

Politics in the Republic of Ireland

While Ireland was once perceived as being characterised by conservatism, Catholicism and cultural isolation, by the first decades of the twenty-first century it had become a country of cultural vitality, economic dynamism, and rapid social change. Its politics reflected this new air of liveliness. New patterns of government formation, challenges to the established political parties, ever-deepening if sometimes ambivalent involvement in the process of European integration, and sustained discussion of gender issues were among these developments – along with evidence, revealed by several tribunals of inquiry, that Irish politics was not so free of corruption as many had assumed.

The Celtic Tiger phenomenon in the first years of the new century suggested that Ireland had found a miraculous recipe for rapid and unending economic growth, but the illusory nature of much of that supposed economic expansion was exposed by the crash that occurred in 2008 and the subsequent recession. This prompted a certain amount of questioning of the architecture of the political system: the phrase ‘political reform’ was widely employed in political debate, and even the recovery in the economy from 2014 onwards did not quell the discussion.

The fully revised sixth edition of *Politics in the Republic of Ireland* examines and explores all aspects of Irish politics in these interesting times. It builds on the reputation that the book has established following the publication of the first edition in 1992; since then it has become the standard textbook used for the teaching of Irish politics in universities in Ireland and further afield.

Politics in the Republic of Ireland combines real substance with a highly readable style. It is aimed particularly at undergraduates studying Irish politics, but will meet the needs of all those who are interested in knowing how politics and government operate in Ireland.

John Coakley is a Professor of Politics at Queen’s University Belfast and Fellow of the Geary Institute for Public Policy at University College Dublin.

Michael Gallagher is Head of the Department of Political Science at Trinity College, University of Dublin.

‘Quite simply this is the best introduction to modern Irish politics that has ever been produced. The editors have assembled an impressive cast of the relevant experts on all the expected themes. Now in its sixth edition this book just keeps getting better and better.’

Paul Mitchell, *London School of Economics, UK*

‘*Politics in the Republic of Ireland* is the place to start for an understanding of Irish politics. This lively new up-to-date sixth edition confirms the book’s place at the top of any reading list.’

R. Kenneth Carty, *University of British Columbia, Canada*

‘This is the most comprehensive, authoritative and insightful guide to the Irish political system and the forces which shape it. There is, quite simply, no better textbook on Irish politics. No student or scholar of contemporary Ireland should be without a copy.’

Mary C. Murphy, *University College Cork, Ireland*

Politics in the Republic of Ireland

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Michael Gallagher

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