

particularly so in the transformed political environment following the Kildare rebellion, when the lesser nobility's relationship to the state, rather than this powerful family, became ever more essential to their security. Lord Leonard Grey was sent as viceroy following the rebellion and, as Power's excellently detailed study of Grey's relationship to the lesser nobility demonstrates, Grey not only antagonised Gaelic Ireland, he substantially undermined the lesser peers as well, blaming them for the failures of his administration in the short-term and as a 'hindrance to effective English rule in Ireland' more generally (p. 88).

Power demonstrates, however, that Old English decline was by no means inevitable at this point and carefully outlines the important roles they would continue to play into the early 1560s, in dealings with Shane O'Neill, for instance. Nonetheless, under the earl of Sussex as viceroy it became increasingly difficult to maintain their offices, influence and position as service nobility. Their deteriorating position was becoming apparent as was their emerging opposition to policies such as the cess, a policy over which more strident opposition would emerge in the 1570s. Nobles' dependence on their position as service nobility, Power argues, underscored their vulnerability in the midst of change and rendered the impact of their displacement all the more profound.

Power is well-versed in the relevant primary and secondary sources. His thoughtful and detailed analysis of archival material such as state papers and reform treatises creates a significantly more detailed picture of the Old English Pale nobility in this period than exists to date, as well as a cogent and insightful assessment of early Tudor developments in Ireland. He is equally confident and assertive in using this presentation to challenge standing assessments of developments by senior scholars, challenges that stand to spark renewed debate on key questions such as identity formation and its relationship to national identity in this period.

VALERIE MCGOWAN-DOYLE

*Lorain Community College/Kent State University*

THE CASE OF THE CRAUGHWELL PRISONERS DURING THE LAND WAR IN CO. GALWAY, 1879–85. By Pat Finnegan. Pp 152. Dublin: Four Courts Press. 2012. € 13.

Studies on the Irish land war have largely dealt with the political and agrarian aspects, while neglecting or overlooking topics such as the role of the Fenian movement, the impact which the agitation had on the urban classes, or the growing levels of agrarian disorder and crime. Agrarian crime and lawlessness, in particular acts against property and people, became increasingly associated with the land war and a major concern for the Land League leadership and the authorities. Assassinations and attacks on property were concentrated on those areas in the Land League's original base in the west of Ireland such as the Lough Mask and south Galway regions which were described as 'murder triangles'. While the Lough Mask area gained worldwide attention because of the Maumtrasna, Huddy and Mountmorres murders, the eight assassinations carried out in the Craughwell, Ardrahan and Loughrea regions between 1881 and 1882 are not as well known. Pat Finnegan's study of the murder of Peter Doherty at Carrigan on 2 November 1881 and the subsequent trials and convictions form the basis of this work. Doherty's family had taken over the farm of an evicted tenant and was initially boycotted by the Land League. The government's response to such murders was to use informers and approvers, transfer trials to more favourable locations and pack the juries in order to secure guilty verdicts. Finnegan highlights the government's desperation to contain crime levels in south Galway and to secure convictions. While Myles Joyce and the Maumtrasna murders is the most notorious miscarriage of justice case during the land agitation, the framing of Patrick Finnegan, the grandfather of the author, and Michael Muldowney, a serving R.I.C.

constable, is equally harrowing. Both were convicted of the Doherty murder and while their death sentences were commuted to penal servitude, they spent twenty years in prison for a crime they did not commit. The approaches, which the authorities used to secure convictions, are outlined, but there is little doubt the evidence was unreliable. The official attitude was 'the law must take its course'. The evidence from newspapers and the National Archives provides a compelling argument that the statements and actions of the prosecution witnesses, Jack Moran and Patrick Rafferty, were unreliable and that they had perjured themselves in return for the financial rewards that the government offered. It cost the authorities £14,250 to secure the guilty verdicts (p. 48). While Patrick Rafferty's evidence convicted the accused, his wife swore under oath that her husband had not left their house on the night of the murder. The flawed process can be seen in that the authorities did not proceed with the charges against the other six people arrested, even though their cases were also dependent on the testimonies of the same witnesses. The central feature in this study was the authorities' determination to secure convictions and the police officers' role in tutoring the principal witnesses for the trials. There was also the issue of packing the juries with jurors regarded as loyalists.

The defendants suffered because of the poor legal representation they received: Patrick Finnegan only secured the services of the eminent lawyer, T. E. Webb, after a Fair Trial Fund was established in the Craughwell, Loughrea, Gort and Athenry areas. The imprisonments remained a major local grievance up to 1902, when both men were released on leave. Members of the Irish Parliamentary Party, in particular the local M.P., William Duffy, raised the case on a number of occasions in the House of Commons. Despite their long incarceration their local communities did not forget the prisoners and sections of the R.I.C. questioned Muldowney's guilt and regularly petitioned the government for clemency.

This is a study of the miscarriage of justice against Finnegan and Muldowney, and while the research is meticulous and engaging, there is a failure to place the event in the overall context of the land agitation. While we are informed of what happened to the two men, no attempt is made to provide an overall conclusion as to how such convictions were part of the government and police policy to counteract rising lawlessness and crime levels in the 1881–2 period. There are occasions when the author's sympathies are clearly indicated and when instead of providing an objective assessment and analysis he offers his own personal opinion. Nevertheless, Finnegan's work is important in highlighting the miscarriage of justice that occurred during the land war, and the defendants' failure to secure redress for their unjust incarceration.

GERARD MORAN

*Department of History, N.U.I. Maynooth*

THE BRITISH AND IRISH IN CENTRAL EUROPE c.1560–1688. By David Worthington. Pp xiii, 232. Surrey: Ashgate Publishing, 2012. £65.

In an article published in 2006, entitled 'An overview of recent research on the theme of Irish and Scottish emigrants and exiles in early modern Europe' (*Przegląd Historyczny*, pp 33–44), David Worthington, its author, postulated closer examination of the common experience linking emigrants and refugees from Britain and Ireland. At that time, as he rightly observed, historians have made few attempts, to provide a wider, international background necessary for interpreting the processes that led tens of thousands of men and women of archipelagic origin to travel to and within the confines of Continental Europe. Worthington also advocated greater familiarisation with historiographical developments within the host countries and/or societies on which particular studies focus: for example, comparisons in terms of the factors that induced migration. Lastly, the author called for