



Department of History

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James A. Jones

Professor of History



Main Teaching Interests:

Modern African history and the history of industrialization. My courses provide comparative studies of industrialized and non-industrialized societies, and examine the roots of modern belief systems such as nationalism, capitalism, socialism, democracy, and science.

Current Research:

My research focuses on the history of labor, wealth, and technology. The main branch of my research is concentrated in French West Africa, but I devote significant effort to the study of these concepts in other geographic settings, including Chester County. I recently completed a book on Africans who worked for a colonial-era railroad in Senegal and Mali, and a book on the history of industrialization of West Chester. Currently, I am testing a model of globalization that

offers a way to understand its role in history, and researching the impact of railroad construction in West Chester.

Recent Publications:

"Dakar," "Senegal: Colonial Period: Railways and Colonization" and "Mali: Colonial Period: Economy, Society and Religion" in Kevin Shillington, editor, *Encyclopedia of Africa History* (London: Fitzroy & Dearborn, forthcoming).

Made in West Chester: the History of Industry in West Chester, 1867-1939. West Chester (PA), 2003.

Colonial Labor in the Industrial World: the African Workers of the Chemin de Fer Dakar-Niger. Portsmouth (NH): Heinemann, 2002.

"Fact and Fiction" in *God's Bit of Wood* in *Research in African Literatures* 31 (Summer 2000).

Book Review of *Industrialization and the British Colonial State: West Africa 1939-1951*, by L. J. Butler. *Journal of African History* 39 (1998): 166.

"Constructing History with Computers" in Dennis A. Trinkle, *History in the Electronic Age: Historians and Computers* (M. E. Sharpe, Inc., 1998).

Web Sites:

The "[Riggstown History Homepage.](http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his480/riggstown.htm)" located at <http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his480/riggstown.htm>, offers sources and reports on the history of West Chester, Pennsylvania, and surroundings.

The "[Archives of French West Africa.](http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his311/archives/arcindex.htm)" located at <http://courses.wcupa.edu/jones/his311/archives/arcindex.htm>, offers sources for the history of colonial and independent francophone West Africa.

Other [teaching web sites.](#)
