

Enough is Enough – How to Build a New Republic by Fintan O'Toole.
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In his previous book, *Ship of Fools*, Fintan O'Toole eviscerated the principal culprits in Ireland's disastrous slide from boom to bust; politicians, bankers, developers all were grist to his mill. His style was superb, his humour devastating, his anger palpable.

In *Enough is Enough* O'Toole evinces a darker tone, mirroring perfectly the despair, depression and frustration of many of his fellow citizens, but whereas his purpose in *Ship of Fools* was to excoriate the guilty, now he turns his mind to a restructuring of the Republic as a means to the end of making it better governed and better equipped to handle the challenges of the twenty first century.

Following an introduction, the book is divided into two parts: the first, *Five Myths*, looking at five areas – Republic, Representation, Parliamentary Democracy, Charity and Wealth, wherein he believes lie the cause of Ireland's current ruin. In the second, *Five Decencies*, O'Toole turns his attention to what Ireland needs to rebuild itself and take its place in Europe – Security, Health, Education, Equality and Citizenship. To conclude, in an appendix, the author lists fifty *Ideas for Action*, which he believes, will aid the Irish and Ireland on their journey back from the self-induced knife-edge of catastrophe.

As befits the current state of the Irish economy and the current state of mind of the Irish people, this is a book with a most serious intent, though this does not mean it is without verve and humour, of both of which, there is plenty.

Enough is Enough further suggests that Fintan O'Toole has become the Irish commentator of choice, indeed were he a UK citizen he would already have a seat in the House of Lords and a place at the Cabinet Table!

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh