

to Spain in the aftermath of the failed campaign. Except for a few typos – collaborated instead of corroborated (p. 29), coronel instead of colonel (p. 37) – this fine essay succeeds very well indeed in arguing for the importance of the documental collection that follows.

As for the documents themselves, these are ordered chronologically, starting from the first contacts between the Irish and the Spaniards in 1593 (p. 43 ff.), to 1605 with the last reports concerning the return of the troops and munitions from Ireland (pp 576–664). The great majority of the documents concentrate on the military, political, and material realities related to the Spanish intervention. Indeed, owing to the meticulous descriptions of Spanish administrators in charge of supplies and ammunition it is possible to learn in great detail about the military and humanitarian aid envisaged by the Spaniards for their Irish allies. An illuminating set of documents are those gathered by a secret commission established by Philip III, and entrusted to the Council of War, to learn the causes of defeat at Kinsale (e.g. see pp 564–7). The great amount of material unearthed by this investigation opens a window into the various military phases of the campaign, as well as allowing a rare glimpse into the auto-critical mechanisms of early modern regimes.

The present book will go a long way in debunking some misconceptions related to the Spanish strategy, leadership, and planning, and most importantly, the amount of effort and commitment on behalf of the Spanish side, which proves to be considerably greater than has been thought until now. This book will be of interest not only to students and scholars of early modern Spain and Ireland, but also to specialists in military history and imperial history.

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ULSTER SINCE 1600: POLITICS, ECONOMY, SOCIETY. Edited by Liam Kennedy and Philip Ollerenshaw. Pp xv, 355. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2013. £35 hardback.

In 1985 Manchester University Press published Liam Kennedy and Philip Ollerenshaw's *Economic history of Ulster, 1820–1939* to great scholarly acclaim. The reception was deserved and understandable: interest in Northern Ireland, in the era of the hunger-strikes and the Anglo–Irish Agreement, was immense, and the concomitant – and burgeoning – literature was as yet heavily skewed towards politics. Kennedy and Ollerenshaw's edited collection offered a set of new and refreshing takes on an area which (for all the wrong reasons) was under global scrutiny.

After nearly thirty years the two scholars have now revisited their earlier collaboration, and have co-edited a new general history of the northern province. How does this new work compare with the old? The 'shock of the new' which was achieved in 1985 is of course harder to replicate in the context of a much more developed – a larger and thematically more sophisticated – historiography. The impact of the earlier volume was also consolidated by a tight conceptual and chronological focus: this was indeed largely an economic history, though with some social dimensions; and it was anchored in the century and a quarter between Waterloo and the beginning of the Second World War. Kennedy and Ollerenshaw's new collection is markedly more ambitious than its predecessor, offering a much wider chronology, and a more generous thematic embrace. This is a work which addresses 'politics' and 'society' as well as the 'economy', and which seeks to provide a coverage from the era of intensive colonisation in the early seventeenth century through to the present day. There are some echoes of an older historiography, which were not present with the 1985 collection: indeed the title evokes the earlier effort (in the 1950s) to examine the northern province undertaken by J. C. Beckett and T. W. Moody through the media of print and radio (*Ulster since 1800: a political and economic survey* (1954) and *Ulster since 1800: a social survey* (1957)).

The architecture of the volume is complex, with nine of the twenty essays having 1600 as their starting point, and seven having 1780 or *c.*1800 as a starting point: two contributors opt for 1914, and one each for 1945 and 1960. Many (though not all) the essays are implicitly linked, providing a consistent thematic coverage throughout the period covered by the book: (for example) Tom Bartlett's discussion of 'Politics and society, 1600–1800' is complemented and continued by James Loughlin's 'Politics and society, 1800–1960' and Graham Walker's 'Politics since 1960'. Raymond Gillespie's analysis of 'The early modern economy, 1600–1780' feeds naturally into Liam Kennedy and Peter Solar's 'Rural economy, 1780–1914' and ultimately into Alan Greer's 'Agriculture and rural policy since 1914'. Philip Ollerenshaw's essay on 'Business and finance, 1780–1945' is effectively partnered with Graham Brownlow's piece on business since 1945. Elsewhere, however, the editors have not opted for precisely the same kind of even thematic development or linkage – as with Sean Connolly and Andrew Holmes's discussion of 'Popular culture, 1600–1914' and Alan Bairner's 'Sport in the nineteenth and twentieth century' or Mary O'Dowd's 'Women and Ulster, 1600–1800' and Diane Urquhart's 'Gender, family and sexuality, 1800–2000'. In some cases there will be good scholarly grounds for this asymmetry; but equally it might have been worth dwelling further in the introduction on the design of the volume, and elucidating some of its 'variable geometry' (p. 3).

