

# VALLEY OF INDUSTRY: DEVELOPING A REGIONAL ECONOMY IN THE POST JEFFERSON'S EMBARGO OHIO VALLEY

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## ABSTRACT

Throughout the colonial era and the earliest years of the nineteenth century, the Ohio Valley was a vital member of the Atlantic World. It participated in transatlantic trade as both a provider of natural resources such as agricultural produce, timber, mineral deposits and animal skins and furs to act as raw materials for industrialization in Europe and a consumer of European manufactured goods such as glass, home furnishings, clothes, guns, hardware and farming equipment. While this type of commerce connected the Ohio Valley to the Eastern United States and Europe, it also created varying degrees of economic dependence upon outside forces by ensuring that its system of manufactures remained underdeveloped. This dissertation argues that the Embargo of 1807 constituted a major transforming event in the development of a system of manufactures in the Ohio Valley and its economy as a whole. The embargo shut down American ports for both imports and exports and cut off trade between the United States and Europe forcing resourceful Ohio Valley entrepreneurs to adjust their business strategies. These businessmen embraced domestic manufacturing and trade within the Ohio Valley while lessening their dependence on outside markets. The creation of a regional economy in the Ohio Valley built upon manufacturing and domestic trade is examined through the economic development of three Ohio River cities: Pittsburgh, Marietta and Louisville. The primary focus of these examinations are James O'Hara of Pittsburgh, Dudley Woodbridge Jr. of Marietta and the Tarascon brothers of Louisville whose reactions to the economic hardships presented by Jefferson's Embargo provided a blueprint for others in the business community to follow.