

Humanitarianism in the Modern World

This is a history of famine relief and humanitarianism. The authors apply a moral economy approach to shed new light on the forces and ideas that motivated and shaped humanitarian aid during the Great Irish Famine, the famine of 1921–2 in Soviet Russia, and the 1980s Ethiopian Famine. They place these episodes within a distinctive periodisation of humanitarianism which emphasises the correlations with politico-economic regimes: the time of elitist laissez-faire liberalism in the nineteenth century as one of ad hoc humanitarianism; that of Taylorism and mass society from c. 1900–70 as one of organised humanitarianism; and the blend of individualised post-material lifestyles and neo-liberal public management since 1970 as one of expressive humanitarianism. The book as a whole shifts the focus of the history of humanitarianism from the imperatives of crisis management to the pragmatic mechanisms of fundraising, logistics on the ground, and accounting.

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The Moral Economy of Famine Relief

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Abbreviations

AFSC	American Friends Service Committee
AICF	Action International Contre la Faim
AMR	American Mennonite Relief
ARA	American Relief Administration/ARA Archives
ARC	American Red Cross
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BRA	British Association for the Relief of Extreme Distress in the Remote Parishes of Ireland and Scotland
CA	Christian Aid/CA Archives
Can	Canadian
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CDAA	Churches Drought Action for Africa/Ethiopia
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CRC	Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends (Ireland)
CRDA	Christian Relief and Development Association
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DAC	Diocesan Archives, Cashel
DAD	Diocesan Archives, Dublin
DEC	Disasters Emergency Committee (UK)
DM	German marks (currency)
ECA	Economic Commission on Africa (UN)
EEC	European Economic Community
EPLF	Eritrean People's Liberation Front
ERA	Eritrean Relief Association
ERC/Eurelcon	European Relief Council
ERD	Emergency Relief Desk
FAI	Fondo Aiuti Italiani
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
FEWVRC	Friends' Emergency and War Victims Relief Committee

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FSR	Friends of Soviet Russia
FUJ	Federation of Ukrainian Jews
FY	fiscal year
GCRC	General Central Relief Committee for all Ireland
GNP	gross national product
GPU	State Political Directorate (Russia/Soviet Union)
HAC	Historical Archives of the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples
HO	Home Office
IAH	Internationale Arbeiterhilfe
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICRR	International Committee for Russian Relief
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IRA	Irish Relief Association for the Destitute Peasantry
ISCU	International Save the Children Union
IWRF	Imperial War Relief Fund
JDC	Joint Distribution Committee
JRO	Joint Relief Operation (Ethiopian Red Cross)
MAD	multiple accountabilities disorder
MP	Member of Parliament (general) Monteagle Papers (NLI) Murray Papers (DAD)
NCWC	National Catholic Welfare Council
NEP	New Economic Policy
NER	Near East Relief
NGO	non-governmental organisation
NLI	National Library of Ireland
OD	overseas development
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OEOE	Office for Emergency Operations in Ethiopia (UN)
PIC	Pontifical Irish College
PR	public relations
PRONI	Public Records Office of Northern Ireland
R2P	responsibility to protect
REST	Relief Society of Tigray
RFRF	Russian Famine Relief Fund (UK)
RLN	The Robinson Library, Newcastle University
RRC	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (Ethiopia)
SC	documents referred to in the weekly meetings
SCF	Save the Children Fund/SCF Archives
SEK	Swedish kronor (currency)
SF	Swiss francs (currency)

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SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
SoF	Society of Friends
SoS	Secretary of State (Vatican)
SP	Slattery Papers
SRC	Swedish Red Cross
SVP	Society St Vincent de Paul
t	(metric) tonnes
T	Treasury
TNA(IRL)	The National Archives of Ireland
TNA(UK)	The National Archives (UK)
TP	Trevelyan Papers
TPLF	Tigray People's Liberation Front
UK	United Kingdom (of Great Britain and Ireland)
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URA	United Relief Association
US	adjective form of USA
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UshCL	Ushaw College Library
VSA	Vatican Secret Archives
VRS	Volga Relief Society
WFP	World Food Programme
WIR	Workers' International Relief
WOW	War on Want/WOW Archives
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association