordon and Gary Okihiro illuminate the saga of Japanese American internment: from life before Executive Order 9066 to the abrupt roundups and the marginal existence in the bleak, sandswept camps. In the tradition of Roman Vishniac's *A Vanished World*, *Impounded*, with the immediacy of its photographs, tells the story of the thousands of lives unalterably shattered by racial hatred brought on by the passions of war. A San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of 2006. 104 black-and-white photographs

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When America's War Relocation Authority hired Dorothea Lange to photograph the internment of Japanese-Americans in 1942, they put a few restrictions on her work. Barbed wire, watchtowers and armed soldiers were off limits, they declared. And no pictures of resistance, either. They wanted the

roundup and sequestering of Japanese-Americans documented – but not too well. Working within these limits, Lange, who is best known for her photographs of migrant farmers during the Depression, nonetheless produced images whose content so opposed the federal objective of demonizing Japanese-Americans that the vast majority of the photographs were suppressed throughout WWII (97% of them have never been published at all). Editors Gordon and Okihiro set this first collection of Lange's internment work within technical, cultural and historical contexts. Gordon (*The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction*) discusses Lange's professional methods and the formation of her "democratic-populist" beliefs. Okihiro (*Whispered Silences: Japanese Americans and World War II*) traces the history of prejudice against Japanese Americans, with emphasis on internees' firsthand accounts. But the bulk of the book is given over to Lange's photographs. Several of these are as powerful as her most stirring work, and the final image – of a grandfather in the desolate Manzanar Center looking down in anguish at the grandson between his knees – is worth the price of the book alone. 104 photos, 2 maps. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

In these days of fear of the terrorist 'other', reading this measured, intelligent introduction to a time that is all-too possible to imagine recurring, and looking at Lange's photos... may be one of the most useful things one can do this Christmas. "[The] images show Americans of Japanese extraction being relocated to 'assembly centers', labeled and processed like cattle and closeted away in dismal shacks for the duration of the war... No wonder her pictures were never used and disappeared for half a century. "Through her discerning and sensitive eye, Lange's observations of the situation were too real and too critical for the government, and were consequently confiscated. "[T]he bulk of the book is given over to Lange's photographs. Several of these are as powerful as her most stirring work, and the final image of a grandfather in the desolate Manzanar Center looking down in anguish at the grandson between his knees is worth the price of the book alone. "

Mostly a photographic essay, but with two introductory essays of intellectual heft, the work represents probably the most readily accessible adult presentation of the Japanese Internment situation of WWII. The pictures mostly speak for themselves. The introductory essays assign context that is both important and well formulated. What the pictures cannot relate, given by the essays is the nature of the social and legal contexts and the largely defective processes of both reason and juris prudence which allowed the implementation of this travesty to progress.

It's OK. I had hope to see pictures of Poston Arizona, where I was born, but most of the photos were in Northern California. Since cameras were confiscated there are few photos of this place where so many innocent people were incarcerated. I am grateful for people like Dorothea Lange who stood up for justice even when it wasn't popular.

This book is a hit in the gut! A beautiful and humane account of a shameful event told with compassion and understanding of a very precarious time. Lange's photos tell a story that words can't.

Again, amazing insight into what paranoia can do to "rational" people! This is something that Americans MUST learn about right now, as it looks like history may repeat itself very soon the way things are going!

I enjoy all the Manzanar (and other concentration camps) books and have many. Most of my childhood friends and their families were in these camps. Sad time in our history.

This is not only a story of panic and prejudice, it is also a story of censorship. It is sad. It is a warning that blind fear can make us all forget that we live in a nation of laws. The lesson I take away from this well-written book is "Never again!"

Interesting photos as well as description of her own personal story in taking these photos

Great book. This is classic work from one of America's top photographer! She documents scenes we are all familiar with, and often ashamed of! The US government was desperately thrashing after the 1929 Great Depression and the Dust Bowl that followed. Mrs Lange documented the ironic and the saddest scene of human suffering and tragedy in images you will recall from Life and Look magazines, Time, and PBS documentaries.

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