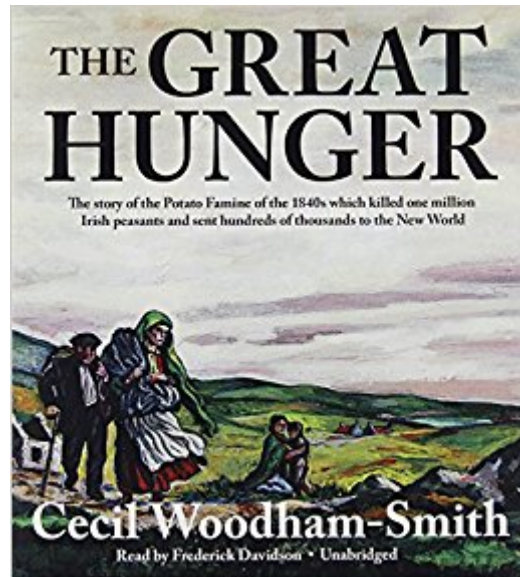


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The Great Hunger: Ireland 1845-1849



Synopsis

The Great Hunger is the definitive account of one of the worst disasters in world history: the Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s. Within five years, one million people died of starvation. Emigrants by the hundreds of thousands sailed for America and Canada in small, ill-equipped, dangerously unsanitary ships. Some ships never arrived; those that did carried passengers already infected with and often dying of typhus. The Irish who managed to reach the United States alive had little or no money and were often too weak to work. They crowded into dirty cellars, begged, and took whatever employment they could get. Epidemics, riots, and chaos followed in their wake. The Great Hunger is a heartbreaking story of suffering, insensitivity, and blundering stupidity; yet it is also an epic tale of courage, dignity, and--despite all odds--a hardly supportable optimism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Cecil Blanche Woodam-Smith (1896-1977) was a British historian and biographer. She wrote four popular history books, each dealing with a different aspect of the Victorian era. Frederick Davidson (1932-2005), also known as David Case, was one of the most prolific readers in the audiobook industry, recording more than eight hundred audiobooks in his lifetime, including over two hundred for Blackstone Audio. Born in London, he trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and performed for many years in radio plays for the British Broadcasting Company before coming to America in 1976. He received AudioFile's Golden Voice Award and numerous Earphones Awards and was nominated for a Grammy for his readings.

Frederick Davidson reads this immensely detailed audiobook with a rich English accent. It's as if a

robed Oxford don is giving a series of lectures on the Irish potato famine and its consequences. Davidson reads the myriad English and Irish names of people and places, as well as the many complicated sentences, without a stumble. The problem with this audiobook is that its very "Englishness" would likely be difficult for many American ears to listen to for 25 hours. M.L.C. © AudioFile 2000, Portland, Maine-- Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Review of "The Great Hunger: Ireland, 1845-1849. The book arrived after being on order for about a week. The book is in superb condition. I'm very pleased to finally be able to learn so much about this horrific period of time for not just my own Irish ancestors, but so many others in northern Europe during the time that the hideous blight ravaged the potato crops. There are so many other troublesome issues brought out in this book; Issues that STILL have not been resolved with people all over this world because of religious and political infighting that continues unabated.

I feel strongly that when this was written it provided a truer view of what actually occurred, if written today it would not. I just visited Ireland and it was because of the tour director that I purchased this book and glad I did. Read this, it will show you what it was like and why it happened and who is to blame.

Cecil Woodham-Smith's judicious account of the potato famine in Ireland contrasts sharply with the angry tone of Thomas Gallagher's Paddy's Lament. Nevertheless, the two books complement each other very well. Although Woodham-Smith does not neglect the suffering of the Irish people, the main focus of her book is on the British government's response to the famine. She shows how the British administration was constrained by a narrow laissez-faire ideology and an inadequate administrative structure in Ireland, especially in the remote western counties. Although she never oversimplifies, Woodham-Smith patiently compiles a devastating indictment of British policy in Ireland. The main strength of Gallagher's book is his vivid description of life during the famine. He occasionally drifts into fictional methods in order to make his story more personal and immediate. Woodham-Smith is the better historian, but Gallagher packs a larger emotional punch.

Excellent coverage of the famine in Ireland during the 1840's. It is very detailed so if you do not want a lot of detail about the politics of the times, this may not be for you. It has given me a greater insight into what caused the famine, and the enormous suffering that the people suffered. It made

me look at the starving people in the world today with more compassion.

The definitive book on the topic, you'll learn all about the causes, policy, and players who created the Irish diaspora, and the genesis of contemporary Tory austerity politics --yeah, the more things change the more they stay the same.

could have been more concise but full of great details, facts & analysis - for the person serious about getting to know about The Great Hunger

Horrific is an oft overused term today but it is the perfect word to describe this extraordinary account of the Irish famine. I guarantee that it was a much more complex set of circumstances responsible than is generally known. It explains a lot about the historic relationship of England and Ireland as well as the Irish impact on Canada and the United States. The last 100 pages or so begins to lose some of the fervor of the first 350 pages, but it is a compelling and a necessary read if you wish to understand anything about the Ireland of the past 200 years.

this book is filled with good insight on how the British handled this awful tragedy. especially important to me was the chapter on how the Irish were treated at the quarantine station in Staten Island, New York. many of those who died at the quarantine station were buried in mass graves with no recording of name, age or place of origin. in 1928, this mass grave area was converted into the Silver Lake Golf Course

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