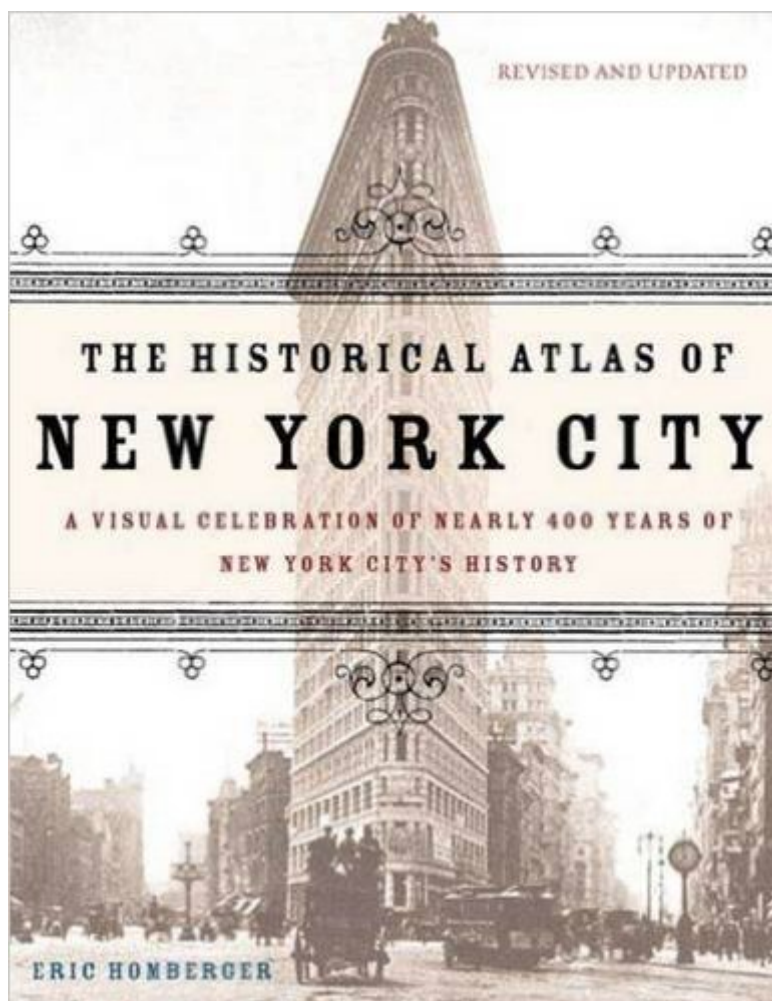


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The Historical Atlas Of New York City: A Visual Celebration Of 400 Years Of New York City's History



Synopsis

A New York Public Library Outstanding Reference Book
The rich and eminently browsable visual guide to the history of New York, in an all-new second edition
The Historical Atlas of New York City, second edition, takes us, neighborhood by neighborhood, through four hundred years of Gotham's rich past, describing such crucial events as the city's initial settlement of 270 people in thirty log houses; John Jacob Astor's meteoric rise from humble fur trader to the richest, most powerful man in the city; and the fascinating ethnic mixture that is modern Queens. The full-color maps, charts, photographs, drawings, and mini-essays of this encyclopedic volume also trace the historical development and cultural relevance of such iconic New York thoroughfares as Fifth Avenue, Wall Street, Park Avenue, and Broadway. This thoroughly updated edition brings the Atlas up to the present, including three all-new two-page spreads on Rudolph Giuliani's New York, the revival of Forty-second Street, and the rebuilding of Ground Zero.
A fascinating chronicle of the life of a metropolis, the handsome second edition of The Historical Atlas of New York City provides a vivid and unique perspective on the nation's cultural capital.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book includes many really nice maps of early New York. Much of the historical information included in the maps is uniquely presented here and lacking in many other publications. However, there are many editorial mistakes and misspellings that I have observed, which makes me wonder about the accuracy of the rest of the information. Additionally, the narrative text is simple, limited

and sometimes disjointed and difficult to follow. Buy this book simply for its beautiful graphics and depictions of the city as it used to be. Some periods of the city's history could be greatly expanded, especially the city's role in the revolution and the siege of Fort Mifflin. Anyone with knowledge of the city will find it of limited value beyond the maps and illustrations. A little polishing of this book and some additional material for some historical periods in a future edition would make this book an outstanding work. For now, I would call it good but lacking in important areas.

