This research assesses shifts in demographic and social conditions in the Louisiana coastal zone between 1950 and 2010 to concomitantly analyze the socioeconomic impacts of oil and gas development and other major historical events or transformations that have impacted coastal communities during this time. To effectively measure and differentiate the socioeconomic impacts of oil related activities and events from other major activities and events that have environmental, social, and economic consequences in coastal Louisiana, this research utilizes data synthesis methods to integrate historical and recent demographic and environmental data with historical and contemporary qualitative data collected and analyzed by field scientists. Initial quantitative results show that that the density of oil- and gas-related coastal infrastructure rapidly expanded in Louisiana's coastal zone between 1950 and 2010, reflecting the shift from predominantly onshore and nearshore extraction to offshore and deepwater Outer Continental Shelf extraction. While the shift to offshore extraction did not result in the construction of new large refining centers, there was growth in smaller coastal gas processing facilities and pipelines needed to transport product to the refining centers. Additional spatial expansion occurred in offshore support industries such as shipyard, platform fabrication, and pipeline fabrication and coating. While these changes show correlations with changes in socioeconomic status (including variables related to poverty, unemployment levels, home ownership, and educational attainment, among others) in coastal parishes and communities, the results do not indicate that the development of the oil and gas industry has resulted in large scale shifts of population.