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# The Great Irish Famine

*Prepared for the Economic History Society by*

Cormac Ó Gráda  
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**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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[More information](#)

Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge  
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP  
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
 10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

© The Economic History Society 1989  
 The *Great Irish Famine* first published by  
 The Macmillan Press Limited 1989  
 First Cambridge University Press edition 1995

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data*

Ó Gráda, Cormac.

The great Irish famine/prepared for the Economic History Society by  
 Cormac Ó Gráda.

p. cm. – (New studies in economic and social history)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 55266 4. – ISBN 0 521 55787 9 (pbk.)

1. Famines – Ireland – History – 19th century. 2. Ireland – History –  
 1837–1901. I. Title. II. Series.

DA950.7.037 1995

941.508–dc20

95–10860

CIP

ISBN 0 521 55266 4 hardback  
 ISBN 0 521 55787 9 paperback

Transferred to digital printing 2004

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## Preface

This book follows the format of other works in this series, with two small differences. The Great Irish Famine is a ‘big’ topic, a landmark in Irish and world history. Its causes are controversial, its consequences important wherever the ensuing Irish diaspora reached. The relevant literature is very large. And so my efforts at keeping the bibliography within bounds made the number of footnotes grow and grow. In addition, the Famine is a multi-disciplinary subject, featuring research by economists, political scientists, demographers, and historians of diet and agriculture. I have tried to keep the amount of specialist jargon to a minimum, but some inevitably has crept in. In order to keep the account accessible, but without losing all the subtlety of specialized work, I have added a short glossary of technical terms.

I would like to thank the following for reading earlier drafts of this work, and for their criticisms and advice: Michael Anderson, Frank Barry, Leslie Clarkson, Louis Cullen, Fergus D’Arcy, David Dickson, David Fitzpatrick, Liam Kennedy, Michael Laffan, Joel Mokyr, Peter Solar, Brendan Walsh, Ron Weir, and Tony Wrigley. Remaining mistakes are mine alone.

*St Patrick’s Day 1988*  
*Dublin*

CORMAC Ó GRÁDA