Scotland and Ireland are close neighbours that share common features in their physical environments and evolutionary history. Both located on the Atlantic periphery of Europe, they share the struggles and opportunities this location confers. This book was published in 1994 when major changes in rural land use were put in place by the European Community, and marks a fruitful exchange of information. The investigations are reported in paired papers by a panel of Scottish and Irish contributors from geographical and ethnographic sciences. Irish and Scottish land is still used predominantly for agriculture, although its use for forestry, recreation and conservation is increasing. This study traces the interaction of various factors that have influenced present-day land use in the two countries, as well as identifying emerging trends that will assume greater economic and social importance in the years ahead.
Alexander Fenton

Professor Emeritus Alexander Fenton CBE (â ) was an ethnologist and author of many books and articles on Scottish country life. He served as Senior Assistant Editor of the Scottish National Dictionary, and was Director of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, of the School of Scottish Studies of the University of Edinburgh, and of the European Ethnological Research Centre, for which he was also a consultant. He was co-editor of Rural Land Use on the Atlantic Periphery of Europe: Scotland and Ireland (1994).

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Desmond Gillmor is a Fellow Emeritus in Geography at Trinity College Dublin. His research interests are general economic geography, with specialisation in agriculture and other primary activities, resource use, rural geography and tourism. Professor Gillmor is co-editor of Rural Land Use on the Atlantic Periphery of Europe: Scotland and Ireland (1994).

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Ireland: Ireland, country of western Europe occupying five-sixths of the westernmost major island of the British Isles. The country is noted for a rich heritage of culture and tradition that was linked initially to the Gaelic language. Its capital city is Dublin.