In this preface the editors express the hope that 'readers [will] find in this book helpful surveys of important themes, as well as material that is new and opinions with which to take issue' (p. viii). This hope and expectation are wholly fulfilled throughout this impressive volume, which is distinguished by a uniformly high quality of delivery. Familiar 'big themes' such as migration are reinforced and given fresh elaboration: Raymond Gillespie, Don MacRaild and Malcolm Smith each define the northern province in terms of migration in their respective essays, with MacRaild and Smith emphasising Ulster's status as the source of the largest exodus from Ireland until the years of the Great Famine, and again in the 1870s. Ulster's multi-layered character (looking to the rest of Ireland, Britain, North America while melding the influences of all three), permeates the volume, and provides Peter Martin with a concluding argument in his well-focused survey of social policy and social change since 1914 (pp 323–4). Kennedy and Solar skillfully chart the distinctively northern inter-penetration of industry and agriculture through the textile industry, and its eventual overshadowing by the urban and industrial economy of the Lagan Valley. The impact of economic change upon the conditions of labour is elaborated by John Lynch: the parallel impact of economic change upon popular culture and recreation are equally carefully explored by Connolly and Holmes. Connolly returns triumphantly to some of his earliest professional concerns in his essay on 'Religion and society', which exposes some of the costs for the high levels of popular piety and community engagement which were achieved 'by evangelical pastors and ultramontane priests' (p. 88). The related themes of sectarian segregation within sport and education are well delineated by Alan Bairner and Neil Fleming. Mary O'Dowd carefully balances the opportunities created and also closed for northern women with the legal, religious and economic changes of the period 1600–1800. The gendered demography of (in particular) eastern Ulster is ably unpicked by Diane Urquhart.

But, as the editors desired, the volume also inflects familiar themes with fresh evidence, argument and conceptualisation. Tom Bartlett argues (in an essay particularly distinguished by its fine military coverage) that General Robert Monro made 'east Ulster in fact what it had been notionally, a Scottish colony', and suggests that his campaigning was critical in defining a lasting geography for Irish Presbyterianism (p. 35). O'Dowd, in emphasising the opportunities created for (at least) middle class women through the structures of the dissenting churches, offers a striking and suggestive vignette of Alice Maguire, a Catholic woman, who in 1767 used the agency of a Presbyterian session at Cahans in 1767 to successfully testify against one of its abusive members (p. 52). Neil Garnham, writing on 'Crime, policing and the law', incisively questions Ulster's self-image in the nineteenth century as a focus for legality and respectful conformity (p. 104).

Kennedy, Miller and Gurrin posit a stimulating model for population growth in the province, arguing that 'a historically specific conjuncture of land endowments, social institutions (the structure of property rights in particular), crop innovation, and changes in market conditions underpinned the explosion in population numbers' in the late eighteenth century (p. 64). Equally stimulating and sophisticated in terms of conceptualisation is Bob Morris's essay on urbanisation, where Weberian theory is reapplied to the early urban growth of Ulster (p. 122). Graham Brownlow pursues a strikingly counter-intuitive thesis in arguing that the under-performance of the regional economy in the post-1945 era should be primarily traced to 'supply-side competitiveness, rather than partition, peripherality, or political violence' (p. 306). Brownlow, deploying Schumpeter, has harsh (though convincing) things to say about the lack of 'creative destruction' within the province's (unionist) political and entrepreneurial classes in the inter-war years and after (p. 295). Neil Fleming makes a related point about entrenched middle class resistance to educational reform within Northern Ireland (p. 227).

The two editors modestly observe that 'there is still much research to be undertaken into the history of modern Ulster' (p. viii). This of course is true, but a comparison of the two Kennedy and Ollerenshaw 'Ulster' volumes underlines the advances which have already been secured, and indeed captured within the latest work: the thematic breadth, theoretical inflection and even chronological coverage of *Ulster since 1600* would have been unachievable in the mid-1980s. These qualities have also delivered the best history of the province that we have, or are likely to have, for some time to come.

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THE ULSTER PLANTATION: IDEOLOGY AND PRACTICE. Edited by Éamonn Ó Ciardha and Micheál Ó Siochrú. Pp. xiii, 269. Manchester: Manchester University Press. 2012. £70.

In their introduction the editors observe that given its 'pivotal importance' to the shared histories of Ireland and Britain it is surprising that the four hundredth anniversary of the start of the Ulster plantation produced so few publications (p. 1). Indeed, it 'remains much talked about but little studied or understood' (ibid.). The editors express reservations about the 'New British History' project, pointing out that, 'The primary difficulty with an integrative approach involving Ireland is that much of the basic historical data required has yet to be produced' (p. 5). They also concur with Nicholas Canny's concern that the new historiography implies an integrity for 'these islands ... probably in excess of any that ever existed' (cited on p. 4). On the other hand, they propose that 'historians of Britishness' would find much of interest in the ways that English and Scottish Protestants interacted and in the ways they thought about their identities in Ulster during the course of the seventeenth century.

Jenny Wormald offers a Scottish perspective on James VI & I's approach to the question of Ulster before the plantation. She presents a highly favourable interpretation of that 'highly intelligent king' of whom 'flexibility was undoubtedly one of [his] ... great strengths' (p. 21). Wormald argues that James saw Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone, as 'the Irish equivalent of the earl of Huntly' (p. 23), and she struggles to understand why Tyrone 'abruptly threw away the opportunity offered by the new king to exercise power in Ulster ...' (p. 25). Yet this essay is much more speculative than it might appear. Wormald does not cite any documentation to prove that James saw Tyrone as an Irish Huntly, and Tyrone's experience of 'British' rule before the Flight was not as benign as she suggests. Perspectives on colonisers clearly differ depending on which side of their swords one faces. Martin MacGregor's chapter on 'Civilising Gaelic Scotland' 'scotches' the notion of a cross-channel Gaelic sovereignty as 'a chimera ... existing largely in the fevered imaginations of Tudor and Stewart officialdom' (p. 39). Its focus is on the 'misrule, and