

Washington's men at Valley Forge – respectful of international laws of conflict, to the benefit of local non-combatants and enemy 'brothers' alike – and those same men's horrific slaughter of the Iroquois in 1779 (chapters seven and eight). Indians could be allies, but not brothers; in war they were always, and to their great loss, barbarians. A brief conclusion uses the United States's brothers' war, the Civil War, to reinforce how tensions created by questions of capacity and culture determined the nature of violence. Industrialisation heightened the potential for lethality, and slavery introduced an element of the 'barbarian' to this war as the enslaved were deemed no more potential subjects than were Irish and Indians before them. Nevertheless, the expectation of a renewed, common (if white) citizenship ensured that atrocity was not visited upon the people.

This is a provocative and at times brilliant study. It operates masterfully on a number of levels – descriptive, methodological, conceptual and theoretical – making it accessible and useful to a variety of audiences. One might ask questions of its assumptions and definitions, however. The binary of barbarian and brother seems unnecessarily restrictive for so subtle a study. Is there no other option for enemies outside of these opposites? Could there not be 'cousins' wars, for instance? Such a compromise position might fit the Irish context particularly well: periods of intense violence were often separated by long stretches of peace and cultural blending. And the Irish certainly did become subjects and citizens, and quite rapidly. Moreover, it is worth wondering if the English thought of the Irish and Indians in terms so coterminous as Lee suggests: were all barbarians created equal? The author is insistent in his belief that pinning violence on notions of racial/ethnic difference is insufficient. Nevertheless, it is curious that no barbarian wars seem to have been fought internally. How important then are matters of capacity and the culture of the soldier? I suspect very much so, but that is a case that Lee and those who follow him will most likely have to explicate further. For this extraordinarily learned and wide-ranging book will alter how we approach the questions of war, violence and culture in domestic and colonial settings throughout the Anglo-American Atlantic world. And that is quite an achievement.

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THE COURT OF ADMIRALTY OF IRELAND, 1575–1893. By Kevin Costello. Pp xvii, 294. Dublin: Four Courts Press. 2011. €55.

The history of Ireland, whether that of a kingdom, a colony or otherwise, is the history of an island. Thus, matters maritime can be said to merit a degree of scholarly attention greater than that which they sometimes receive. Kevin Costello's book, *The court of admiralty of Ireland, 1575–1893*, makes a very worthwhile contribution to our knowledge of this key aspect of Irish history.

The book contains six chapters, the first five of which provide a chronological account of the personnel, the problems and the work of the court of admiralty across the three centuries of its existence. The final chapter examines the issue of admiralty criminal jurisdiction in the period 1580 to 1861. A glossary of legal terminology, which will be a vital aid for many readers, is also included. The combination of its twenty-seven terms with the preceding table of seventy-three abbreviations may, however, appear to some as a rather daunting preliminary apparatus. Yet this material merely reflects the complexity of the subject and the breadth of the research required to master it.

Among the obstacles to research that exist on the subject in question are the absence of the original records of the court of admiralty and the fact that it was only a minor element of the judiciary. Costello overcomes these by mobilising an impressive array of sources and by avoiding the inevitable temptation to exaggerate the importance of the court. Indeed he acknowledges that it existed for the most part on 'the fringes of the Irish

judicature' (p. 254). Given the latter circumstance, the author is perhaps fortunate in that many of the judges of the Irish admiralty court were remarkable characters whose various exploits would help to flavour any historical narrative. Among the ingredients found in Costello's reconstruction of the tenures of men such as Adam Loftus, William Petty, Hugh Baillie, Jonah Barrington and Thomas Kelly are madness, corruption and incompetence. The roles played by the inferior officers of the court, if less colourful, are also adequately dealt with.

Because the work and the reputation of the court were inseparable from the character of the successive judges at its head, the appointment of a new judge represented an important landmark in the history of the institution. On this ground it makes sense for Costello's chapter breaks to coincide with such changes of key personnel. At the same time, this chronological approach means that the examination of recurring themes is necessarily scattered across the various chapters. This somewhat fragmentary treatment of such issues as fishing licensing (pp 45–6, 105–6 and 147–8) is, however, rendered less problematic by a consistency of approach and by the use of clear sub-headings.

Another factor which adds to the interest of Costello's study is the recurrent connection between wars and the work of the court of admiralty. The conflicts with France and Spain in the 1620s, the civil wars of the mid-seventeenth century and subsequent upheavals up to the late eighteenth century all feature. The operation of three rival courts of admiralty in Ireland in the 1640s, confederate, royalist and parliamentarian, signals the importance of such an institution to all sides in those troubled years (pp 12–15). Times of war also served to highlight clearly the jurisdictional limits that usually constrained the work of the Irish court, particularly in the area of prizes.

The latter issue was central to one of the dominant themes of this book, the position of the Irish court of admiralty in the context of the constitutional relationship between England and Ireland. It was initially established as a vice-admiralty court inferior to the English court of admiralty. This situation prevailed until the 1780s, when the independence of the Irish court was established and the right of appeal to London abolished. In the interval, some Irish admiralty judges had, either through incompetence or out of a determination to extend their powers, passed judgments on matters that ought to have been reserved to the English court. In the resulting disputes, the English court generally asserted its superior jurisdiction. At the same time, the latter body refused to pay a salary to the Irish judge. The steps taken to set down firm rules to govern this problematic relationship went so far as the inclusion of a relevant clause in the Act of Union of 1800.

Costello also shows how the Irish court faced competition from other Irish law courts, including the provincial admiralty courts, as well as from landowners and town corporations that repeatedly asserted their own admiralty jurisdiction. His treatment of this issue could perhaps have been enhanced by its placement in a wider British and Irish comparative context.

This book will be most useful to the specialist, but its coverage of matters including the Anglo-Irish constitutional relationship ought to be of interest to a wider readership.

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VARIETIES OF SEVENTEENTH- AND EARLY EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH RADICALISM IN CONTEXT. Edited by Ariel Hessayon and David Finnegan. Pp xiv, 271. Farnham: Ashgate. 2011. £65.

The essays combined in this distinguished collection emanate from the conference, 'Rediscovering radicalism in the British Isles and Ireland, c.1550–c.1700' (Goldsmiths