

Sunday June 6, 1993
evening

Dear C-SPAN,

Re: Booknotes "The Irish Troubles 67-92"
by J. Bowyer Bell

Enjoyed the hour (8:00 to 9:00) and will watch again at 11:00 p.m.

I must take exception with regard to a statement by Mr. Bell. I do not consider Ian Gow ~~insignificant!~~ ^{absurd} Listening to Ian Gow that one time in the House of Commons told me this man is "very special"...and has a great sense of humor! Maybe that's why the IRA did him in? They are not stupid people, just the opposite! The "best & brightest" I sometimes think...colorful, very creative and artistic I suspect. They are also very "precise in target"!! I am ardently opposed to them!!

I suspect there is much more of an American connection to the IRA! I suspect there is much more political involvement by American Politicians in the affairs of N. Ireland! ~~anyway~~, I guess? I'm a native of Springfield, Ma., and the ties to the Republic are indeed very strong (County Kerry I believe). Springfield is heavily Irish Catholic, but has a Yankee Puritan history...that fact is an irritant to the local politicians, and the "Hungry Hill" enclave that rule the city.

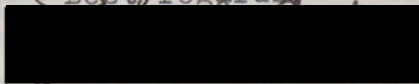
I also think the underlying problem in the Ulster vs. the Republic of Ireland, as well as the New England Yankee vs. the New England Irish is one of "old-fashioned Capitalism vs. neo-Marxism". Ireland and New England are similar, although the Yankee has long since lost the war in New England. Demography that is!

I'd love to know more about Irish and Scots/Irish demographics in America! I realize this subject is extremely touchy! In the newspapers "40 million" Irish Americans is the number in print...always! How many Scots/Irish? I read in my Orlando Sentinel (the middle of April 1991) that most Americans of Irish descent are Protestant. One would never, ever have guessed that! It seems to me a whole culture has lived in silence for ^{over} two centuries on this soil! With their ownership of tartans, ^{and kilts!} tam O' shanter, the bagpipe, and a great heritage.

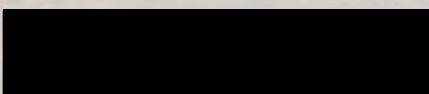
There are a lot of questions I have but think will go unanswered because in our multi-ethnic society some cultures dominate others...least we have a Yugoslavia! This is too bad! More C-SPAN coverage of the demographics of the American of Scots/Irish heritage would be most welcome.

Thanks for a fine "Booknotes"! Your program is so valuable. Brian Lamb knows just what questions to ask, but alas can't do much about the answers...that's O.K....!

Best regards,


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