



## **WYOMING VALLEY: AN AMERICAN SAGA**

**By**

**Norman C. Rothman, Ph.D.  
Department of History, UMUC**

**June, 2009**

**UMUC Working Paper Series – Number 2009-017**

### **Abstract**

This study examines a region of Northeast Pennsylvania and traces the ideological, sociological, and technological evolution that it has undergone from prehistoric times to the early part of this twentieth-first century. It is historical in approach and studies the changes that the region has undergone in four major time periods: The Native American Eras, the Colonial and Early National Period; the Age of Coal; and the Post-Industrial Period. It finds that the area reflects closely the changes of the country as it has moved successively from a subsistence rural agrarian culturally homogenous locality to an increasingly urban industrialized religiously and ethnically diverse locale to a community struggling to meet the changes that other American communities in the Northeast and Middle West must meet in a post-industrial changing American landscape characterized by changing residential, commercial, and demographic patterns. As such, it mirrors where we have been, where we are, and where we may be going in a shifting ideological, sociological, and technological set of circumstances. It is a retrospective study, a snapshot of the present, and a possible blueprint for the future.

### **Keywords:**

Wyoming Valley  
Delaware  
Pennamite  
Anthracite  
United Mine Workers  
Pennsylvania Industrial Assistance Corporation