

TITLE: Created to be conquered: Gerald of Wales' construction of a foundational myth for Ireland.

Abstract:

In Book three of his *Topographia Hibernica*, Gerald of Wales tries to establish a foundational narrative for Ireland spanning from before the Biblical Flood to the Britons. Through splitting this up in different phases of conquest rather than a continuous story, I argue that this is intended to support the Anglo-Norman Conquest of Ireland, and is a precursor to his later description of this campaign. This paper aims to look at the six independent colonializations of the Irish Island, and determine Gerald's intentions in their inclusions and his ultimate goal in creating such an origin legend for an island he was trying to justify the conquest of.