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Famine in European History

Edited by **Guido Alfani**

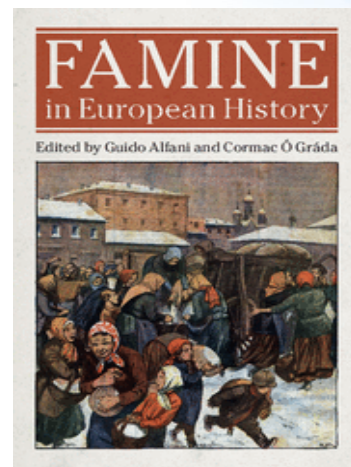
Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi, Milan

and **Cormac Ó Gráda**

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This is the first systematic study of famines in all parts of Europe from the Middle Ages until the present. In case studies ranging from Scandinavia and Italy to Ireland and Russia, leading scholars compare the characteristics, consequences and causes of famine. The famines they describe differ greatly in size, duration and context; in many cases the damage wrought by poor harvests was confounded by war. The roles of human action, malfunctioning markets and poor relief are a recurring theme. The chapters also take full account of demographic, institutional, economic, social and cultural aspects, providing a wealth of new information which is organized and analysed within a comparative framework. *Famine in European History* represents a significant new contribution to demographic history, and will be of interest to all those who want to discover more about famines - truly horrific events which, for centuries, have been a recurring curse for the Europeans.

1. Famines in Europe: an overview; 2. Italy; 3. Spain; 4. France; 5. Germany, Switzerland and Austria; 6. Low Countries; 7. Britain; 8. Ireland; 9. Nordic Europe; 10. Eastern Europe (Russia and the USSR); 11. The European famines of World Wars I and II.



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