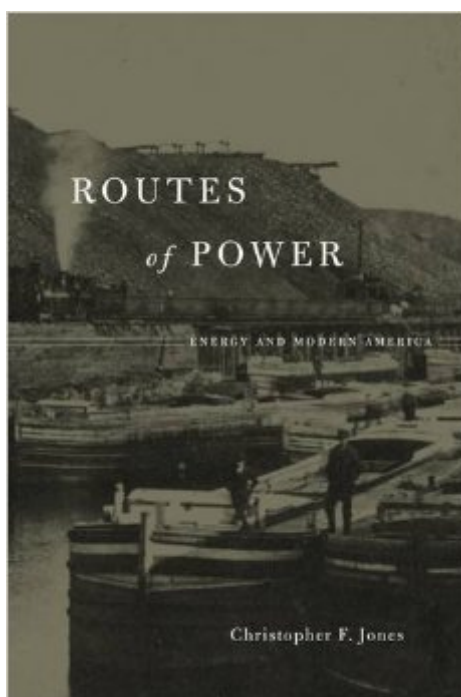


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# Routes Of Power: Energy And Modern America



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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.

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