



# Changes in Contemporary Ireland: Texts and Contexts

*Catherine Rees*

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## **Changes in Contemporary Ireland: Texts and Contexts** Catherine Rees

This volume explores the cultural, literary, theatrical, and political changes in Irish society from 1980. The so-called 'Celtic Tiger' brought about cultural and economic rejuvenation in Ireland but this new found confidence and prosperity was destabilised by other events, such as the scandals in the Catholic Church, bringing into question the role of traditional institutions in contemporary Irish life. The ending of the Troubles and signing of the Good Friday agreement similarly heralded a new era in terms of positive political change, but recent paramilitary activity threatens to undermine the progress made in the 1990s, as waves of new violence hit the North. Equally, recent economic recession has halted the radical growth seen in the Republic over recent decades. This book therefore problematises the concept of change and progress by juxtaposing these events, and asking what real changes can be traced in modern Ireland. The contributors frequently reflect on the changes and upheavals this period of dramatic economic, political and cultural change has prompted. The volume includes contributions from the fields of politics, cultural studies, sports, history, geography, media and film studies, and theatre and literature. As such it is a decidedly interdisciplinary study, exploring wide-ranging topics and issues relevant to contemporary Irish Studies.

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