

off the fence.

Cromwell: God's Executioner

2 x 60'

EPISODIC BREAKDOWN

1. Episode 1

In this first episode, we explore the historical context of 17th century Ireland and introduce the main players in the conflict, including Cromwell and his adversaries.

With contributions from US experts Scott Wheeler and Jerrold Casway, we explore the parallels between the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland and the American Revolutionary War, and assess comparisons with warfare in the 21st century. The episode climaxes with the death of Owen Roe O'Neill, leader of the Ulster Catholic army. Who now can stand against Cromwell?

2. Episode 2

As Episode 2 opens, we see Cromwell's army unexpectedly begin to founder. He fails to take two key strategic positions, and reaches a low point in the teeming rain of the winter of 1649, with his army reduced by disease and bad weather. But in the spring of 1650 he renews his campaign. He captures important towns like Kilkenny and Cashel, but meets his nemesis at Clonmel, where 2,000 of his troops are wiped out by Owen Roe O'Neill's nephew, Hugh Dubh O'Neill. Can the Irish prevail?

We examine the end of the campaign, the fate of O'Neill and other protagonists, and the bitter aftermath of dispossession. We end with an exploration of Cromwell's legacy and its wider significance in the United States today.