

P.(PAUL) DAVID WILKIN

61-15 98TH STREET, #4E

REGO PARK, NY 11374

TELEPHONE: 718-271-0084

Current Email: pdwilkin@rcn.com

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**2011 explanatory cover letter to anyone reading this pdf copy of my Ph.D. dissertation that was approved by Syracuse University on 4th March 1984 and entitled:
"To the Bottom of the Heap: Educational Deprivation and its Social Implications in the Northwestern Province of Zambia, 1906-1945"**

If you are reading this pdf version of my dissertation (now over 25 years old), several things may puzzle you about its format. This letter attempts to explain and help you.

This dissertation was the first to be accepted by Syracuse University's History Department that was written using software on a computer: the University's DEC10. Members of the department, including my advisors, argued whether they would accept a dissertation that was typed into a computer and not on a typewriter: a strange idea today! I had to print it on one of the University's dot matrix printers. I thought I was being clever by justifying the margins. Micro-spacing, standard today, was not possible. Likewise, the footnote numbers have { } around them and are not superscripted. A year after completing my writing, I realized that **not** justifying the margins would have made the dissertation much easier to read. So if you are reading the dissertation, consider why it physically looks the way it does. A personal experience with history! These 25+ years have made a lot of difference in the way we think and work in the rapidly evolving world that centers on our computers.

Unfortunately, I was not able to do further research after writing the dissertation. My wife was dying and I transformed myself into the new world of computers and desktop publishing and graphics by assisting Wall Street bankers. Fortunately, my job allowed me a lot of spare time to do simple personal work on the office computers. Thus, in the early 1990s, I decided to retype the dissertation (and amend it slightly). I had hoped that this could eventually lead to publication. It did not. This new version was initially retyped in Word Perfect and was later converted to Word. As the Word version is much easier to read and use, any academic user that would like to have a copy of this more easy-to-use version is welcome to contact me by email or phone as indicated at the top of these pages.

For four months in 2006, I took a break from my job and pulled out my research materials and considered what to do about many unfinished writing tasks and a never-to-be university career. At that time, unique documents were sent to NAZ, UNZA and SU. Now, after retirement in late 2010, I have converted all these research materials into pdf files to hopefully aid future historians.

Best research wishes to all scholars,

P(aul) David Wilkin

P.S. In creating this pdf version of the dissertation, pages 376 and 377 were accidentally reversed.