Sixties Ireland

This is a provocative new history of Ireland during the long 1960s which exposes the myths of Ireland’s modernisation. Mary Daly questions traditional interpretations which see these years as a time of prosperity when Irish society – led by a handful of key modernisers – abandoned many of its traditional values in its search of economic growth. Setting developments in Ireland in a wider European context, she shows instead that claims for the economic transformation of Ireland are hugely questionable: Ireland remained one of the poorest countries in Western Europe until the end of the twentieth century. Contentious debates in later years over contraception, divorce and national identity demonstrated continuities with the past that long survived the 1960s. Ranging from Ireland’s economic rebirth in the 1950s to its entry into the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1973, this is a comprehensive reinterpretation of a critical period in Irish history with clear parallels for Ireland today.

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Sixties Ireland

Reshaping the Economy, State and Society, 1957–1973

Mary E. Daly

University College Dublin
For Conor, John, Aidan, Peter and Kilian
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I have been working on this book for over a decade – the inordinate delays were due to my commitments as Principal of the UCD College of Arts and Celtic Studies, a job that allowed little time for research and writing. However that decade also saw the publication of an extraordinary number of monographs and articles on Ireland in the ‘long 1960s’, which made it less necessary for me to carry out primary research on a number of topics, so I would like to begin by acknowledging the work of every author who is cited in the footnotes and bibliography. This book benefited enormously from a two-month stay at the European University Institute (EUI) in 2012 – which gave me time for research and reflection. My thanks go to the archivists and librarians who made this book possible: the National Archives in Ireland and Kew; the Historical Archives of the EU in Florence; Dublin Diocesan Archives, and most especially the UCD Archives (UCDA), which holds the most important collection of private papers relating to independent Ireland; the Library at the EUI – especially Dr Tom Burke; the UCD library, which facilitated innumerable requests, and the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, which proved invaluable as I completed the final stages of this work.

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Abbreviations

AFT An Foras Talúntais
AIFTAA Anglo-Irish Free Trade Area Agreement
AOH Ancient Order of Hibernians
B&F Business and Finance
CAP Common Agricultural Policy
CFP Common Fisheries Policy
CIO Committee on Industrial Organisation
CSJ Campaign for Social Justice
DD Dáil Debates
DEA Department of External Affairs
DFA Department of Foreign Affairs
DHAC Dublin Housing Action Committee
DIB Dictionary of Irish Biography
DO Dominions Office
DOE Department of Education
EEC European Economic Community
EFTA European Free Trade Area
ESB Electricity Supply Board
ESR Economic and Social Review
ESRI Economic and Social Research Institute
FCO Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FII Federation of Irish Industry
FO Foreign Office
GAA Gaelic Athletic Association
GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GMS General Medical Service
GNP Gross National Product
HAEU Historical Archives of the European Union
ICA Irish Countrywomen’s Association
ICD Irish Catholic Directory
ICMSA Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers’ Association
List of abbreviations

ICTU  Irish Congress of Trade Unions
IDA  Industrial Development Authority
IERS  Irish Educational Studies
IESH  Irish Economic and Social History
IFJ  Irish Farmers’ Journal
IFPA  Irish Family Planning Association
IHA  Irish Housewives’ Association
IHS  Irish Historical Studies
II  Irish Independent
IMF  International Monetary Fund
IMI  Irish Management Institute
IMT  Irish Medical Times
IP  Irish Press
IPS  Irish Political Studies
ISIA  Irish Studies in International Affairs
ISPCC  Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
IT  Irish Times
ITGWU  Irish Transport and General Workers Union
JSSISI  Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland
NAI  National Archives of Ireland
NATO  North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NESC  National Economic and Social Council
NFA  National Farmers’ Association
NICRA  Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association
NIEC  National Industrial and Economic Council
NLI  National Library of Ireland
NUi  National University of Ireland
OECD  Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development
OECC  Organisation for European Economic Co-Operation
PAYE  Pay As You Earn
PR  Proportional Representation
RTC  Regional Technical College
RTÉ  Radio Teilifís Éireann
SD  Seanad Debates
SFADCO  Shannon Free Airport Development Company
SI  Sunday Independent
SDLP  Social Democratic and Labour Party
TCD  Trinity College Dublin
TD  Teachta Dála (parliamentary deputy)
TNA  The National Archives (Kew)
List of abbreviations

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<td>UCC</td>
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<td>UCG</td>
<td>University College Galway</td>
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<td>VHI</td>
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