

Cambridge University Press

0521837553 - The Origins of Sectarianism in Early Modern Ireland

Edited by Alan Ford and John McCafferty

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The Origins of Sectarianism in Early Modern Ireland

Ireland is riven by sectarian hatred. This simple assumption provides a powerful explanation for the bitterness and violence which has so dominated Irish history. Most notably, the troubles in Northern Ireland have provided fertile ground for scholars from all disciplines to argue about and explore ways in which religious division fuelled the descent into hostility and disorder. In much of this literature, however, sectarianism is seen as, somehow, a 'given' in Irish history, an inevitable product of the clash of the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, something which sprang fully formed into existence in the sixteenth century. In this book, leading historians provide the first detailed analysis of the ways in which rival confessions were developed in early modern Ireland, the extent to which the Irish people were indeed divided into two religious camps by the mid seventeenth century, and also their surprising ability to transcend such stark divisions.

ALAN FORD is Professor of Theology at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of *The Protestant Reformation* (1997) and editor, with James Maguire and Kenneth Milne, of *As by Law Established: The Church of Ireland since the Reformation* (1995).

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo
Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK
Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,
New York
www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521837552

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First published 2005

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

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

ISBN-13 978-0-521-837-552 hardback
ISBN-10 0-521-837-553 hardback

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Preface

This book is a product of a symposium on sectarianism in early modern Ireland, held in University College Dublin in April 1998. Organising such an event is dependent upon two things: gaining sufficient financial support to gather everyone together; and securing participants who can contribute creatively both in formal presentations and the informal discussions which are such an essential part of these meetings. We have been fortunate in both respects. We are grateful for the support provided by the Arts Faculty and the School of History in University College Dublin, without which neither the symposium nor the book would have been possible. But we would also like to thank our contributors, who, in the course of the two days, worked significantly towards expanding and, in our cases, revising, the way in which we envisioned sectarianism.

The process of transforming these insights into a book was, inevitably, a longer one than we had perhaps originally envisaged. But the final product has been considerably enriched by the advice and encouragement of Bill Davies and Michael Watson at Cambridge University Press, and of Professor John Morrill, that universal factotum of early modern British and Irish history.

ALAN FORD
JOHN MCCAFFERTY

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Abbreviations

| | |
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| <i>ARSI</i> | <i>Archivum Romanum Societas Iesu, Rome</i> |
| Bodl. | Bodleian Library, Oxford |
| Cregan, 'Episcopate' | D. F. Cregan, 'The social and cultural background of a counter-reformation episcopate, 1618–60', in Art Cosgrove and Donal McCartney (eds.), <i>Studies in Irish history</i> (Dublin: University College Dublin, 1979), pp. 85–117 |
| CRS | Catholic Record Society |
| CSPI | Calendar of state papers relating to Ireland (London: Public Record Office, 1860–1912) |
| <i>EHS</i> | English Historical Studies |
| <i>IHS</i> | Irish Historical Studies |
| <i>Wadding papers</i> | Brendan Jennings (ed.), <i>Wadding papers 1614–38</i> (Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1953) |
| <i>NHI</i> | T. W. Moody, F. X. Martin and F. J. Byrne (eds.), <i>A new history of Ireland, vol. III: early modern Ireland, 1534–1691</i> (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976) |
| <i>UW</i> | C. R. Elrington and J. H. Todd (eds.), <i>The whole works of the Most Rev. James Ussher</i> , 17 vols. (Dublin, London, 1829–64) |