

## History of Photography Overview

- Daguerreotype
  - First practical form of photography
  - Invented in France in 1839 by Louis Daguerre
  - an image taken on silver-plated copper
  - Required about 15 minutes of exposure time
  - One of a kind images
- Collodion Process/ Wet Plate
  - Allowed for the reproduction of photographic images
  - Invented in 1851
  - A plate of glass or iron used to hold the chemicals that created an image
- Ambrotype (wet plate)
  - Reproducible image
  - Taken on glass
  - Used the Collodion process (Invented in 1851)
  - Required 2-12 seconds of exposure
- Tintype (wet plate)
  - Produced a positive image
  - Made on iron
  - Used the Collodion process, which was invented about 1851
  - 2-12 seconds of exposure
  - Less expensive- less than 25 cents
- Stereograph/Stereoscopic/ Stereo View (wet plate)
  - 3D image taken with a twin lens camera
    - Captured the same image from two separate lenses, in much the same way that two human eyes capture the same image from slightly different angles on the head.
    - Once processed, the image could be viewed side by side through a Stereoscope, or “viewer,” creating a 3D image.
    - This 3D image was called a “stereo view”
- The first war photographs were taken during America’s war with Mexico in late 1846 or early 1847 by an unknown American cameraman who took daguerreotype scenes in Saltillo, Mexico.
  - These are known today as the world’s first war photographs.
  - However, they are not considered impactful on the development of photography in either the United States or Europe because their existence was not known until the late twentieth century.
- Roger Fenton took pictures of the Crimean War in 1855
  - Most were of miscellaneous buildings, the harbor of Balaclava, and British and French soldiers in camp scenes.
  - These images were never mass printed and they did not receive much media attention.

- James Robertson also took pictures of the Crimean War, but was able to photograph deserted Russian forts and the ruins of Sebastoplo after its evacuation in September 1855.
  - These images received a great deal of media attention in Great Britain, but were not seen by the general public in America.
  - However, a U.S. military commission sent to observe the Crimean War, which included future General George B. McClellan, returned to the United States with copies of the Robertson photos. These photos were used for analysis of gun placements.
    - This is the first instance in which photographs were used as a direct source of military intelligence.
- Felice Beato took the first images of the dead on a battlefield in 1860 at the fort at North Taku during the Second Opium War between the British/ French and Chinese. Although they were the first, like the Saltillo images they remained obscure until late twentieth-century.