

MultiText

Four Courts Press is due to publish the first book in its *History of Ireland* series in mid-February. The book entitled *Ireland, 1815-70: Ireland, Emancipation, Famine and Religion* is designed (as are subsequent titles) to meet the full requirements of the Department of Education's Leaving Certificate History Syllabus.

To date, Four Courts is the only publisher covering this particular module. The texts can be used in conjunction with the MultiText Project in history website (<http://www.multitext.ie>) which contains additional essays, documents and thousands of illustrations. The book focuses on three major events which changed the face of nineteenth century Ireland: Catholic Emancipation, the Great Famine, and the Synod of Thurles. The essays covering these themes are supplemented with a broad selection of historical documents, each with an introduction, an exact citation of source, and a concise presentation of its paraphrasable content.

Three short survey essays at the beginning – on politics and administration, society and economy, and culture and religion – place these themes in their broader context. Lastly, there are short essays on historical concepts important in the period and brief biographies of major figures (each with a select bibliography).

We preserve the integrity of our authors' essays and this will show, we hope, that professional historians may arrive honestly at disparate interpretations of historical evidence. There are manifold points of view: those of the various modern historians, from quite different backgrounds and diverse in attitudes and interpretations, and those of the actors themselves, equally different in background, class, and convictions, expressed in sources bearing on the great issues of the day. Readers must form their own opinions. The book (340pp in length) is available at the discounted price of €17.99 on the publisher's website: (<http://www.fourcourtspress.ie>)

The next volume in the series, *Ireland 1870-1914* will be available in May 2010.