

An Irish History of Civilization - Volume Two by Don Akenson.  
Granta 2006.

This is the companion volume to Professor Akenson's previous tour de force which took the story of Irish civilisation up to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Volume two starts in 1845 and ends in the late 1960s.

By definition of its period it covers some of the most significant events in Irish history not least the great famine and the launch of the huge Irish diaspora, notably in the United States of America.

Akenson, as previously, presents his history in vignettes with a verve, humour and original style that is quintessentially quirky, and Irish, and is at all times a joy to read.

The style also makes the book very difficult to review in detail!!

However, having read and enjoyed the first volume I can state unequivocally that volume two is even better: those who love the Irish, as do I, will love this book, and all who are attracted by the field of history but are open-minded enough to handle a unique approach to it will find it a source of almost unlimited treasure.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh