

Land and Liberalism

Irish land in the 1880s was a site of ideological conflict, with resonances for liberal politics far beyond Ireland itself. The Irish Land War – internationalised partly through the influence of Henry George, the American social reformer and political economist – came at a decisive juncture in Anglo-American political thought and provided many radicals across the North Atlantic with a vision of a more just and morally coherent political economy. Looking at the discourses and practices of these agrarian radicals, alongside developments in liberal political thought, Andrew Phemister shows how they utilised the land question to articulate a natural and universal right to life that highlighted the contradictions between liberty and property. In response to this popular agrarian movement, liberal thinkers discarded many older individualistic assumptions, and their radical democratic implications, in the name of protecting social order, property, and economic progress. *Land and Liberalism* thus vividly demonstrates the centrality of Henry George and the Irish Land War to the transformation of liberal thought.

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Land and Liberalism

Henry George and the Irish Land War

Andrew Phemister

Newcastle University



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For Sarah,
and Norah,
and Brodie,
and Jamie.

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page viii</i>
Introduction	1
1 ‘Our American Aristotle’: Henry George’s Gilded Age	13
2 Agrarianism and Political Thought	44
3 The Land War and the Land League	79
4 The Catholic Church and the Land Question	118
5 Transatlantic Radicalism and the Land Question	153
6 Class, Culture, and Place	188
Conclusion	222
<i>Bibliography</i>	233
<i>Index</i>	275

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