



To Hell or Barbados: The Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland

By Sean O'Callaghan

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The previously untold story of over 50,000 Irish men, women and children who were transported to Barbados and Virginia. Sean O'Callaghan for the first time documents the history of these people: their transportation, the conditions in which they lived on plantations as slaves or servants, and their rebellions in Barbados. "An illuminating insight into a neglected episode in Irish history, but its significance is much broader than that. Its main achievement is to situate the story of colonialism in Ireland in the much larger context of worldwide European imperialism. O'Callaghan's description of seventeenth century Barbados is a powerful portrait of a society as brutal, corrupt and unjust as anything the twentieth century has to offer. Yet it is precisely societies like colonial Barbados and Virginia which lie at the root of our modern world. That is why To Hell or Barbados is such a valuable book."--Irish World

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Editorial Review

Review

This group [the Red Legs], made up of the descendants of 50,000 Irish men and women who were sold into the white slave trade between 1652 and 1659, have been largely ignored, apart from in Sean O'Callaghan's wonderful *To Hell or Barbados: The Ethnic Cleansing of Ireland* -- Manchan Magan Irish Times Essential reading Irish Examiner A fascinating read The Sunday Tribune As the 17th century showed, being a slave under a Christian master was every bit as brutal an experience as it had been for those who lived and died in their countless and nameless millions under the yoke of Roman or Greek slave owners. "To Hell or Barbados" manages to put a few names and faces on those otherwise anonymous victims Irish Echo

About the Author

Sean O'Callaghan was born in Killavullen, Co Cork in 1918. He was commissioned in the Irish Army in 1936. On leaving the army he became a journalist in Fleet St, as well as in Nairobi. He published his first book, *The Easter Lily*, in 1956, and became a full-time writer. He died as *To Hell or Barbados* went to press, in August 2000.

Users Review

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