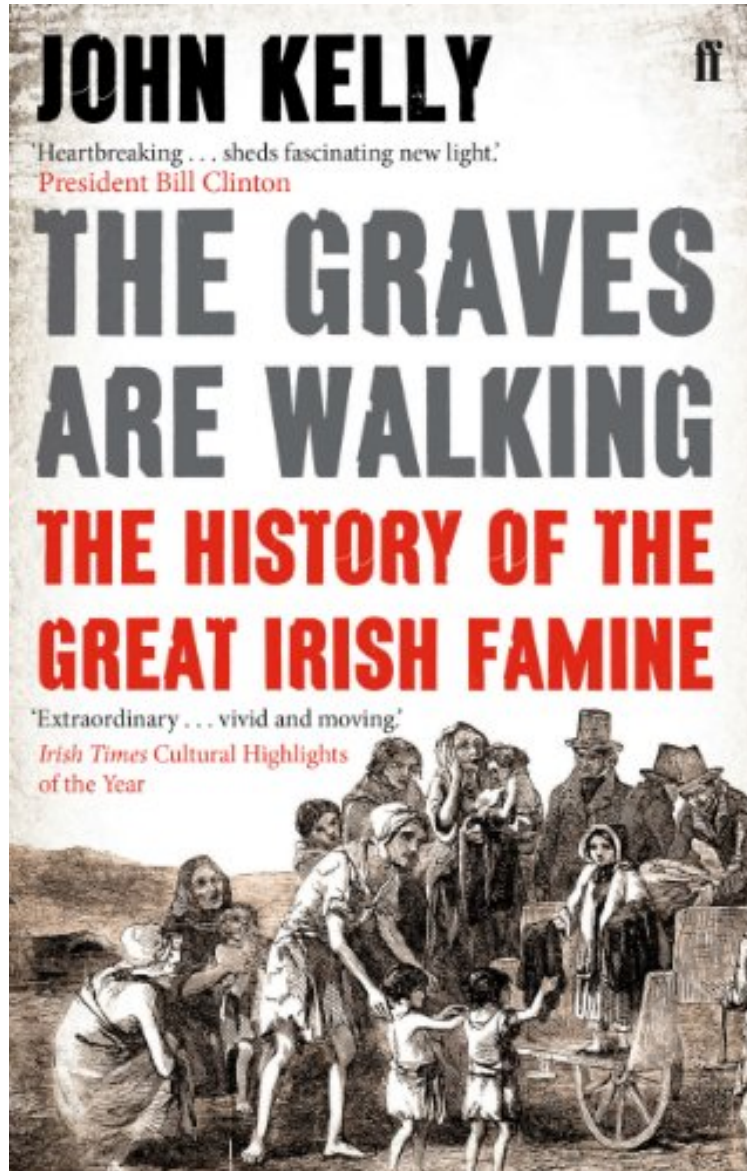


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## The Graves are Walking (English Edition)

Von John Kelly

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**Von John Kelly : The Graves are Walking (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Graves are Walking (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tragisches Thema, aber super geschriebenVon L. P. S.Habe mir dieses Buch nach einem Besuch in Clare County, einem der damaligen Epizentren der Potato Famine in Irland, zugelegt.Das Buch ist teilweise fast wie ein Roman

