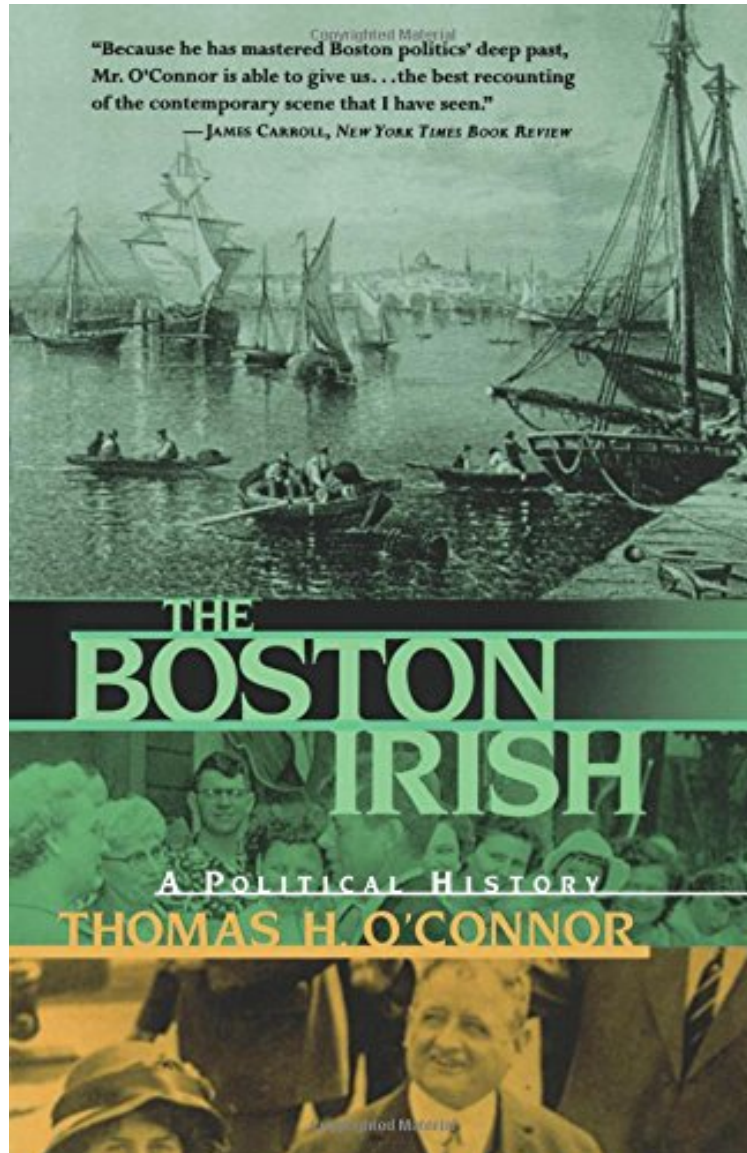


(Read now) The Boston Irish: A Political History

## The Boston Irish: A Political History

*Thomas H. O'Connor*

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#693982 in Books Thomas H O Connor 1997-03-01 1997-03-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .96 x 5.50l, 1.07 #File Name: 0316626619363 pages ISBN13: 9780316626613 Condition: New Notes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 48.Mb

**Thomas H. O'Connor : The Boston Irish: A Political History** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Boston Irish: A Political History:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The almost best kind of history By Paul Hughes History is people. I

have an especial interest in the Boston Irish for the most obvious of reasons, and I'm enjoying O'Connor's account. Beyond enjoyment, I also need some of the early chapters for something I'm working on. Some of the most fascinating elements of the book to readers will be the birth of the Kennedy dynasty in Boston, and indeed Massachusetts entire. And here it's also set in an even wider context when the Irish first began coming to the city, as the dregs of its society. It took roughly a hundred years to begin to achieve prominence, then translated into power over the next (20th century). A second and related area is the interplay of the Irish with their Brahmin rulers, whom they eventually supplanted. The story is told of Henry Cabot Lodge, running for the U.S. Senate in 1952 against a young John F. Kennedy. Lodge asked Joe McCarthy to endorse him. McCarthy, though earning his opprobrium nationally, was still extremely popular with the Boston Irish. But the blue-blooded Lodge would not publicly reach out to him, and McCarthy declined to endorse. JFK won election to the Senate a political path that eventually led to the White House.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Boston Irish brought to life! By John T Callahan As an Irishman from Boston, I found the book to be very informative and well written. I took Professor O'Connor's history class at Boston College in 1958 and it was because of him that I have had a lifelong love of the subject. He had the ability to take a subject that might be drab or dull, and bring it to life! A wonderful teacher, a wonderful historian, but most of all, a wonderful man!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I love anything Irish By Jim W My roots, very informative, would recommend. Let me know the evolution of the Irish Catholics in Boston. Made me think of my Irish grandfather James Patrick Walsh who I was named after. Brings a tear to my eye.

Settling in a city founded by the Puritans, the Boston Irish evolved into one of America's most distinctive ethnic communities and eventually came to dominate local politics. This book offers a history of Boston's Irish community.

From Publishers Weekly The first Irish to arrive in Boston, in the early 18th century, were Protestants from Ulster and were thought of by the local gentry as "members of a barbaric, inferior, and unmanageable race." By the time of the potato famine of the 1840s, these Protestant Irish had assimilated into the population and thought much the same about the new Irish, overwhelmingly Catholic, who emigrated to avoid starvation. In 1847 alone, Boston was inundated with 37,000 immigrants and the locals were appalled by the newcomers' unsanitary practices, indolence and propensity for drink. Like California's recent Proposition 187, the prejudice shibboleth of that time read, "No Irish Need Apply," and in 1854, the Know-Nothing Party of Massachusetts promised to eliminate "Rome, Rum, and Robbery." But with the urging of Boston Bishop Fitzpatrick, Irish Catholics learned to fight bigotry with the ballot. We are introduced to the featured players: Hugh O'Brien, the first Irish-born mayor of Boston; John F. Fitzgerald and Patrick J. Kennedy, ward bosses and the grandfathers of JFK; James Michael Curley, mayor, congressman, governor and prominent rogue; and John F. Kennedy, who completed the cycle of Irish political hegemony when he defeated Brahmin Henry Cabot Lodge for senator in 1952. Viewing the Irish from the coffin ships of the famine years to the lace-curtain attitudes of today, O'Connor (South Boston, My Home Town) has written a scholarly yet colorful account of a breed he convinces us is vanishing. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal O'Connor (history, Boston Coll.) adds to his series on the history of Boston with this account of the city's Irish political machine. He lovingly documents its growth from the time of scalawag James Michael Curley to that of more modern leaders like Raymond Flynn. His description of the Boston Brahmins, Protestant gentry in control of the banks and major businesses and locked in generational struggles with the Catholic Irish, makes for classic American drama. O'Connor is more tentative with Boston's infamous busing crises, and he finishes appropriately with a question mark on the future of the Irish in Boston politics. The only criticism is one of omission. O'Connor ignores Billy Bulger, the long-standing senate president, as though only mayors count. Alongside the works of the late Tip O'Neill, this will provide a thorough history of Boston politics. The promised index will be indispensable. Strongly recommended for academic collections and especially for Bay State public libraries.

?Robert C. Moore, DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Co. Information Svcs., N. Billerica, Mass. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. . . . the best recounting of the contemporary scene that I have seen . . . -- The New York Times Book , James Carroll