

Medieval Ireland

Medieval Ireland is often described as a backward-looking nation in which change only came about as a result of foreign invasions. By examining the abundant but often unexplored evidence available, Downham challenges this popular notion and demonstrates the cultural richness and diversity of medieval Ireland. Starting in the fifth century, when St Patrick arrived on the island, and ending in the fifteenth century, when the English government sought to defend the lands that it ruled directly around Dublin by making the Pale, this up-to-date survey charts the internal changes in the island. Different chapters cover a wide range of areas, with particular focus on land use, economy, society, religion, politics and culture. This concise and accessible overview offers a fresh perspective on Ireland in the Middle Ages and seeks to overthrow some enduring stereotypes.

CLARE DOWNHAM is a senior lecturer in Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool. She did her MA in Medieval History at the University of St Andrews and then completed an MPhil and PhD in Anglo-Saxon Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge. In 2004, she was awarded a John O'Donovan scholarship medal in Celtic Studies from the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, and her first book, *Viking Kings of Britain and Ireland: The Dynasty of Ivarr to AD 1014*, was published in 2007. She has published more than fifty articles on British, Irish and Viking history.

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ABBREVIATIONS

- AClon *The Annals of Clonmacnoise, being the annals of Ireland from the earliest period to AD 1408 translated into English A.D. 1627 by Conell Mageoghagan*, ed. Denis Murphy (Dublin: Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 1896)
- AFM *Annala Rioghachta Eireann: annals of the kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters, from the earliest period to the year 1616*, ed. John O'Donovan, 7 vols (Dublin: Hodges and Smith, 1851)
- AI *The Annals of Inisfallen, Rawlinson B503*, ed. and trans. Seán MacAirt (Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1951)
- AU *Annala Uladh ('Annals of Ulster'), otherwise Annala Senait ('Annals of Senat'): a chronicle of Irish affairs from AD 431 to AD 1540*, eds and trans. W.M. Hennessey and B. MacCarthy, 4 vols (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1887–1901)
- CS *Chronicon Scotorum: a chronicle of Irish affairs from the earliest times to AD 1135, with a supplement containing the events from 1141 to 1150*, ed. and trans. W.M. Hennessey, Rolls Series (London: Longman, Green, Reader and Dyer, 1866)
- NHI1 *New History of Ireland. Vol. 1: Prehistoric and early Ireland*, ed. D. Ó Cróinín (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005)
- NHI2 *New History of Ireland. Vol. 2: Medieval Ireland, 1169–1534*, ed. Art Cosgrove (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993)

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Map 1 Modern county boundaries. Drawn by David Cox.



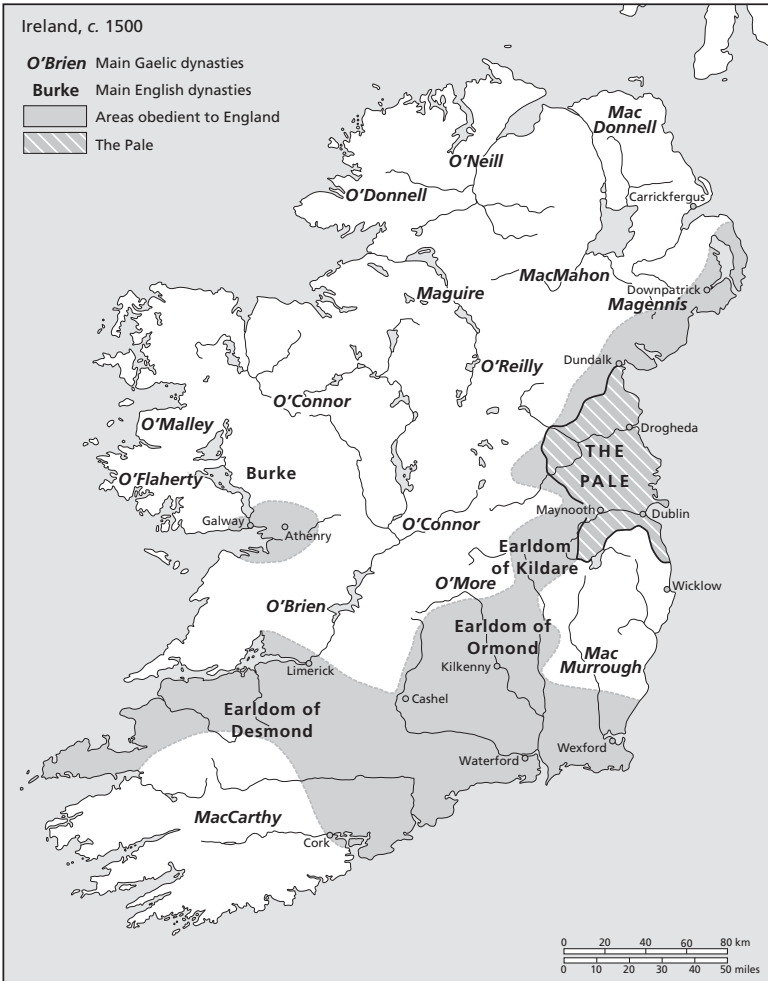
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Map 4 Ireland, c. 1300. Drawn by David Cox (includes data provided in S. Duffy (gen ed.) *Atlas of Irish History*, third edition (Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 2012), p. 41.



Map 5 Ireland, c. 1500. Drawn by David Cox.