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## Proclamation 1625: America's Enslavement of the Irish

*Herbert L. Byrd Jr.*

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**Herbert L. Byrd Jr. : Proclamation 1625: America's Enslavement of the Irish** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Proclamation 1625: America's Enslavement of the Irish:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Overall, It's very interesting!By Big bearThe book reads very much like a textbook or doctoral dissertation, which made reading it very often slow and tedious.1 of 1 people found the

following review helpful. I always read that English prisoners and their poor were brought to the US as indentured servants. However as I began to read this well researched and annotated book, my eyes were opened to the truth. I am so glad that Herbert Byrd wrote this book. I love history and we need the unvarnished truth. I certainly understand having read Proclamation 1625 why this history was hidden in plain sight. Proclamation 1625 upends a lot of what we were taught about slavery in the United States. I urge everyone who loves history and truth to read this book and share the knowledge with others. I guarantee you will be amazed. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps one of the most difficult arguments to make, ...By Customer Perhaps one of the most difficult arguments to make, that the Irish were once slaves, Herbert Byrd's Proclamation 1625 presents the proper documentation to prove it existed despite past and present attempts to deny this historical fact. I've always wondered how and why America's brand of slavery was far more harsh and permanent in comparison to any other kind in the world. This book answers many if not all questions leading to my curiosity and intrigue. The author chronicles a series of acts passed both in England and America that ties economic interests with social policy, that of slavery and legalized racism. He draws parallels between the dehumanizing propaganda aimed at both Irish Catholics and African Americans. With the comparison, the author dispels myths I've always accepted as truth. For example, I assumed that the presence of mulattoes in past American populations was a result of repeated outbreaks of slave masters raping countless enslaved black women. On the contrary, the book offers evidence that the race blending was done so voluntarily out of a reciprocated expression of affection perhaps rooted from the shared Irish and African experience of the atrocities of slavery. Historians in denial have criticized the book insisting that the Irish only came as indentured servants; however, the photographs can't lie as images of period caricatures from newspapers as well as copies of legal documents are plentiful throughout the book. Proclamation 1625 should be a required reading for students of American and World history because it exposes and reveals the origin of a "necessary evil," that through a dynamic evolution reverberates centuries after its emancipation.

When one thinks of slavery in America, the only thought that comes to mind is Africans picking cotton in the fields of America. What many Americans don't know is that the Irish preceded the Africans as slaves in the early British colonies of America and the West Indies. They toiled in the tobacco fields of Virginia and Maryland and the sugar cane fields of Barbados and Jamaica. For over 179 years, the Irish were the primary source of slave labor in the British American colonies. Proclamation 1625 is the unveiling of the true and untold history of slavery in America. King James I's Proclamation ordering the Irish be placed in bondage opened the door to wholesale slavery of Irish men, women and children. This was not indentured servitude but raw, brutal mistreatment that included being beaten to death. The Irish were forced from their land, kidnapped, fastened with heavy iron collars around their necks, chained to 50 other people and held in cargo holds aboard ships as they were transported to the American colonies. During the early colonial period, free European and free African settlers socialized and married. Intermarriages existed in the colonies for over a hundred years until the birth and evolution of white racism. The Irish and African slaves were housed together and were forced to mate to provide the plantation owners with the additional slaves they needed. The British abolished slavery in 1833. This act emancipated the Irish slaves in the British West Indies. America abolished slavery in 1865. None of this freed the Irish to the degree they wanted because America had classified them as 'colored' and treated them accordingly. It was only after the ruling class accepted them as 'white' that they could finally say: "I'm free, white and 21." Proclamation 1625 is for those who want to know the true and untold history of slavery in America.