

Irish Nationalists in America: the politics of exile, 1798-1998

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Abstrak

This book is a full-scale history of Irish nationalists in the United States from the brief exile of Theobald Wolfe Tone, founder of Irish republican nationalism, in Philadelphia on the eve of the 1798 Irish rebellion to the role of Bill Clinton's White House in the 1998 Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. Irish American nationalism is seen as an example of a larger phenomenon, sometimes called diasporic or long-distance nationalism. Into the narrative are woven a number of the analytical perspectives that have recently transformed the study of nationalism, including its imagined or invented character and its relationship to the waves of global migration from the early nineteenth century to the present (and especially the relationship of nationalist politics to the phenomenon of political exile). The book focuses also on Irish American nationalists' larger social and political vision, which sometimes expanded to embrace causes such as the abolition of slavery, women's rights, or freedom for British colonial subjects in India and Africa, and at other times narrowed, avoiding or rejecting such extraneous concerns and connections. All of these themes are placed within a thoroughly transnational framework, with attention to events in Ireland, the United States, and the wider Irish diaspora.