geschrieben und beschreibt neben der politischen Lage auch persönliche Schicksale von Politikern, Besuchern und irischen Bauern. Insgesamt ein sehr interessantes und spannendes Buch über eine der wahrscheinlich größten humanitären Katastrophen Europas im 19. Jahrhundert. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Trotz der verstrichenen Zeit Von Hendrik Engerein hochinteressantes aber auch verstörendes Buch über eines der schlimmsten Ereignisse der irischen Geschichte....wie würde Irland wohl heute aussehen, wenn neben den vielen Todesfällen nicht auch noch so viele ausgewandert? 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Balanced Study Of The Famine, Its Causes and Effects Von James Gallen "The Graves Are Walking" is another of the current histories of the Potato Famine that places much of the blame on British governmental policy, but this work goes much farther. Author John Kelly shows how a potato blight, opportunistic disease and social policy combined to turn a natural disaster into a deadly famine. From 1845 to 1847 Ireland was transformed from a poor, overcrowded country into a living hell. The blight began on the continent whence it spread to Ireland and Scotland. What made the Irish devastation unique was the dependence of the population on potato cultivation and the lack of industry to soften the economic blow. One thing led to another. People, weakened by famine, succumbed to disease. Driven to despair, those who could chose emigration to escape the horror that surrounded them. By the time it had passed, a majority of the Irish were dead or overseas, in England, the United States, Canada or Australia. This book's particular contribution to famine studies is its focus on the people who influenced the famine and were influenced by it. As is the common saying, God sent the blight, but England made the famine. Kelly corrects the misconception that Ireland remained a net food exporter during the famine and gives credit to those who did provide relief to the suffering. He examines the changing policies of British politicians, most prominently the Prime Ministers, Sir Robert Peel and Lord John Russell and a civil servant, Sir Charles Trevelyan. Policies were influenced by deliberate attempts to reform the Irish economy, prevailing economic theories espoused by Thomas Malthus and Adam Smith, whose invisible hand directed the famine response so as not to disturb food markets, and the belief that the famine was God's punishment for Papists. The greed of the Anglo-Irish aristocracy who evicted their tenants shows that not all of the blame is directed toward England. The last initiatives of The Liberator, Daniel O'Connell, are given ample attention. The story is not as clear as myth would have it. In many cases the shortage was less one of availability than one of payment. Even Indian corn and other foodstuffs that were imported were generally offered for sale, often to people without the means to pay. The relief work projects, through unwise incentives, left the landscape marred by roads to nowhere rather enriched by infrastructure that would have provided the basis for a modern economy. Kelly has crafted a well written book. My only reservation about this work is the frequent detailing of the horrors of the Famine era. While some is sufficient to shock the reader into an appreciation of the extent of the tragedy but, at times, I felt that he had overdone it. "The Graves Are Walking" compels reflection. As much as we resent the Famine England made, would we really want to be the heirs to an overcrowded island of subsistence farmers? Do our ancestors, who we remember and, to some extent idealize, deserve the esteem in which we hold them? When I read about the starving, illiterate and pathetic emigrants I think were Matthew Gallen and Thomas English like that? Did the Maher sister really leave, not the idyllic isle we visit, but a disgusting, filthy village visited by the Angel of Death? When you think about the conditions they left you can understand why the early generations were so anxious to assimilate, and why it took generations for love of and pride in Ireland to rise again. We now think of Ireland's loss as America and Canada's gain, but such was not the view at the time. Our ancestors were real drags on the countries into which they fled. It makes anti-Irish prejudice of the time more understandable and should make us stop when we think about our views of contemporary immigrants. Over all, we of the Diaspora have done pretty well, which suggests that there was real quality beneath the degraded conditions of our forebears. Our cousins whose families stayed have inherited an Ireland that is better suited to compete in the world economy than the one of the 1840s. The price was terrible, but the Irish survived and emerged from the Famine stronger than they entered it. Well, I have mused enough. Read it for yourself, contemplate our people's place in history and draw your own conclusions.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The Irish famine that began in 1845 was one of the nineteenth century's greatest disasters. By its end, the island's population of eight million had shrunk by a third through starvation, disease and emigration. This is a brilliant, compassionate retelling of that awful story for a new generation - the first account for the general reader for many years and a triumphant example of narrative non-fiction at its best. The immediate cause of the famine was a bacterial infection of the potato crop on which too many the Irish poor depended. What turned a natural disaster into a human disaster was the determination of senior British officials to use relief policy as an instrument of nation-building in their oldest and most recalcitrant colony. Well-meaning civil servants were eager to modernise Irish agriculture and to improve the Irish moral character, which was utterly lacking in the virtues of the new age of triumphant capitalism. The result was a relief programme more concerned with fostering change than of saving lives. This is history that resonates powerfully with our own times. *Pressestimmen* "Magisterial...Kelly brings the horror vividly and importantly back to life." --USA Today "A moving account of the famine...Kelly has produced a powerful indictment of the British

