

Faculti Summary

<https://faculti.net/the-first-irish-diaspora-in-the-age-of-the-bourbon-reforms-imperial-translation-political-economy-slavery-1713-1804/>

This video summarizes a research study derived from a dissertation focused on the presence of Irish surnames in colonial Latin American historiography. The study aims to investigate the significance of the Irish diaspora in the Spanish Empire, a topic that has received limited attention despite the extensive study of the Irish diaspora in other contexts.

The research notes that previous studies have mostly concentrated on individual cases or specific locations rather than synthesizing the broader historical implications of the Irish diaspora. The context of the Irish diaspora is framed within the backdrop of English conquest and the subsequent dispossession and exile of the Irish people, particularly from the late 16th century onward.

Significantly, the text discusses how the Milian myth, asserting Irish descent from Spaniards, helped facilitate the integration of the Irish into the Spanish Empire. After the Nine Years War (1594-1603), Irish migration began to increase in significance, albeit in a marginal capacity within Spanish society, until the political shifts caused by the War of the Spanish Succession opened up new opportunities for Irish exiles.

A notable point is the involvement of Irish individuals, such as Ricardo O'Farrell, in the sugar plantation economy in Cuba, highlighting their roles in the slave trade and subsequently the development of sugar production techniques in the region.

The conclusions drawn suggest that the Irish diaspora has a broader chronology and geography than previously recognized, emphasizing the need to understand the complexities of the Irish experience beyond the confines of British imperial narratives. The study posits that Irish individuals participated in the transnational and trans-European dynamics of global economies and empires, including the wider context of slavery and colonialism.