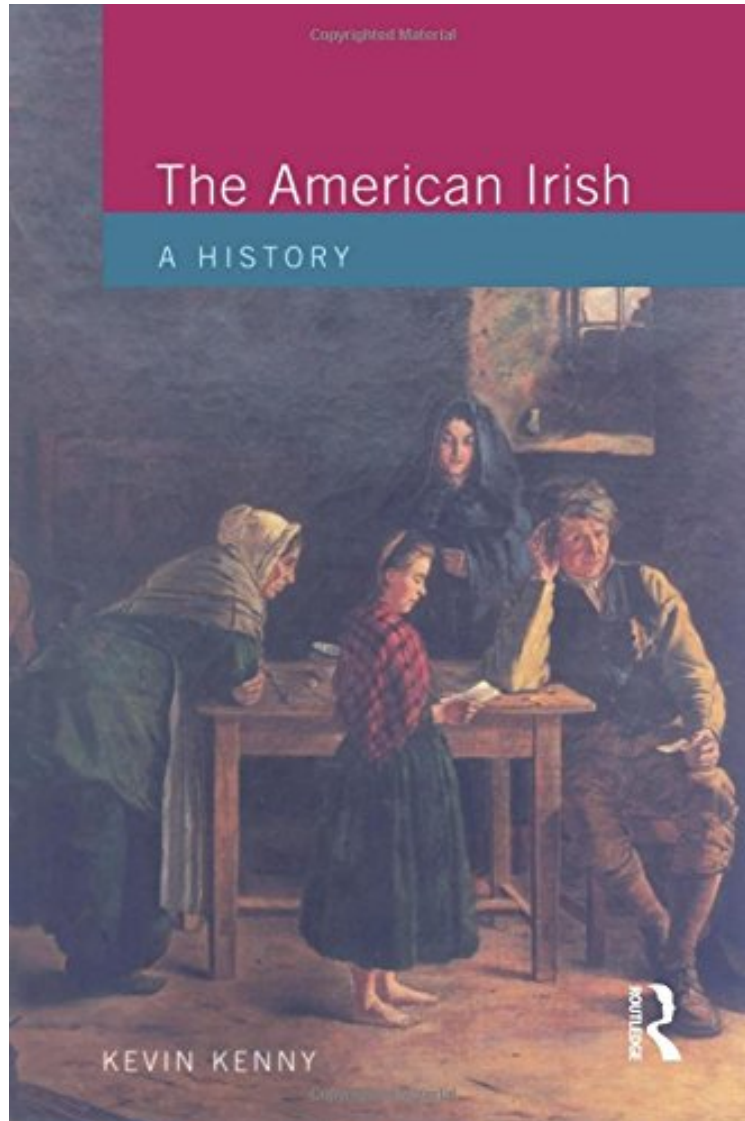


(Download) The American Irish: A History

The American Irish: A History

Kevin Kenny

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Kevin Kenny : The American Irish: A History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The American Irish: A History:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Exceletn book for research on the Iriish emigrtionBy william A. BeaverThe book is a wonderful source for an article I plan to write on the influence of the Irish Catholics emigrationon the American church.28 of 31 people found the following review helpful. reporting the factsBy A CustomerThis book needed a better editor. Professor Kenny is allowed to repeat himself constantly. In his introduction he apologizes in

advance for the number of statistics that he will present in the book. He then proceeds to provide a moderate number of statistics three or four times, sometimes in subsequent paragraphs. This is merely mildly irritating. A more irritating habit of the author's is to provide a selection of analyses of a particular historical or cultural question and then provide a very lame summary or feint at providing his own analysis without writing anything of substance. For example, he brings up the question of "Why do the Irish have such an alcohol problem?", sketches out various other scholars' theories about this cultural phenomenon, "straightens out" some misunderstandings (e.g., they don't drink more, they drink differently (!?)) and you finish the section having no idea why alcoholism is prevalent in Irish culture. Professor Kenny is fine at reporting the facts (especially if you need to be told more than once). I finished this book knowing a great deal more about the "what" and the "where" of Irish Americana, but very little more about the "why". Aside from these basic complaints I would say that this is a book worth reading. Kenny arranges his book chronologically, beginning in the 18th century, well before the Famine diaspora. He makes an explicit effort to explain the relationship between largely "Scotch-Irish" immigrants from Ulster of the 18th and earliest 19th century and later largely Catholic immigrants from Munster and Connacht. The Ulster people had been in Ireland less than 200 years before they uprooted themselves and moved on; their identification with Ireland was considerably weaker than that of emigrants from Munster and Connacht. The appellation "Scotch-Irish" was invented in the US by the Ulster people in order to distinguish themselves from the famine Irish, who were altogether more destitute, culturally distinct (different folkways), not to mention Catholic. There is a great deal of information in this book. It is simply not all that well presented or analyzed. It is understandable that it be sold as a textbook; the analysis can perhaps take place in the classroom after the reading. As I read this book out of curiosity and not as a reading assignment, it is now up to me to find more critical books to supplement the basic knowledge that this book provides. 1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. not good By YaI had to get this book for an Irish history class. It was not the best book to read pretty dry, but filled with a lot of detail and facts.

The American Irish: A History, is the first concise, general history of its subject in a generation. It provides a long-overdue synthesis of Irish-American history from the beginnings of emigration in the early eighteenth century to the present day. While most previous accounts of the subject have concentrated on the nineteenth century, and especially the period from the famine (1840s) to Irish independence (1920s), The American Irish: A History incorporates the Ulster Protestant emigration of the eighteenth century and is the first book to include extensive coverage of the twentieth century. Drawing on the most innovative scholarship from both sides of the Atlantic in the last generation, the book offers an extended analysis of the conditions in Ireland that led to mass migration and examines the Irish immigrant experience in the United States in terms of arrival and settlement, social mobility and assimilation, labor, race, gender, politics, and nationalism. It is ideal for courses on Irish history, Irish-American history, and the history of American immigration more generally.

"a lucid synthesis of the work of countless scholars ... truly superb ..." Katherine Powers, "Boston Sunday Globe" "a balanced and reliable foundation for undergraduate courses in Irish Studies." David Fitzpatrick, "Times Literary Supplement" "One of the book's strengths is that ...it is still accessible to the general reader...a very valuable work indeed." Brian Hanley, Trinity College Dublin, "History Ireland" "Kenny...has produced an intelligent and well-written book." Lawrence McCaffrey, "Irish Literary Supplement" "an important contribution, offering a compelling narrative for the specialist and general reader alike, as well as being a must for students...points the way forward for American Irish history." Donald M MacRaild, "History" "an invaluable teaching aid...it is such a comprehensive survey of existing scholarship that it highlights the strengths and weaknesses of current research about Irish America and the Irish diaspora...essential reading" Mary J. Hickman, University of North London, "Irish Studies" "...an ambitious compendium of the ever growing literature on the history of the Irish in America...a must read for all those with an interest in that history" Journal of American Ethnic History "From the Back Cover THE AMERICAN IRISH: A HISTORY The story of the Irish in North America reverberates through the modern period. As many as seven million Irish men, women and children have crossed the Atlantic for North America since 1700. Almost five million of them went to the US between 1820 and 1920 alone. This vast movement of people was of great historical significance on both sides of the Atlantic: it played a fundamental role in the shaping of modern Ireland, and it determined in many respects the economic, political and cultural development of the United States, where 45 million people today claim some degree of Irish ancestry. The American Irish: A History offers an extended analysis of the conditions in Ireland that led to mass migration and examines the Irish immigrant experience in the United States in terms of patterns of settlement, labour, race, gender, politics and nationalism. The first concise, general history of the subject in a generation, it covers the entire period from 1700-2,000 and it is augmented by full illustration and textual aids.