This is simply one of the best NYC historical reference work available. The book is divided into periods and will display numerous maps, photos and drawings of the buildings and landscape of the city at that time in history. Plenty of history is included to make certain you are keyed in to the era, and how the buildings fit in. Just a beautiful book. Great binding and very sturdy. Strong buy

The Historical Atlas of New York City solved a huge problem for me. I'm writing a novel set partly in New York in 1864, and while I lived in the City in 1964, that's a hundred years too late for this novel! I live now where research facilities are slim, and I needed something to show me where people lived, shopped, worked, entertained themselves. This book answered my questions. It showed me which landmark buildings were on which streets then and gave me the background for the characters who inhabit my novel and the City. It has prevented me from having a character walk past the Flatiron building, or attend a ball at the Waldorf-Astoria. It also confirmed that elderly gentlemen probably played chess in Tompkins Square Park just as they did a hundred years later, and that the brownstones around Washington Square were inhabited by wealthy families. It has enabled me to put some of my own reminiscences (faithfully recorded in my journals of the time) into the book while avoiding some anomalies. Not all my questions were resolved in this book, but studying the maps gave me enough information about the trains in New York to avoid some errors, like describing Grand Central Station, because it gives the date that amazing edifice was built. A valuable addition to my own research library!

As another review said, this book has some very nice period pictures but I think calling it an "atlas" is a real stretch. I found it to be poorly written and poorly organized. It strikes me as a book with chapters written by a variety of authors pulled together and glued into a book but without an editor to review the content. For example, from my experience, a good historical will explain the origin of an interesting item the first time it is used. Not so here and I found myself running to the computer every so often to see why "Canal Street" was named Canal Street or to see what happened to the

Collect Pond. It more or less flows in time from chapter to chapter but you would never call it seamless and I found myself going back to see if I had missed a chapter while reading. As always, you are bound to learn something by reading this book, even if it is mostly how to detect poor grammar.

USPS delivered this book from today and I just skimmed it from cover-to-cover. It looks interesting and is nicely put together, but it bugs me that the photo of the lower Manhattan skyline on page 146 is backwards; the World Trade Center should be on the right, not the left. When I see a glaring error like that in a book, I wonder about the integrity of the rest of the book. So only 4 stars from me, instead of 5.

This book provides a panoramic view of the history of New York City, from its origins as a Dutch colony founded in 1610 to its present status (as of 2004). The book is abundantly illustrated with maps, old pictures, photographs, and various other illustrations that complement the text and provide useful context and perspective for the reader. The book provides a good introduction to, and overview of, the political, economic, social, and cultural history of New York City. In the process, the author provides a good mix of discussing the human and the institutional aspects of New York City's history. The book is written in a style that does not require a reader to have any formal background or training in history, and provides a readable and interesting history of New York City. But, the book has limited value as a scholarly reference for several reasons: (1) the author does not use footnotes or endnotes; (2) the author does not provide source references for all of the quotations in the book; (3) and book offers many facts and figures that not readily traceable to identifiable sources. I recommend this book for anyone looking for a casual, readable history of New York City. Anyone interested in a scholarly or detailed history of New York City should look at other books. The author of this book does provide a list of 57 books on New York City (with copyright dates from 1990 to 2004) that will help any reader interested in further reading or research about New York City.

After spending a long weekend in NYC (our hotel was 1 block from the Flatiron Building) I wanted a good history book for the city. Came across this one by price and reviews. It has a TON of info going back to the original Western settlements, and showing how the city was torn down and re-drawn over and over again as it was built up. A few of the "major avenues" go back hundreds of years, but the maps we know today really didn't get set till the 1780's. Very much liked the book.

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