

Confronting the Irish Past

The 1912-1923 Decade in Light of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement *Edited by Séamus Murphy*

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A book that contributes to building a culture of peace and tolerance that comes to terms with the dark side of Irish history

The 1998 Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement established power-sharing arrangements between the two divided communities in Northern Ireland. The Agreement is not set in stone but is rather a hopeful yet uncertain project. Making it put down deep cultural roots requires some confrontation with and transformation of the history, and the socially constructed memories, of Ireland's decisive decade 1912–1923, which was violent and divisive.

Readership

Irish, British, American and other political theorists interested in Northern Ireland, historians, memory studies, peace studies and intercommunal conflict. Political leaders in Ireland and the UK.

Key selling points

- Contributes to building a culture of peace and tolerance that comes to terms with the dark side of Irish history.
- Applies philosophical tools to the issue of how to appropriate the past in the light of contemporary historical analysis and contemporary needs.
- Addresses 'history wars' with philosophical tools (deploying the important ideas on history of Nietzsche and Hannah Arendt) to show how an historical objectivity that does not ignore history's impact on the present can be constructed.
- Develops an ethics of (social/political) memory centred on key issues of identity and recognition and how to construct a dialogic political community between deeply different ethnic traditions.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Séamus Murphy is professor of philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. He writes on philosophy and public policy. He is a Jesuit.

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