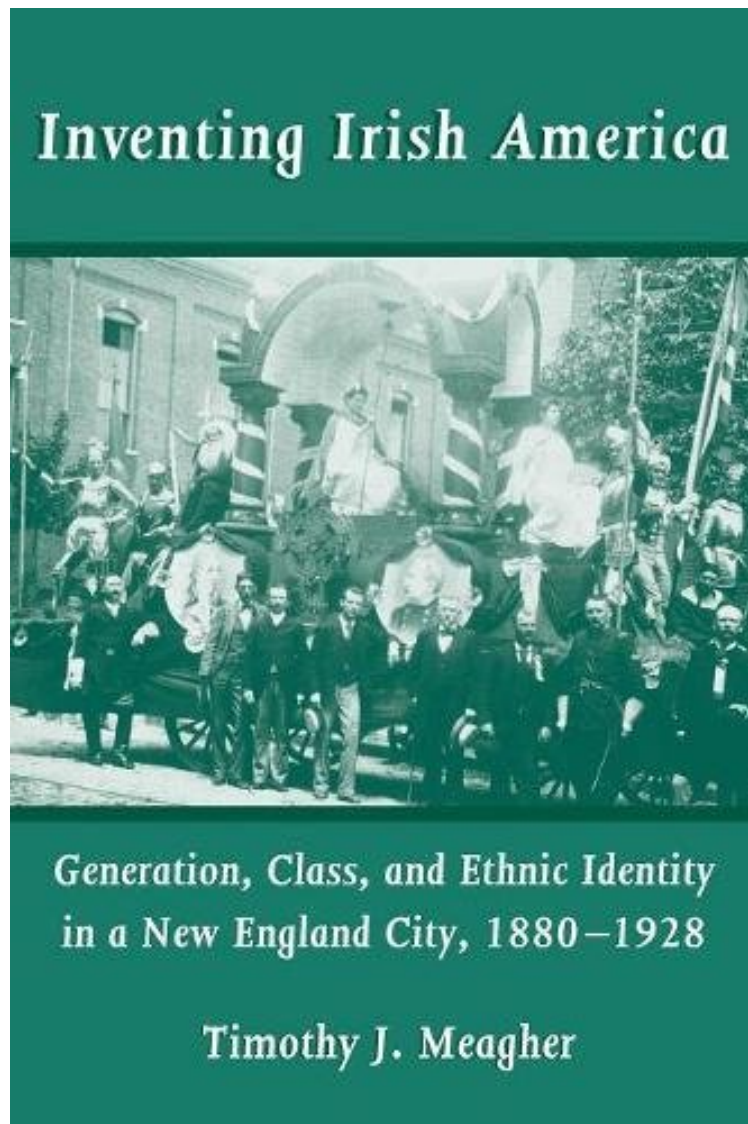


(Mobile library) *Inventing Irish America: Generation, Class, and Ethnic Identity in a New England City, 1880-1928 (IRISH IN AMERICA)*

Inventing Irish America: Generation, Class, and Ethnic Identity in a New England City, 1880-1928 (IRISH IN AMERICA)

Timothy J. Meagher

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Timothy J. Meagher : Inventing Irish America: Generation, Class, and Ethnic Identity in a New England City, 1880-1928 (IRISH IN AMERICA) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Inventing Irish America: Generation, Class, and Ethnic Identity in a New England City, 1880-1928 (IRISH IN AMERICA)*:

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The city is Worcester, Ma. By J. head This book should really contain the name of the city (Worcester, Massachusetts) in the subtitle. This reader believes an intimate knowledge of the city of Worcester is central to appreciating this book, otherwise the locations mentioned within the text will just appear as an unconnected litany of place names.. The book painstakingly plots the spread of the Irish immigrant community across the city landscape, parish by parish. It explains the political tightrope walk the Irish-American and the American-Irish developed with the host culture and with the newer immigrant cultures also attempting to assimilate. The author has done his homework. Quotes from leading figures, Irish community newspapers and political speeches are exhaustive. One interesting point that agrees with Andrew Greely's book on Irish-Americans is that the Irish outside of New York City and the Boston area. assimilated quickly into the melting pot, but the ethnic identity and more mature, less vibrant, industrial economies of the Northeast cities made the immigrant battle for a "piece of pie" more difficult, than in cities to the West. .The book shows that the history of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Worcester is a pretty effective barometer that highlighted the conflicts within the Irish-American community. The author is to be commended on the research, but any purchaser of this book should know that a knowledge of the city of Worcester and its institutions would be especially helpful to appreciate this book fully. I gave it a three star rating because the quotes and research became a little too tedious in some sections. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Eileen Birch My husband thoroughly loves this book!

Like many American cities, Worcester, Massachusetts, is an enclave of cultural tradition and ethnic pride. Through the intensive analysis of this Irish American community at the turn of the twentieth century, Timothy Meagher reveals how an ethnic group can endure and yet change when its first American-born generation takes control of its destiny. // Meagher traces the chaotic and complicated passage of Irish Americans from their status as isolated immigrants, through accommodation in the 1880s and ethnocentric belligerence in the 1890s, to leadership of a pan-ethnic American Catholic people in the early twentieth century. He shows how these shifts resulted from both the initiatives of a new generation and changing relations with Yankee and ethnic neighbors, examining along the way such topics as women's prominence in the local nationalist movement, marriage patterns among the second generation, and cross-party coalitions that Irish Democrats forged with Yankee Republicans. // A fourth-generation Worcester native, Meagher examines nearly every aspect of Irish American life in his city to discover how his family and others like them attempted to resolve the dilemma of identity. He analyzes the changing definitions of identities and boundaries over a crucial forty-year period and shows how the rise of a new generation to community leadership brought about a quiet but powerful revolution in people's everyday lives. // *Inventing Irish America* focuses on the cultural transition of Irish Americans from one generation to the next and offers readers new insight into the creation of their identity. By studying one community in generational transition, it sheds new light on all places where ethnic and racial groups struggle to maintain their identities by reinventing themselves through time.

From the Back Cover Timothy Meagher's *Inventing Irish America* places the construction of ethnic identity in a specific historical context. It does so superbly, weaving a sophisticated treatment of the evolution of Irish American life into a rich account of Worcester, Massachusetts, from 1880 to 1928. The result is a major contribution to American ethnic history and an excellent example of the importance of carefully grounded historical analysis for understanding social group formation. *The Journal of American History* Arguably one of the most important case studies since Oscar Handlin's *Boston's Immigrants, 1790-1865*. . . . Meagher breaks new ground by charting the complex interaction between this generational transition and the intergroup struggles for power, resources, and status that shaped and reshaped Irish American identity. *American Historical Meagher* does a fine job of combining detailed, thoughtful analysis with pertinent illustrations from those who participated in this complex story. . . . [T]he book will certainly be interesting and accessible to others with interest in Irish and Irish American culture. In conveying a multifaceted analysis, Meagher has brought a community to life. *History: of New Books* Meagher's rich and detailed study is filled with marvelous stories. . . . It would not be an exaggeration to call this book a masterpiece both of historical detail and of a new and sophisticated theory of the second generation. *American Catholic Studies* Timothy J. Meagher is associate professor of history and university archivist at Catholic University of America. He is the author of *A Guide to Irish American History*, and co-editor, with Ronald H. Bayor, of *The New York Irish*, winner of the James Donnelly Sr. Prize from the American Conference for Irish Studies.