

difficult it became to sustain and it was eventually terminated by ICI. Chapter 5 looks at post-war planning. First, IG Farben's pre-1942 plans for a 'grand European scheme' to dominate Europe's chemical industry are discussed. This is followed by an investigation into the company's survival strategies, which were developed from 1943 onward. Post-war planning shows a clear distinction between ICI and IG Farben. The German company thought about market expansion and market survival, while ICI's planning focus was not on production and markets but on domestic social policy issues and labour relations. Chapter 6 then investigates the period of 'Occupation and Exploitation, 1945–47' and details how IG Farben plants in the three western zones of occupation fared after Germany's capitulation. Unfortunately, the huge Leuna plant, located in the Soviet zone of occupation, is once again neglected, and while Coleman emphasizes the involvement of ICI personnel in the Allied assessment of IG Farben plants, the issue of intellectual reparations is dealt with too briefly. John Gimbel's 1990 book, *Science, Technology and Reparations*, could have shed some more light on that thorny issue. The penultimate chapter, 'ICI's Loss, IG Farben's Gain' summarizes the orthodox and revisionist views of the post-war economic boom in West Germany's chemical industry as well as collating reasons for ICI's relatively poor performance in that period. In contrast to the previous chapters, this one seems weak and rushed in places. Some statements appear rash and one-sided (for example on Britain's overall economic situation and the comparison of Marshall Plan fund use), and contain factual mix-ups – for instance the 1946 (Keynes) dollar loan is referred to as Marshall Plan money (162). Finally, chapter 8, 'A Missed Opportunity', summarizes the book's arguments.

Overall the book is well researched; the list of primary sources runs to more than eight pages and includes material from archives in Britain, Germany, France, the USA and even Finland. If anything is to be criticized here it is the fact that the only German company archives used are those of Bayer AG. Utilizing BASF archives, for example, would have shed more light on IG Farben's big research projects in synthetic rubber and fuel. The above-mentioned study by Abelshauser et al. would also have helped in this respect. Despite this criticism and some shortcomings, the brevity of the book makes it ideal reading for anyone who wants to get a quick introduction to, and comparison of, two of the twentieth century's most influential companies. As such the book will be warmly welcomed by readers who are new to the topic and want a first impression, and of course, by students.

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Sean J. Connolly, *Contested Island: Ireland 1460–1630*, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2009, 440 pp., 6 maps, 1 table; 9780199563715, £19.99 (pbk)

This book is the first of a two-volume survey of Irish history in the early modern period. In his introduction, Connolly, Professor of Irish History at Queen's University, Belfast, explains that he wanted to produce a 'narrative of multiple transformations' which relies on 'incident and experience' rather than 'generalization'. He is as good as his word. Throughout the book narrative lines are clearly drawn and consistently followed in a crisp, workmanlike style. Individual chapters are masterpieces of succinct summary, bringing together a wealth of secondary literature and offering fresh insights into the political complexity of early modern Ireland, particularly with regard to the greasy compromises worked out between the Irish

state and predatory land-grabbers, lay and clerical. Connolly's judgement that 'gender was less important than the facts of effective power' (72) is apposite and his discussion of the Gaelic-English interface, where he treats, with tantalizing brevity, the problem of balancing narrative with interpretation (158 ff.) is both perceptive and valuable. Inevitably, the adoption of a narrative approach results in some fairly lengthy descriptive passages. Some of these, notably in Chapters 3 ('The Fall of the House of Kildare') and 6 ('Tyrone's Rebellion') may prove mildly rebarbative to seasoned campaigners.

Connolly is most at home with the cut and thrust of war and politics, which occupy the bulk of the book. It is clear that, for him, early modern Irish history is best understood in terms of the expansion of the Tudor and Stuart state. Thus, despite attempts to get inside the minds and worlds of its opponents, this book is essentially that state's history. To some extent this is because the archives, on which this book is ultimately based, are largely the product of the English administration's military, bureaucratic, legal and ecclesiastical machinery in Ireland. This inevitably removes some of the alluring tension promised by the book's title and confers inevitability on the final victory of the state.

