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National Geographic: The United States Of America



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Synopsis

The United States of America with National Geographic A grand tour of the USA through the magazineÃ¢â ¬â„¢s rich archives Travel through time and across the country with this state-by-state tour of the United States over the past 100 years. Following on from the critically acclaimed National Geographic: Around the World in 125 Years, the volume brings together more than 700 captivating images from the magazineÃ¢â ¬â„¢s illustrious archives to chart a century of change and growth from Alabama to Wyoming. State by state, these remarkable images bring a vivid account of a vast, evolving, and diverse North America, from breathtaking landscapes to advancing industry, evocative rural life to burgeoning towns and cities. We travel from the ski slopes of Colorado to the jazz bars of New Orleans, from the luxurious Hollywood hills to a barbershop in Kentucky, and from ManhattanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Chinatown to a river baptism in Mississippi. Along the way, the tour takes in the gamut of photographic evolution, shifting from early black-and-white and autochrome images of the 1920s and 1930s into midcentury Kodachrome, then the harder-edged reportage of the 1970s and 1980s, and finally the digital images of the 1990s through to the present. With an introductory essay by photography editor David Walker, as well as prefaces to each state section and fascinating storytelling captions, this book celebrates not only the worldÃ¢â ¬â„¢s greatest photography magazine but also the people, history, and beauty of the United States in all its kaleidoscopic glory.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“...a stirring account of the countryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s diverse populations, cultures, landscapes, and industries.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Dwell.com)Ã¢â ¬Å“The United States of America isnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t any old coffee-table book. Presented as a state-by-state tour, spanning 100 years, every picture is so real, so of-the-moment, you feel youÃ¢â ¬â„¢re in the back of a pick-up truck with the photographer the moment he/she pressed the shutter button.Ã¢â ¬Â• (The Telegraph, London)Ã¢â ¬Å“The United States of America is a celebration not just of the magazineÃ¢â ¬â„¢s excellent and timeless photography but also the people, history and wonder of America.Ã¢â ¬Â• (itsnicethat.com)Ã¢â ¬Å“The United State of America is both timely and poignant. [Ã¢â ¬Â¦] Ã¢â ¬Â¦the bookÃ¢â ¬â„¢s two volumes overflow with iconic photographs of spacious skies, majestic mountains and the details of life in the USA.Ã¢â ¬Â• (The Chicago Tribune)Ã¢â ¬Å“At moments when civilisation finds itself poised on the precipice of a daunting new era, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s all too easy to forget the monumental events both political and socio-cultural that the world as we know it has already withstood. [Ã¢â ¬Â¦] TASCHENÃ¢â ¬â„¢s weighty new release The United States of America serves as an unequivocally grounding reminder that not only is history perhaps the greatest educational resource of them all, but also that everything is transient.Ã¢â ¬Â• (anothermag.com)Ã¢â ¬Å“Ã¢â ¬Â¦an armchair tour through our collective history.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Wired.com, New York)

Jeff Z. Klein worked at The New York Times for 19 years as an editor and reporter. Prior to that, he was an editor at The Village Voice, and has authored several books about sports as well as writing for TASCHENÃ¢â ¬â„¢s popular 36 Hours series. He currently divides his time between New York City and Buffalo, where he produces a series on regional history for Buffalo’s NPR station.During three decades as an editor, writer, and photographer, Joe Yogerst has lived and worked on four continents including Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America. His writing has appeared in National Geographic, Conde Nast Traveler, Travel + Leisure, the Los Angeles Times, and the International Herald Tribune among others. He has authored numerous travel guides for National Geographic, and has been the recipient of four Lowell Thomas Awards from the Society of American Travel Writers. He currently lives in a small beach town between LA and San Diego.David Walker was born in South Dakota, and raised in New Jersey and Maine. He is the executive editor of the photography industry bible Photo District News, and a past winner of the McAllister Editorial Fellowship at Northwestern UniversityÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Medill School of Journalism. A graduate of Cornell University, he has written articles about photography and other subjects for a variety of international

publications.Reuel Golden graduated in politics from the University of Sussex, UK, and is the former editor of the British Journal of Photography. He has edited various titles for TASCHEN including The Rolling Stones, Her Majesty, Harry Benson: The Beatles, Age of Innocence: Football in the 1970s, and the New York and London editions of the Portrait of a City series.

I've looked through both books twice and certain states more than that and the overall impression is slightly underwhelming. There are seven hundred photos in these pages based on states rather than regions. An editorial staple in the NG was the state story looking at geography, agriculture, industry, history and culture but remove the text and just use photos and it becomes apparent that there isn't much visual difference between, say, Alabama and Georgia or Kansas and Oklahoma, far better I would have thought to base the editorial theme round the Nation's regions. The state route means that, for example, California gets twenty-seven photos, New York twenty-three, Texas seventeen, Delaware eleven and Vermont twelve. It seems a rather artificial way to reveal the American landscape based on the politics of the state line.The photos date from the 1880s to 2015 though they are mostly from the last few decades with a good showing of images taken during the NG's golden age during the postwar years to the early seventies. You'll get to recognize the magazine's stock shot: placing two or three people in the foreground looking at the landscape, in awe, with their backs to the camera. Another photo that appears a lot is the aerial shot and some of these are quite stunning, especially the 2015 one by George Steinmetz of Manhattan looking north from the financial district and Jim Richardson's 2008 view of Chicago at night revealing a golden glow stretching to the horizon.The huge page size gives many photos the 'wow' factor, on spreads they are twenty-one and half inches wide by fourteen and half inches deep and maybe a quarter of both books are pictures over a spread. Other photos fill a page or float in the middle to allow room for captions. Each state starts on a spread and the next page has a short essay followed by pages of photos. The back of book two has seven pages devoted to biographies of NG photographers, a nice touch because as I turned the pages and noticed the same name popping up I wondered who they were. There is also a seven page Index.I've given these two books four stars though I would reduce that to three and a half if I could because of their weight. Book one is twelve pounds and two is eleven pounds which to my mind is just excessive (the weight of twenty-six includes the slip case and outer cardboard box). The German photo book publisher Steidl issues several box sets each year which weigh more than this Taschen set but they are a minimum of three books, sometimes four or five. I expect many buyers of 'The United States of America' will be somewhat annoyed at having to manage the weight of these two titles, it really should have been three.

Gorgeous and well worth the investment -- a wonderful portrait of the landscape we call home and the people we love to love.

The perfect rendition of a potted photographic history of the USA

Well worth the money. Another great set by the best publisher.

I have the three volume set of all the continents, and I love it, it's amazing, so I was looking forward to this one. It's really nice, has some great photos, but overall I was let down. I had trouble that so many of the photos are from mid-last century, so it felt more like looking at a period in time than a comprehensive look at the US. Again, it's still a great set but I don't see me pulling this off the shelf before the better, globe-spanning set. Probably deserves four stars but it just didn't meet my expectations.

money well spent. great book by publisher.

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