

Ireland's Rental Crisis: Cultural Roots and Future Horizons

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Private Rented Sector Ireland

- New Regulations
- Minimal Impact on Spiralling Rents and Security of Tenure
- Lack of Construction and Sale of Social Housing Stock means tenants crowding into sector



How has our History impacted on our treatment of tenants?

- Long History of Tenant Activism which underpinned Irish nationalism
- We were a society of tenants before we became a society of owners
- Centrality of this activism to Irish nationalism and Foundation of the state



Land League invoked during bank repossession of property

- Irish Farmers Association quick to invoke this history during repossessions
- Not evident to the same extent when tenants are being evicted into homelessness by small private landlords

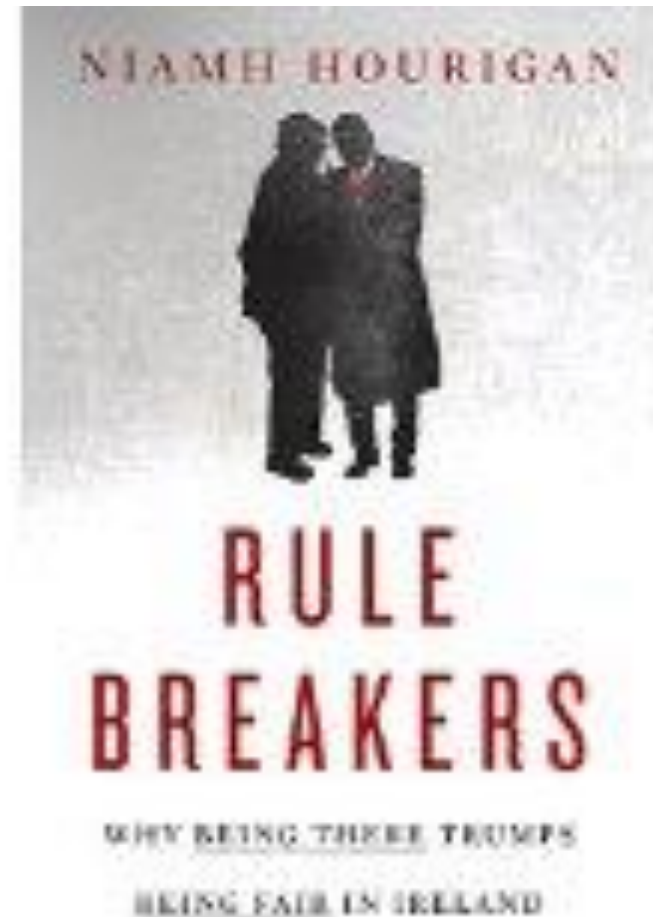


Property As Security – Possessor Principle

The arbitrariness of relations between landlord and farmer, and between farmer and labourer, fortified in the Irish the craving for security natural and normal in an uncertain world. This expressed itself most obviously in an obsessive attachment to land. But this attachment was not fundamentally to land for its own sake, though land could come to inspire an intense emotional identification through acquired family association. Land was equated with security (Lee, 1989:309)

Legacy of Cultural Trauma

- Become cowed and craven
- Become like the oppressor
- Have the owner class begun to ape the oppressor?



Consequences of Failure to Deal with Rental Crisis – Political Polarization?