The sense of ineluctability is exacerbated by the author's rather rigid understanding of sovereignty. There can be little doubt that the indivisibility of sovereignty was, aspirationally at least, important to the likes of James I. However it did not sit easily with his predacious, self-serving Irish minions. It was even less adequate to the complex notion of sovereignty prevalent among the Irish of Norman extraction and the fluid version entertained, quite self-interestedly, by many of the Gaelic Irish. Connolly might have avoided this conceptual straightjacket by providing a sustained discussion of his basic concepts, not only 'state' and 'sovereignty', but also 'jurisdiction', 'transformation' and 'reform'. However, these terms are deployed without much soul-searching and it is a pity that the author's commendable desire to avoid vapid generalization has resulted in a certain conceptual timidity, even naivety.

This has consequences for two central issues in Connolly's account, Europe and religion. To be fair, the author does make frequent reference to the broader European context in which the Irish experience occurred but this is rarely sufficiently sustained to inform the narrative. There are no references to recent works of Oscar Recio Morales, Enrique García Hernán, Glynn Redworth and others who have effectively reconfigured our understanding of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Ireland's and Britain's links with Spain. Overall, Connolly's view of the European context is old-fashioned, with papal and Spanish interventions presented as *deus ex machina* episodes that unsuccessfully challenged state sovereignty. The lack of a sense of interlocking sovereignties, so natural to many of the king's Irish subjects, is particularly telling here. This becomes even more of an issue in the sections dealing with religion, especially in the otherwise commendable Chapter 8. Here Connolly relies on a range of inherited concepts like 'protestant reformation', 'counter-reformation' and 'fundamentalism' and rather ruins the interpretative party with the blithe conclusion that 'by the second half of the sixteenth century what was now the Roman Catholic church had begun to assume the shape it was to retain for the next two centuries or more' (336). Quite sure-footed in dealing with the varieties of Irish Protestantism, he is somewhat at sea with the various versions of Catholicism. In particular, his understanding of Trent is conventional and his treatment of the dynamics of early modern Catholicism is disappointingly static and somewhat reductionist. Little of the re-conceptualization of the counter-reformation, by the likes of Andrea del Col, Adriano Prosperi and Alain Tallon, which is slowly percolating into

Irish historiography by way of Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin's work, appears to have rubbed off on him.

Overall, this book is an impressive achievement. It is beautifully produced and enhanced with several map illustrations and a useful index, although, rather frustratingly for a book of this nature, there is no bibliography.

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R. J. Crampton, *Bulgaria*, Oxford University Press: Oxford, 2007; 532 pp., 5 maps; 9780198205142, £42.00 (hbk)

Among the historians working on Bulgarian topics, Richard Crampton has a long-standing reputation for his thorough, comprehensive and in-depth interpretations of the country's modern history. *Bulgaria* once again demonstrates his extensive knowledge and deep understanding of processes and events that position Bulgarian history in a wide European context. In many ways a classic country history overview, Crampton's new book is an ambitious survey – a political and economic history of the country, based on extensive documentation of social, demographic and cultural developments.

The book is organized into 15 chapters. They deal with the most important periods in the modern history of the country, alternating with separate studies on social and economic processes between 1878 and 1944, and on minority groups and demographic developments in Bulgaria after 1978. The brief introductory chapter about medieval Bulgaria and the period of Ottoman rule is followed by compact presentations of the dominant issues in the Bulgarian national revival, set in the context of structural changes in the Ottoman Empire and the national re-awakenings in different parts of Europe. Discussing the major events and issues in the country after the establishment of the modern Bulgarian state, the chapters on the period prior to the First World War provide abundant information about many important figures in Bulgaria's modern history. The chapters dedicated to the Balkan wars, the Great War and the interwar period reveal the difficult choices that Bulgaria faced in oscillating between the Great powers in pursuit of its national goals, the dramatic times after the two national catastrophes, and the radicalization of Bulgarian politics in the 1920s and 1930s.

Similarly, the discussion of Bulgaria in the Second World War includes a careful examination of the internal and international factors that guided the country's participation in the war and that conditioned the establishment of the post-war communist regime. Given the relative dearth of historical investigations of the communist period, Crampton provides a thorough overview of the turbulent years after 1944 and the transformation of the social and economic order in line with the Soviet model, Stalinization and the purges in the first post-war decade, the 1956 April Plenum and the ambition of creating 'mature' socialism during Todor Zhivkov's rule. The separate sections dedicated to the decline of communist power, the collapse of the regime in 1989, and the political, economic and social changes over the last two decades are particularly notable. The book also contains two important chapters on social and economic factors between 1878 and 1944 (Chapter 10) and on minority and demographic questions after 1878 (Chapter 15), which give a detailed discussion of demographic and economic processes, modernization and urbanization trends, industrial development and population changes.