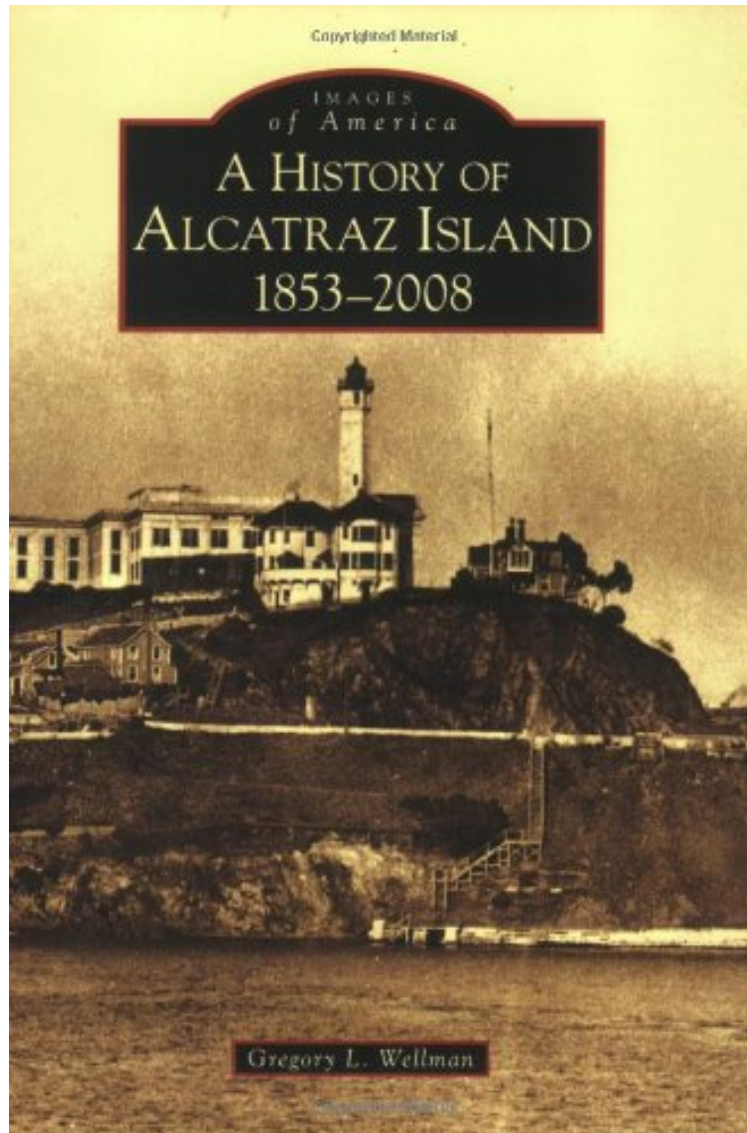


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## History of Alcatraz Island, 1853-2008 (Images of America: California)

*Gregory L. Wellman*

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**Gregory L. Wellman : History of Alcatraz Island, 1853-2008 (Images of America: California)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of Alcatraz Island, 1853-2008 (Images of America: California):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Good read for Alcatraz buffs. By MLO Very good information (with plenty of pictures) of the history of Alcatraz. I've always been interested in Alcatraz (have read some other books too)

and found reading this book an easy read and really enjoyable. I finished reading it the same day I got it. Especially interesting to me was what had happened to all the buildings that were there when it was a prison. Many buildings are now gone and it's hard to even find photographs of the way it used to look. I had assumed the Indian occupiers burned them all down but now found out through reading this book that they burned down four of them (Wardens Home, Medical examiner, and lighthouse care person, and Social Hall) and the rest were torn down by the government after the Indians left. Torn down were the large Buildings A B and C near the Parade Grounds along with several bungoloes, the assoc Warden's home, and some others on the Parade Grounds. Such a shame to see the history gone. Taking a tour now reveals a shell of what it used to look like. Anyway, good read for those who are interested in Alcatraz history (I eat this stuff up). What I wouldn't give to spend a day on Alcatraz with Jolene Babyak (who lived on the island and wrote a book) to pick her brains about Alcatraz. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very Good By Candy Driver-Ratigan Bought as gift in advance of trip to San Francisco 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book! By QUARTERBACKS\*CHEERLEADER Took the fam on a trip to San Fran. Did the Alcatraz tour. Before we boarded the plane to come home my husband was ordering this book. He really enjoyed it. Quick read.

As one of America's most notorious prisons, Alcatraz has been a significant part of California's history for over 155 years. The small, lonely rock, known in sea charts by its Spanish name "Isla de los Alcatraces," or "Island of Pelicans," lay essentially dormant until the 1850s, when the military converted the island into a fortress to protect the booming San Francisco region. Alcatraz served as a pivotal military position until the early 20th century and in 1934 was converted into a federal penitentiary to house some of America's most incorrigible prisoners. The penitentiary closed in 1963, and Alcatraz joined the National Park Service system in 1972. Since then, it has remained a popular attraction as part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

About the Author Gregory L. Wellman, a member of the Wells Fargo Historical Services Department and the California Historical Society, reveals in these images the role of Alcatraz since 1853. The island's startling transformation comes alive through the photographic collections of the Alcatraz Alumni Association, the Golden Gate National Archives, and other private collections from around the country. This stirring imagery documents the evolution of one of America's most renowned and memorable landmarks.