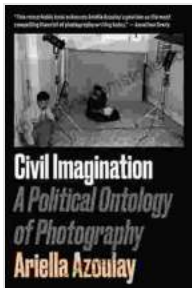


# Civil Imagination: A Political Ontology of Photography

Photography is often seen as a neutral medium, a way of capturing the world as it is. However, as this article will argue, photography is anything but neutral. In fact, photography is a form of civil imagination that shapes our understanding of the world and our place within it.



## Civil Imagination: A Political Ontology of Photography

by Linda Przybyszewski

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 7346 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
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Print length : 290 pages



The term "civil imagination" was coined by the political theorist Michael Walzer. Walzer argues that civil imagination is a form of political imagination that is based on the idea of citizenship. Citizenship, in turn, is based on the idea of equality. All citizens are equal before the law, and they all have the same rights and responsibilities.

Civil imagination is a way of imagining the world as it could be, a world in which all citizens are treated equally. It is a way of imagining a more just and equitable society. Photography can be a powerful tool for civil

imagination. Photographs can show us the world as it is, but they can also show us the world as it could be.

One of the most famous examples of photography being used for civil imagination is the work of Dorothea Lange. Lange's photographs of the Dust Bowl in the 1930s helped to raise awareness of the plight of the poor and the working class. Her photographs showed the world the human cost of the Great Depression, and they helped to inspire the New Deal, a series of government programs that helped to alleviate the suffering of the poor.

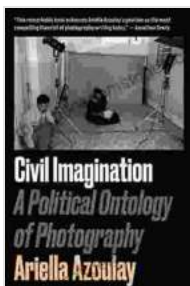
Another example of photography being used for civil imagination is the work of Walker Evans. Evans' photographs of the American South in the 1930s and 1940s showed the world the poverty and inequality that existed in the region. His photographs helped to inspire the Civil Rights Movement, a movement that fought for the equality of all Americans.

More recently, photography has been used to document the Black Lives Matter movement. Photographs of police brutality and racial injustice have helped to raise awareness of the systemic racism that exists in the United States. These photographs have helped to inspire a new generation of activists who are fighting for a more just and equitable society.

Photography is a powerful tool that can be used to shape our understanding of the world and our place within it. Photography can be used to show us the world as it is, but it can also show us the world as it could be. Photography can be a powerful tool for civil imagination, a way of imagining a more just and equitable society.

Photography is a form of civil imagination that shapes our understanding of the world and our place within it. Photography can be used to show us the

world as it is, but it can also show us the world as it could be. Photography can be a powerful tool for creating a more just and equitable society.



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