



### Ireland's Great Famine, Britain's Great Failure

By William H. A. Williams

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**A unique, in-depth understanding of the background to the Irish Famine, a detailed account of the crisis as it unfolded, and the immediate and long-term results of the catastrophe.**

This book provides readers with a unique, in-depth understanding of the background to the Irish Famine and a detailed account of the crisis, as well as the immediate and long-term results of the catastrophe. In addition to exploring the ecological and agriculture factors, this work shows how cultural, economic and political influences shaped British attitudes and policies. When the entire potato crop failed in the fall of 1846, what began as an ecological disaster quickly became a political one. Hampered by long-standing prejudice and Anglo-Irish tensions, the British government's various attempts to deal with the humanitarian crisis were muddled by competing economic and social goals. Among these was the idea that the Famine represented an "opportunity" to purge Ireland of fragmented land holding and potato dependency by encouraging an English-type market-driven agriculture. Changes did occur, but the government's imperial dreams eventually ran up against Irish realities.

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#### About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr. Williams is a retired historian, writer and musician who has taught in Ireland, Germany and America. He has published books and articles about Irish-America and Irish history, including *Inventing Irish Tourism*, *The First Century, 1750-1850*.

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