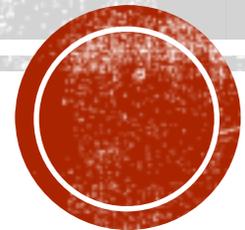


CULTURAL PRACTICES AND LOCAL IDENTITIES IN EARLY MODERN BRITAIN

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THE MODEL OF CONSENSUAL IDENTITY

Consensual identity

- implies consensus between a vassal and a seigneur.
- originates in the situation of ethnic interplay.
- entails intercultural switching,
- serves as a superstructure over constituent ethnic identities (supragentile character)
- does not emphasize common descent
- actualizes shared territory and loyalty

Early modern British identity

- loyalty to Protestantism
- actions of the Crown and its administration
- acquisition of the English language
- commitment to the English standards of civility

EARLY MODERN IRELAND

- The Gaels
- The Old English (descendants of Anglo-Norman colonists)
- The new English (new Protestant colonists)
- the Scots (from the 1600s)
- the Welsh (from the 1600s).



John Speed, *The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine...*, 1616,
British Library



GIRALDUS CAMBRENSIS, TOPOGRAPHIA HIBERNICA. DIS III: 10

This people, then, is barbarous, truly barbarous... all their habits are barbarisms.

The people is a rude people, subsisting on the produce of their cattle only, and living themselves like beasts – a people that has not yet departed from the primitive habits of pastoral life. In the common course of things, mankind progresses from the forest to the field, from the field to the town, and to the social condition of citizens; but this people, holding agricultural labour in contempt, and little coveting the wealth of towns as well as being exceedingly averse to civil institutions – got used to living in the woods and open pastures, neither willing to abandon their old habits or learn anything new.



Giraldus Cambrensis, *Topographia Hibernica*,
British Library Royal MS 13 B VIII, c.
1220



ENGLISH REPRESENTATIONS OF EARLY MODERN IRELAND: BETWEEN RHETORIC OF UNIFORMITY AND RHETORIC OF OTHERNESS

Uniformity

We may conceive and hope that the next generation will in tongue and heart and every way else become English, so as there will be no difference or distinction but the Irish Sea betwixt us ...

John Davies, *A Discovery of the True Causes Why Ireland Was Never Entirely Subdued nor Brought Under Obedience of the Crown of England until the Beginning of His Majesty's happy Reign (...) 1612 in Ireland under Elizabeth and James the First* (London: Routledge, 1890), 335-6.

Otherness

- Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland, and Ireland*
- William Camden's *Britannia*
- William Shakespeare *Henry V; Henry VI. Part I;*
- Ben Johnson *The Irish Masque*



RECONFIGURATION OF GAELIC IDENTITY

- Gaidheal (Gael) (gentile) → Éireannach (Irish) (territorial)
- *Foras Feasa ar Éirinn* (The foundations of knowledge about Ireland) (author – Geoffrey Keating)