mind-set in the nineteenth century, and of the British policy that resulted from it." --The New York Times Book "An accessible, engrossing history of horror...Cogent and forceful." --The Washington Post"An engrossing narrative of the famine, vividly detailing Victorian society and the historical phenomena (natural and man-made) that converged to form the disaster." --The Economist"Though the story of the potato famine has been told before, it's never been as thoroughly reported or as hauntingly told." --New York Post"John Kelly gives heartbreaking detail to the Great Famine that seared itself into the memory of the Irish people, and sheds fascinating new light on the policy decisions that made it even worse. The Graves Are Walking is a cautionary tale for all who would risk calamity--human, economic, or ecological--in the name of scoring an ideological victory." --President Bill Clinton"This fine book is sourced largely from contemporaneous accounts and is thoroughly documented. It is a witheringly bleak portrayal, extraordinarily detailed and gracefully written. Everyone who holds a policy-making position in government today or tomorrow should study this book." --The Washington Independent of Books"Kelly intersperses the nitty gritty of the shifting Irish economic situation with horrific glimpses of its human toll." --Laura Miller, Salon"In humanising the complexities of the Great Famine, John Kelly's emotional history of the time makes for a compelling and heartbreaking read...Kelly doesn't shy away from the kind of vivid descriptions and heightened language more often associated with poetry than historical writing." --The Irish Times"An incredibly well-researched analysis of the Great Famine...The book reads like a novel, making the reality of this particular bit of history all the more haunting." --Shelf Awareness"Mr. Kelly's moving, powerfully narrated account of the tragedy and its aftermath brings it alive in all its horror." --The Washington Times"An upsetting, enlightening, necessary book that deserves multiple, durable audiences [and] stands as a testament to the resilience of a people under some of the greatest duress the world has ever seen." --History News Network"This is a wonderful book about a terrible event. It's also a rare combination of compelling writing, excellent scholarship, and insightful analysis that ranges over the full scope of--and goes beyond--the potato famine itself, from agricultural science, through the English politics that contributed so much to the death toll, to the impact of Irish immigration in America. A truly outstanding book." --John M. Barry, author of *The Great Influenza: The story of the deadliest pandemic in history* and *Roger Williams and the Creation of the American Soul: Church, State, and the Birth of Liberty*"Kelly (*The Great Mortality*) traces a path of misery and devastation as he documents one of the 19th century's worst disasters, a nightmarish six years that left twice as many dead as the American Civil War...[Kelly's] exhaustive research covers every aspect, threading the gruesome events into a huge panoramic tapestry that reveals political greed lurking behind the pestilence." --Publishers Weekly (Starred )"The Graves Are Walking is compelling reading. Once again John Kelly illuminates a dark time, removing it from the shadows of legend and hearsay into the bright light of history. Even among the graves of Irish famine, he finds vivid life." --Richard Rhodes, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Making of the Atomic Bomb* and *John James Audubon: The Making of an American*"John Kelly is one of America's great historians and storytellers. He has a new one out now: the essential *The Graves Are Walking*. It's a brilliantly rendered account of the Great Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s. The prose sizzles with deep intelligence, hard research, and an inspiring compassion for the millions who died of hunger. It was an honor to read such first-rate nonfiction. Highly recommended!" --Douglas Brinkley, author of *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America* and *The Great Deluge: Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast*"I wish more people wrote history like this: fast-paced but carefully documented, lively as a novel but tackling, head on, one of the great human catastrophes of nineteenth-century Europe. Kelly's portrait of a tragedy rooted in a superpower's imperial arrogance has echoes for the world we are still living in today." --Adam Hochschild, author of the New York Times bestseller *To End All Wars*"The Graves Are Walking is an engrossing chronicle of an historic tragedy that forever changed Ireland, Britain, and America. Kelly conveys the rawness of Irish suffering with a powerful intimacy--an entire nation reduced to a single wish: survival." --Amanda Foreman, author of the acclaimed *A World on Fire: an Epic History of Two Nations Divided* and the international bestseller *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire*"John Kelly vividly writes the compelling story of the horror of Ireland's potato famine, with intimate portraits of those who died and those who fled. Most illuminating is how he captures, in devastating detail, British leaders, who, imbued with religious fervor and ideological blinders, decided to use the plague as an occasion to teach the Irish good work habits, responsibility, and to rid them of their dependence on government. An extraordinary book, and a lesson for our times." --Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Senior Advisor to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, founder of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award, and author of *Failing America's Faithful: How Today's Churches Mixed God with Politics and Lost Their Way*"Kelly deftly conveys the enormity of what was at stake. *The Graves Are Walking* seeks accountability for those responsible for the human toll from a shortage of everything--even coffins." --Booklist"Kelly's work is written with the verve of a good novel... his powerfully argued conclusion is that the British were guilty of neglect rather than malice, allowing religion and ideology to overrule their common humanity. ...At the height of the famine, a British official received a report of the latest casualties and scribbled a single word underneath: why? This book provides as good an answer as we are likely to get." --Daily Business Post (Dublin, Ireland)KurzbeschreibungThe Irish famine that began in 1845 was one of the nineteenth century's greatest disasters. 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