

# Towards a Second Republic

## Irish Politics after the Celtic Tiger

**Peadar Kirby & Mary P. Murphy**

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**D**uring the 1990s and 2000s, the Irish 'Celtic Tiger' model of development was hailed as a model for other European countries, but the global economic crisis has completely removed the credibility of Ireland's approach. So where does the country go now?

*Towards a Second Republic* analyses Ireland's economics, politics and society, drawing important lessons from its cycles of boom and bust. Peadar Kirby and Mary Murphy expose the winners and losers from the current Irish model of development and relates these distributional outcomes to the use of power by Irish elites. The authors examine the role of the EU and compare Ireland's crisis and responses to those of other states.

More than just an analysis of the economic disaster in Ireland, the book is also a proposal to construct new and more effective institutions for the economy and society. It is a must read for students of Irish politics and political economy.

*Peadar Kirby is Professor of International Politics and Public Policy in the University of Limerick. He is the author of Celtic Tiger in Collapse (2010) and co-editor of Transforming Ireland (2009).*

*Mary P. Murphy is a lecturer in Irish Politics and Society, National University of Ireland Maynooth. She has published in journals including Community Development Journal and New Political Economy. She has worked in various campaigning groups and is an advocate for social justice and equality.*

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## Endorsements for *Towards a Second Republic*

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“  
*At last, a book which recognizes that the Irish republic never treated women as equal citizens, that inequality persisted and deepened during the Celtic Tiger years, and that the collapse of the Irish economy has been disastrous for women – half of the population – in particular ways. Murphy and Kirby have brought feminism into the debate about Ireland’s future.*”

**Susan McKay, Director National Women’s Council of Ireland**

“  
*A very important, timely and relevant contribution to the ongoing debate about Ireland’s future and the type of Republic we should aspire towards. Their argument that we must move forward informed by republican values of equality, interdependency and sustainability is both refreshing and compelling. This accessible book should help ignite active public debate.*”

**Eamon Gilmore, Tánaiste and Leader, Irish Labour Party**

“  
*Most probably wish to get through the present crisis and back to normal. This book explains why that is neither possible nor desirable. It points to the inconvenient truth that the development model we have been following is not sustainable. The idea of a second republic gets us thinking outside the box about the institutions we need to build to secure an economically sound and socially just future.*”

**David Begg, General Secretary Irish Congress of Trade Unions**

“  
*Ireland’s crisis is both highly local, rooted in the failure of its own political culture and systems, and entirely global, emblematic of the failure of what had become a practically universal model of development. No account of the crisis has brought these two dimensions together so intelligently and persuasively as *Towards a Second Republic*.*”

**Fintan O’Toole, Journalist, Irish Times**

“  
*Kirby and Murphy have marched out on the battleground of ideas, asking how our political economy can be reformed. Indeed, they are demanding it...This is a work of scholarship written with the public in mind. Its contribution is delivered in a true and new republican fashion.*”

**Eamon Ryan, Leader, Irish Green Party**

“  
*A tour de force ... marshals together the latest evidence, theory, political reform and experiments in civic initiatives ... The book should be on every Irish lawmaker’s desk and in the hands of any citizen or resident looking for implementable ideas to create prosperity from the practice of equality, solidarity and transparent governance.*”

**Senator Katherine Zappone**

“  
*The most important political analysis of the Irish crisis. A fundamental reimagining of Ireland as an independent state based upon republican values; a paradigm shift from a jaded political elite to a ‘bottom-up’ concept of democracy. Optimistically suggests that Ireland is at a critical juncture, with an opportunity to use the crisis to renegotiate a new and better future. Compelling reading.*

**Professor Fred Powell, Dean of Social Science, University College Cork**