



Narrator: In an effort to create support Franklin Delano Roosevelt's program of social reforms such as agriculture subsidies, the Farm Security Administration hired photographers to capture with their lenses the devastating effects of the depression for American farmers, sharecroppers, and migrant workers. Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans were two of the Farm Security Administration photographers that not only depicted the harsh conditions, but they also created art. Additionally, they created a catalyst for the passage of bills to directly help agricultural workers. Probably one of the most famous American photographs of all time was created by Dorothea Lange entitled *Migrant Mother*, Nipomo, California, 1936.

In it, a mother who's a widow is depicted with three of her 10 children. It's very closed in its frame, does not depict the awful condition she was living in. The way Lange developed it gave a coarseness to the texture, a graininess to the print. Lange also chose to edit out a thumb which in some works you can see the thumb, some you can't. A thumb in the very bottom right-hand corner so to not call attention to the fact that there were other children in the photograph. The mother's look is pensive. The care on her lined face is very apparent and yet there is also a dignity in her continence. Shortly after this photograph was published, bills were passed in order to help alleviate some of the suffering of these migrant workers.

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