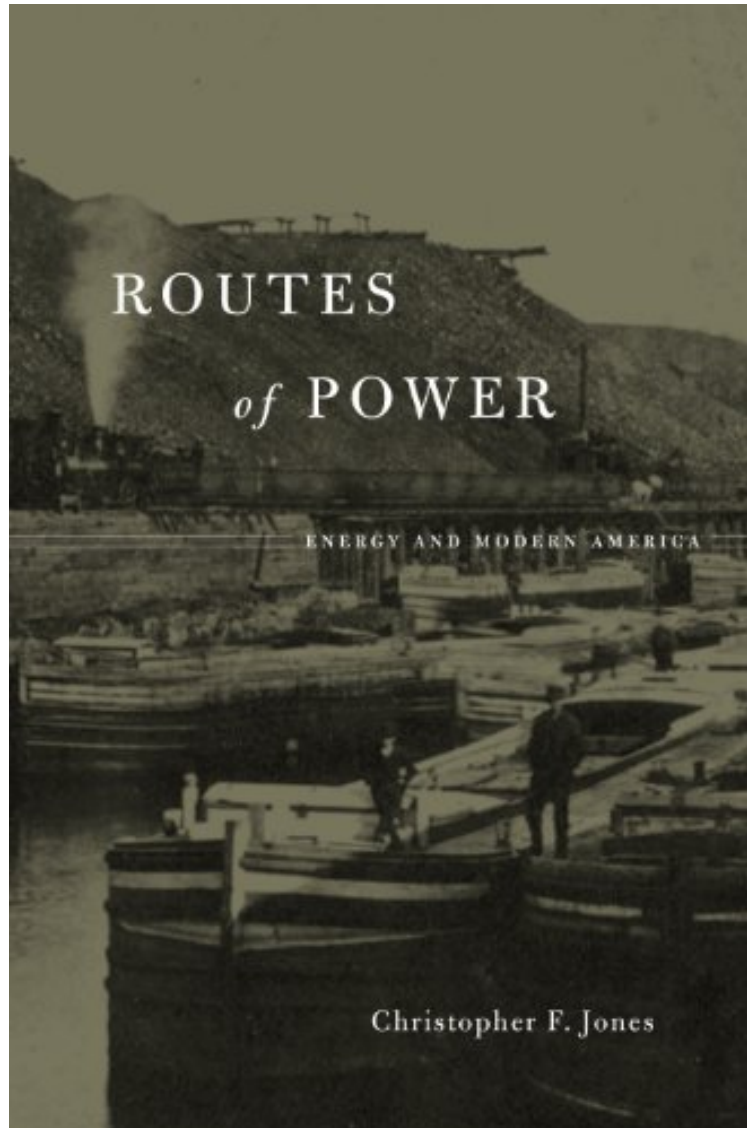


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## Routes of Power

*Christopher F. Jones*

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**Christopher F. Jones : Routes of Power** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Routes of Power:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful Historical Analysis with Connections to Infrastructure Studies and Political Economy. By JamesThoroughly enjoyed reading this book for my dissertation. The subject, routes of power, provides a vehicle through which Jones examines the complex social, political, and economic relations between technology and the development of American identity. Jones argues that the transportation networks, such as the oil pipelines and the network of electrical wires are what allowed the emergence of new energy regimes like the

transition from steam power to electricity. This emphasis on the transportation networks highlights areas of research that had not yet been discussed, such as the geopolitics of pipelines and power-lines. The politics of space regarding power-lines highlighted the means through which corporations performed an almost territorialization of cities through access and ownership of power-lines. Further, Jones addresses the de-regulated values of free market, a central component in American liberalism, in historical decisions and lack of accountability for these corporations. I found the descriptions about landscapes of intensification an interesting way to re-approach the values of competition and independence in liberalism. As Jones discusses these landscapes of intensification allowed energy companies to readjust marketing by making electricity a need rather than a novelty.<sup>4</sup> of 5 people found the following review helpful. Positive New Voice By Stephen C. Baer Jones states in the introduction to *Routes of Power* "Stepping into a world of abundant coal, oil and electricity has proven easier than stepping out." But has he stepped out or is this merely something he imagines. The book is absorbing and returns repeatedly to a theme mentioned at the end of the introduction. Changes in energy practices, therefore, are not simply changes in how people obtain heat, light and power. They are reorientations of how people live, work and play. Coal, oil and electricity have enabled previously unimaginable expansions of cities, industrial output and transport systems. He then adds, "In an era of climate change continuing the pattern of Mineral energy regime is foolish" so Jones assumes what many deny "climate change". The book should interest whether you do or do not accept unprecedented climate change. The chapters cover canals, pipelines, and wires with railroads, dirt roads, tow paths, mules, horses and foot traffic thrown in. I found the introduction and conclusion most interesting. If we old people find progress confusing perhaps Jones can explain. At the end he mentions "the more we use the less we notice" and he restrains criticism of a particularly perhaps fatal band of energy consumption promoters by merely calling them "boosters" who knows how this will turn out, it's good to find Jones, who now teaches at AZ State, is there to at least comment on all this if he can hardly be expected to steer. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Book was delivered in a timely and reasonable manner, ... By Rachael Book was delivered in a timely and reasonable manner, and is free of markings or damage. The book itself reveals the interplay between state and industry, society and technology, and is telling of the development of power monopolies in the US.

The fossil fuel revolution is usually a tale of advances in energy production. Christopher Jones tells a tale of advances in energy access--canals, pipelines, wires delivering cheap, abundant power to cities at a distance from production sites. Between 1820 and 1930 these new transportation networks set the U.S. on a path to fossil fuel dependence.

Jones rethinks our understanding of the history of energy by examining from a new angle America's transformation from a society that is dependent on human and animal power to one that relies on fossil fuels and electrical power generation. By focusing on the history of energy infrastructure, *Routes of Power* demonstrates how this transformation occurred and, in doing so, provides a picture of America's energy history that is new, concrete, innovative, and persuasive. (Martin V. Melosi, author of *Atomic Age America*) In *Routes of Power*, Jones investigates the economics, the social consequences, and the environmental costs of the transformation from muscle power to coal, oil, and electricity. His work demonstrates effectively that technological change is not automatic but requires human effort and ingenuity. (David E. Nye, author of *America's Assembly Line*) Working at the intersection of technological and environmental history, Jones shows that understanding political economy and social context are integral to understanding energy transitions. His elegantly written and cogently argued narrative of how Americans spent down the planetary savings account of solar energy amassed in fossil fuels is as compelling as a mystery novel. (Ann Norton Greene *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 2016-05-15) About the Author Christopher F. Jones is Assistant Professor of History in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies at Arizona State University.