History of Photography
ancient times: Camera obscuras used to form images on walls in darkened rooms; image formation via a pinhole
16th century: Brightness and clarity of camera obscuras improved by enlarging the hole inserting a telescope lens
17th century: Camera obscuras in frequent use by artists and made portable.
A typical camera obscura at the beginning of the 19th Century, somewhat larger than the replica shown above, incorporating a mirror (a), which reflects the image from the lens (b) onto a glass plate (c) which holds a sheet of paper on which the image is being traced. The double interlocking box enables precise focusing.

1816: Nicéphore Niépce combines the camera obscura with photosensitive paper
1826: Niépce creates a permanent image

View from Niepce’s Window at Le Gras.
1837: Louis Daguerre creates images on silver-plated copper, coated with silver iodide and "developed" with warmed mercury; Daguerre is awarded a state pension by the French government in exchange for publication of methods and the rights by other French citizens to use the Daguerreotype process.
1834: Henry Fox Talbot creates permanent (negative) images using paper soaked in silver chloride and fixed with a salt solution. Talbot created positive images by contact printing onto another sheet of paper.
1841: Talbot patents his process under the name "calotype".

Known also as "Tintypes"
1855: Beginning of stereoscopic era
1861-65: Mathew Brady and staff (mostly staff) covers the American Civil War, exposing 7000 negatives
Cameron's photographic career was short, spanning eleven years of her life (1864–1875). She took up photography at the relatively late age of 48, when she was given a camera as a present. Although her style was not widely appreciated in her own day, her work has had an impact on modern photographers, especially her closely cropped portraits.
1880: George Eastman, age 24, sets up Eastman Dry Plate Company in Rochester, New York. First half-tone photograph appears in a daily newspaper, the *New York Graphic*. 
1878: Dry plates being manufactured commercially.
1900: Kodak Brownie box roll-film camera introduced.
1888: First Kodak camera, containing a 20-foot roll of paper, enough for 100 2.5-inch diameter circular pictures.
1889: Improved Kodak camera with roll of film instead of paper
First Issue

1888
1902: Alfred Stieglitz organizes "Photo Secessionist" show in New York City
1907: First commercial color film, the Autochrome plates, manufactured by Lumiere brothers in France
Dorothea Lange
May 25, 1895 – October 11, 1965
1917: Nippon Kogaku K.K., which will eventually become Nikon, established in Tokyo.

First Nikon camera: The Nikon 1
The 35mm Camera 1927
1924: Leitz markets a derivative of Barnack's camera commercially as the "Leica", the first high quality 35mm camera.
Rollei introduces the Rolleiflex twin-lens reflex producing a 6x6 cm image on rollfilm
1921: Man Ray begins making photograms ("rayographs") by placing objects on photographic paper and exposing the shadow cast by a distant light bulb; Eugène Atget, aged 64, assigned to photograph the brothels of Paris.
1931: Development of strobe photography by Harold ("Doc") Edgerton at MIT
1932: Inception of Technicolor for movies, where three black and white negatives were made in the same camera under different filters.
Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Willard Van Dyke, Edward Weston, et al, form Group f/64 dedicated to "straight photographic thought and production"
May 25, 1895 – October 11, 1965

Ansel Adams
Edward weston
Henri Cartier-Bresson buys a Leica and begins a 60-year career photographing people.
March 14, 1932 George Eastman, aged 77, writes suicide note--"My work is done. Why wait?"--and shoots himself.
1933: Brassaï publishes *Paris de nuit*
1934: Fuji Photo Film founded. By 1938, Fuji is making cameras and lenses in addition to film.
1935: Farm Security Administration hires Roy Stryker to run a historical section. Stryker would hire Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein, et al. to photograph rural hardships over the next six years. Roman Vishniac begins his project of the soon-to-be-killed-by-their-neighbors Jews of Central and Eastern Europe.
Roman Vishniac
1936: Development of Kodachrome, the first color multi-layered color film; development of Exakta, pioneering 35mm single-lens reflex (SLR) camera.
Hindenburg Explosion 1937
LIFE magazine covers the war with help from Margaret Bourke-White, Robert Capa, Carl Mydans, and W. Eugene Smith

First Life color 1936
Further Development of the multi-layer color negative
Margaret Bourke-White
WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING

There's no way like the American Way
1947: Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Capa, and David Seymour start the photographer-owned Magnum picture agency.
1948: Hasselblad in Sweden offers its first medium-format SLR for commercial sale; Pentax in Japan introduces the automatic diaphragm; Polaroid sells instant black and white film
1949: East German Zeiss develops the Contax S, first SLR with an unreversed image in a pentaprism viewfinder
1955: Edward Steichen curates Family of Man exhibit at New York's Museum of Modern Art
1959: Nikon F introduced
Speedgraphic Camera

Standard equipment for press photographers in the 1960s
1960: Garry Winogrand begins photographing women on the streets of New York City.
1963: First color instant film developed by Polaroid
Instamatic released by Kodak
first purpose-built underwater introduced, the Nikonos
1972: 110-format cameras introduced by Kodak with a 13x17mm frame
1973: C-41 color negative process introduced, replacing C-22
1975: Nicholas Nixon takes his first annual photograph of his wife and her sisters: "The Brown Sisters"
Steve Sasson at Kodak builds the first working CCD-based digital still camera.

Steven Sasson holds the prototype digital camera he built in 1975 at the Eastman Kodak Co. headquarters in Rochester, N.Y. It recorded a black-and-white image on a digital cassette tape.
1976: First solo show of color photographs at the Whitney Museum of American Art:
1977: Cindy Sherman begins work on Untitled Film Stills, completed in 1980
1977: Jan Groover begins exploring kitchen utensils
1978: Hiroshi Sugimoto begins work on seascapes.
1980: Elsa Dorfman begins making portraits with the 20x24" Polaroid.
1982: Sony demonstrates Mavica "still video" camera
1983: Kodak introduces disk camera, using an 8x11mm frame (the same as in the Minox spy camera)
Richard Avedon “In the American West”
1987: The popular Canon EOS system introduced, with new all-electronic lens mount
1985: Minolta markets the world's first autofocus SLR system (called "Maxxum" in the US)
1990: Adobe Photoshop 1.0 released.
1991: Kodak DCS-100, first digital SLR, a modified Nikon F3
1992: Kodak introduces PhotoCD
Mary Ellen Mark publishes book documenting life in an Indian circus.
1997: Rob Silvers publishes Photomosaics
1999: Nikon D1 SLR, 2.74 megapixel for $6000, first ground-up DSLR design by a leading manufacturer.
2000: Camera phone introduced in Japan by Sharp/J-Phone
2001: Polaroid goes bankrupt
2003: Four-Thirds standard for compact digital SLRs introduced with the Olympus E-1
Canon Digital Rebel introduced for less than $1000
2004: Kodak ceases production of film cameras
2005: Canon EOS 5D, first consumer-priced full-frame digital SLR, with a 24x36mm CMOS sensor for $3000