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Douglas Kanter • Patrick Walsh
Editors

Taxation, Politics, and
Protest in Ireland,
1662–2016

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PREFACE

This book explores the politics of taxation in Ireland between 1662 and 2016. It is concerned with both ‘high’ politics—the world of politicians and policymakers and the calculations that informed their decisions about public finance—and ‘low’ politics—the popular response to taxation, which included not only compliance but also avoidance, evasion, resistance, and protest. In casting a wide net over a long period of time, this anthology aims to illuminate a neglected aspect of Irish history, and to stimulate further scholarship on a subject that we believe is crucial to an understanding of the early modern and modern Irish experience. To the latter end, this volume does not aim at a comprehensive account of taxation in Ireland over the last 350 years. Rather, it examines key episodes, enduring trends, and recurring themes in the period under consideration. Our hope is that others will elaborate upon the work featured here, expanding upon its insights when appropriate and filling in the gaps where warranted.

An anthology is, by definition, a collaborative affair, and we have incurred a number of debts in producing this book. It is a pleasure to acknowledge them. We wish to extend our thanks to the contributors, whose punctuality in submission, close attention to detail, and patience in the face of many and varied queries have facilitated our work as editors. We are grateful to the team at Palgrave, including Natasha Denby, Aimee Dibbens, Ruth Noble, and Tula Weis, for taking this volume on and assisting in its completion. James Kelly provided crucial support for this project at an early stage of its development. Thanks are also due to the archivists and librarians at those institutions where the contributors have conducted

research. Meagan Weisner kindly produced the maps in the chapters by Mel Cousins and Douglas Kanter, while Robert Ellis and Elise Tengs provided excellent research assistance for the chapter by Michelle D’Arcy and Marina Nistotskaya. The latter chapter received funding from the Swedish Research Council (grant agreement D0112101) and the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement 339571). Finally, it is a pleasure to thank our families—Faye, Willa, Sadie and Desmond Kanter, and Niamh Cullen and Robin Walsh—who have provided both encouragement for and a welcome distraction from this work.

Boca Raton, FL
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Douglas Kanter
Patrick Walsh

CONTENTS

1	Introduction	1
	Douglas Kanter and Patrick Walsh	
2	Ireland, Mercantilism, and the Navigation Acts, 1660–1686	19
	James Guilfoyle	
3	Politics, Parliament, Patriot Opinion, and the Irish National Debt in the Age of Jonathan Swift	43
	Charles Ivar McGrath	
4	Patterns of Taxation in Eighteenth-Century Ireland	89
	Patrick Walsh	
5	Finance and Politics in Ireland, 1801–17	121
	Trevor McCavery	
6	That ‘Absurd Phantom Called Free Trade’: The Politics of Protection in Ireland, c. 1829–52	151
	Andrew Shields	

7	Resistance to the Collection of Rates Under the Poor Law, 1842–44	173
	Mel Cousins	
8	Taxation and the Economics of Nationalism in 1840s Ireland	199
	Charles Read	
9	The Campaign Against Over-Taxation, 1863–65: A Reappraisal	227
	Douglas Kanter	
10	Tides of Change and Changing Sides: The Collection of Rates in the Irish War of Independence, 1919–21	253
	Robin J. C. Adams	
11	Taxation and the Revolutionary Inheritance: Tax Proposals, Legitimacy, and the Irish Free State, 1922–32	277
	Jason Knirck	
12	The Economic War and the Pamphlet War	305
	Aidan Beatty	
13	The Irish Tax State and Historical Legacies: Slowly Converging Capacity, Persistent Unwillingness to Pay	331
	Michelle D’Arcy and Marina Nistotskaya	
	Index	357

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LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 4.1	The main components of taxation, 1695–1795 (%)	91
Fig. 4.2	1782 and all that: revenue raised by Acts of Parliament, 1765–98	97
Fig. 4.3	Import and revenue data compared, 1750–69	102
Fig. 8.1	A comparison of the amount of repeal ‘rent’ (£, <i>right-hand scale</i>) and prices of Cork, Dublin, and Waterford bacon pigs (s/cwt, <i>left-hand scale</i>) between January 1842 and December 1843. Weeks are numbered 1–52 during each year	209
Fig. 8.2	A comparison of the amount of repeal ‘rent’ (£, <i>right-hand scale</i>) and prices of Cork, Dublin, and Waterford beef (d/lb, <i>left-hand scale</i>) between January 1842 and December 1843. Weeks are numbered 1–52 during each year	210
Fig. 8.3	<i>Top</i> : Theoretical Laffer curve diagram. <i>Bottom</i> : Scatter diagram of rates collected for each union whilst paid guardians were in place as a percentage of 1849 valuation against the tax rate poundage for Poor Law, cess, and annuity in the same year (1 = 100 per cent tax rate)	216
Fig. 8.4	A comparison of emigration to the United States and local taxation in Ireland (£ s.), 1837–53	218

LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1	Excise revenues and per capita change, 1695–1795	94
Table 4.2	Parliamentary taxation, 1695–1795 (%)	95
Table 4.3	Gross revenues of seven largest ports, 1698–1798, rank order 1798 (% of total customs revenue)	100
Table 4.4	Gross customs receipts, by region, 1698–1798: percentage share at given dates, rank order 1798	101
Table 4.5	Gross excise revenue by region, 1692–1808 (£)	105
Table 4.6	Gross excise revenue by region per officer (£), 1700–68	108
Table 4.7	Excise districts with > 10 instances of the army being deployed to support the revenue officers	111
Table 4.8	Customs, excise, and property revenues, 1695–1795	113
Table 7.1	Use of police and military in collection of poor rates, 1843	177
Table 7.2	Unions with 10 per cent or more of rates outstanding on 1 January 1844	178
Table 13.1	Tax outcomes, structure, and administration, 1700–2015	332

LIST OF MAPS

Map 7.1	Levels of resistance to rate collection, 1842–43	179
Map 9.1	Petitions for tax relief, 1863–64	236