

**IRISH TIMES, Jimmy Cagney's IRISH History Lesson.  
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['You can be anything in Ireland now, except English'](#),

**A** superb and stimulating article as the tortured 800 year history of Irish-English relations erupts in today's Brexit deliberations. Jimmy Cagney provided an IRISH HISTORY LESSON in his poem written in 1959 after making the film: Shake Hands with the Devil in Dublin:

The men of Tyrone and all the six counties  
(Intransigent seems to describe them)  
Supply all the bounties from all of those counties  
So England continues to bribe them.

Elizabeth I, the queen called virgin,  
Set up the haves and have-nots  
By usurping the lands of the old Irish clans  
And gave them to Anglos and Scots.

Essex and Raleigh and Cromwell,  
All Englishmen of distinction,  
Had an overall plan for the old Irish clans  
And the overall plan was extinction.

So you want us to take them to our hearts  
And treat them as brother to brother.  
A poor foolish dream and futile, my friend,  
For they're not Irish, they're "other"