Saving the future: how social partnership shaped Ireland's economic success.


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Abstract

As Ireland heads for 21 years of social partnership, new questions are being asked about the role of social partnership in transforming Ireland from an economic basket case to a model of economic development and full employment.

"Saving the Future: How Social Partnership Shaped Ireland's Economic Success" tells the inside story of this unique period through the eyes of the men and women who made it happen. Drawing on new insights from ministers, business leaders, top civil servants and trade union leaders, it charts the background to the first national agreement and the acceptance among these diverse groups of a deceptively simple economic formula and new articles of faith, which brought Ireland back from the economic brink.

It's a book for people who want to fully understand the success of the Irish economy and the contribution of the unique social partnership model to that success. The book does not claim that social partnership was solely responsible for the Irish economic miracle. Rather it...
suggests that it is now part of the fabric of our political, economic and social life and has made a significant contribution to shaping modern Ireland. "Saving the Future" seeks to fill a significant gap in the discourse about our recent economic and social history, which often ignores or downplays the importance of social partnership from the mid-1980s to today.

Written by the leading industrial journalists who tracked the ups and downs of the period, the book describes the most dynamic years of Ireland's economic development through the eyes of those who helped to shape it. The authors uncovered a rich seam of material as they interviewed 40 of the top politicians, business leaders, civil servants, and trade unionists who conceived and developed Irish social partnership. The authors' focus has inevitably been on the economy, especially pay, employment, living standards and industrial relations, but the story of social partnership from the inside, providing insight into key developments and themes that marked the period.

**Item Type:** Book

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