

TOWARD THE CELTIC TIGER:
INTEGRATION AND POLICYMAKING
IN IRELAND'S RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Sean Buchanan

Dr. Kerby Miller, Thesis Supervisor

ABSTRACT

This work explores and analyzes the foundations and causes behind Ireland's recent economic development with an emphasis on the role of larger macroeconomic forces, such as globalization, and how these affected policy decisions on the part of the Irish government. I argue that previous historians and economists have fallen short in their analysis by failing to merge these two processes into one complete methodological framework. Rather, scholars have fallen into two separate ideological frameworks that emphasize either delayed-convergence theory (with an emphasis on policymaking) or regional-boom theory (with an emphasis on macroeconomic forces). I propose that these two models worked in conjunction and influenced each other, creating the Irish economic model that developed over the last fifty years. Particular topics that are explored in this work include the effect of foreign direct investment (FDI), the processes of Europeanization and globalization, and Ireland's recent economic miracle known as the Celtic Tiger.