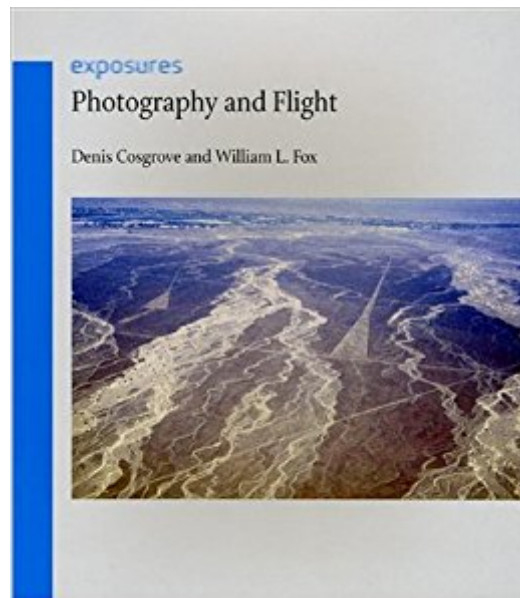


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# Photography And Flight (Reaktion Books - Exposures)



## Synopsis

Used for everything from geographic evaluation to secret spy missions, aerial photography has a rich and storied history, ably recounted here in *Photography and Flight*. Aerial photography is marked by its dependency on technological developments in both photography and aerospace, and the authors chart the history of this photography as it tracked the evolution of these technologies. Beginning with early images taken from hot-air balloons, fixed platforms, and subsequent handheld camera technology, Denis Cosgrove and William Fox then explain how military reconnaissance and governmental projects were instrumental in catalyzing these and other innovations in the field. They examine pivotal historical moments in which aerial photography began to establish itself as essential tool, such as in World War II military strategies, high-altitude photography taken from postwar rockets and aircraft, and the use of aerial photography during the cold war and the Cuban Missile Crisis. The book also explores the advancement of geographic scholarship through aerial photography, ranging from military excursions into Antarctica to the images of the curvature of the earth taken during the Apollo space missions. While digital technology and remote sensing have changed the landscape of photography, *Photography and Flight* argues that they have not diminished the significance of aerial photography in providing images of the earth. Rather, new technologies and resulting innovations such as Google Earth have enabled the mass democratization of access to such information. *Photography and Flight* ultimately reveals how the camera lens from far away continues to unearth telling details about the land and those who live upon it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I just read this book after discovering a series by a favorite publisher. Published in 2010, it's a little bit dated in the sense it covers recent developments such as Google Earth, and the sample illustrations seem ancient. However, much of this book considers the history of aerial photography, from balloons early on and particularly in World War 1--by the end of the war the Germans were photographing the entire Western front every two weeks, and the British made 6.5 million aerial images during the last year of the war. The technology of both photography and flight grew together. An interesting aside is the use of aerial photography in archaeology, which in considerable measure grew out of aerial photo surveys on the Palestine and Syrian fronts. There's not as much on World War 2, when it became an exceptionally important intelligence tool. There's a little on the Cold War (the famed U-2 spy aircraft made 17,000+ flights so somewhere there's a huge archive). The book segues into use for mapping and for publicity and into NASA images of the earth from space. Some aerial surveys were done early and are now proving to be of great value for archaeology. The surveys of the Middle East during and between the first and second world wars, and a three-year survey of China by a German with the unusual name of Count Wulf Duther zu Castell-Rudenhhausen. There are two quite remarkable images. One is a 1939 painting by the Italian painter Tulio Crali, "Dive on the City" and an image of the San Jacinto memorial taken in 1952 by Margaret Bourke-White. The most interesting chapter is the one on aerial images and art. It's not just looking at what's there. but searching for pattern and manipulating both land and images.

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