



# The Great Hunger: Ireland, 1845-1849

*Cecil Blanche Fitzgerald Woodham-Smith*

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## **The Great Hunger: Ireland, 1845-1849** Cecil Blanche Fitzgerald Woodham-Smith

The Irish potato famine of the 1840s, perhaps the most appalling event of the Victorian era, killed over a million people and drove as many more to emigrate to America. It may not have been the result of deliberate government policy, yet British 'obtuseness, short-sightedness and ignorance' – and stubborn commitment to laissez-faire 'solutions' – largely caused the disaster and prevented any serious efforts to relieve suffering. The continuing impact on Anglo-Irish relations was incalculable, the immediate human cost almost inconceivable. In this vivid and disturbing book Cecil Woodham-Smith provides the definitive account. 'A moving and terrible book. It combines great literary power with great learning. It explains much in modern Ireland – and in modern America' D.W. Brogan.

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