

Gods executioner - Oliver Cromwell and the conquest of Ireland

Faber and Faber - *God's Executioner: Oliver Cromwell and the Conquest of Ireland* : Siochru, Micheal O: vivchar.tom.ru.au: Books



Description: -

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Ireland -- History -- 1649-1660

Cromwell, Oliver, -- 1599-1658 -- Military leadership

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Book Review: God's Executioner

As this gentleman had served as Prime Minister of Nepal at the time of the Raj, it was felt to convey an overly imperial impression.

God's Executioner: Oliver Cromwell and the Conquest of Ireland by Micheál Ó Siochrú

Regarding English public reaction to events in Ireland, Peacey expresses legitimate concerns about how to gauge public opinion in the 17th century. His exploits in ethnic cleansing are in miniature a parallel of the characters of Hitler and Stalin.

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We do know, however, from the work of Keith Lindley and others that news of the Irish uprising created widespread panic in England and Wales, especially in those counties adjacent to the Irish Sea, where people feared an invasion by the Catholic rebels. This complexity is in many ways precisely what Ó Siochrú identifies in the period after 1650.

Book Review: God's Executioner

As I explain in the book, however, the Leveller leadership proved extremely reluctant to take any stance on Ireland, and apart from a handful of anonymous publications all seemingly written by the same hand there is no evidence of any unease with the plans to crush confederate Catholic resistance. The nature of this mystery is not whether the campaign involved brutality, because that much is certain, and there is of course the evidence that unarmed civilians were killed in Drogheda.

Take down 'that murdering bastard'

But why did he come to Ireland, and does he deserve this black reputation? He justified his act with the argument that it would save lives by

persuading other garrisons to surrender. It was inappropriate for MacMahon to accept command of the Ulster army; even in 1650, a Bishop leading an army looked outdated, and his position served to antagonise unnecessarily the few remaining Protestant Royalists. There is little question that O Siochru has produced a strong work.

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He does not use this phrase specifically, but to me it can only be I picked up this book on a recent trip abroad in an effort to understand a comment made by my late father. As I go through this study of Irish history I'm amazed at the profound effect Henry VII's separation from the Catholic church impacted the Irish.

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