

# Colony

## Damien Dempsey

I sing the song of the colony  
How many years and you're still not free  
And your mother cries and you ask god why  
Greed is the knife and the scars run deep  
How many races with much reason to weep  
And your children cry  
And you ask god why

Annie, she came from Dunlavin Town  
The TB came and killed her family all around  
Population booms  
Eleven in two rooms  
Katie she came from down Townsend street  
Ten in a bed and no shoes on their feet  
1916 came  
They played the patriots game  
Freddy, he came from the Iveagh flats  
Tenement slums and infested with rats  
Sleeping on damp straw  
Trying not to break the law  
Thomas, he came from Kilmaine in Mayo  
Semi starvation was the only life you'd know  
In a two room shack  
Then jailed in Letterfrack

I look to the east, I look to the west  
To the north and the south, and I'm not too impressed  
Time after time  
After crime after crime  
They raped, robbed, pillaged, enslaved and murdered  
Jesus Christ was their god and they done it in his name  
So he could take the blame if it's not all a game  
With bible in one hand and a sword in the other  
They came to purify my land of my Gaelic Irish mothers  
And fathers, and sisters and brothers  
With our own ancient customs, laws, music, art  
Way of life and culture  
Tribal in structure  
We had a civilisation

When they were still neanderthal nations  
We suffer with the Native American, the Indian in Asia  
Aboriginal Australia  
The African people with their history so deep  
And our children still weep and our lives are still cheap  
You came from Germany, from France, from England  
And from Spain  
From Belgium and from Portugal  
You all done much the same

You took what was not yours  
Went against your own bible  
You broke your own laws  
Just to out do the rival  
But did you ever apologize  
For the hundreds and millions of lives  
You destroyed and terrorised  
Or have you never realized  
Did you never feel shame  
For what was done in your country's name  
And find out who's to blame and why they were so inhumane  
And still they teach you in your school  
About those glorious days of rule  
And how it's your destiny to be  
Superior to me  
But if you've any kind of mind  
You'll see that all human kind  
Are the children of this earth  
And your hate for them will chew you up and spit you out

You'll never kill our will to be free, to be free  
You'll never kill our will to be free, to be free  
You'll never kill our will to be free, to be free  
Inside our minds we hold, hold the key

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Lyrics submitted by gabriel cullen.

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