

A CHRONOLOGY OF IRISH HISTORY

6000 BC--first people: wanderers and hunters come to Ire.

--later people left dolmenso cairns, & pa~sage graves

200 BC--Celts arrive from Eur. & north. Britain (lasted 1000 yrs.)

--Celtic Ire. divided into 150 small kingdoms

--pre-literate people who put great stock in oral arts

--poets were powerful figure~ who pre~erved communal lore & identity

432 or 462--St. Patrick comes to Ire. & spreads Christianity

600--Christian monasteries all throughout Ire.

795--Vikings (Norse) invade Ire.

840--Norse found Dublin

1014--**Brian Boru** defeats Norse in Battle of Clontarf

1152--Dermot MacMurrough steals Teirnan O'Rourke's wife

1154--papal bull issued by Eng. pope (Adrian IV) granted overlordship of Ire to Henry II & his heirs; this is Eng's claim to ownership & sovereignty over Ire.

1166--O'Rourke destroys MacMurrough's town; latter asks help of Eng's Henry who dispatches Normans to Ire.; they take over, mostly in east

1171--Henry II goes to Ire. to establish overlordship

1318--Eng. influence diminished briefly to small district around Dublin know as the Pale

1541--Henry VIII declares himself King of Ire.

1580s--Elizabeth I tries to subdue Irish

1600--Presbyterians settle in No. Ire. as farmers, make Belfast from a swamp

1603 or 1606--**Hugh O'Neill** and O'Donnell, Irish leaders, defeated & his family flees country (**Flight of the Earls**) rather than serve under Britain; James I repopulates Ulster w/ Eng. & Scots, thus introducing new way of life = **plantation system**

1641--Peasant Uprising put down by Cromwellian forces & led to profound hatred of Catholics for presumed atrocities against Protestants

--Roman Catholics own 59% of land

1649--Cromwell attacks Ire. for loyalty to Charles I in Civil War; massacre at Drogheda, nearly 3,000 civilians slaughtered

1652-53--confiscation of lands & new aristocracy of Eng. soldiers & men of fortune established

1688--"Glorious Revolution" displaced James II & he came to Ire.

--Roman Catholics owned 22% of land

1690--**Battle of the Boyne**: William III defeats James, who flees to France

1691--Irish insurgents defeated at **Aughrim**; insurgents flee Ire. ("**Flight of the Wild Geese**") to become soldiers of fortune

--Ire. now a colony of Eng.

--Treaty of Limerick

1692--Catholics excluded from Irish Parliament

1695--**Penal Laws**: Catholic bishops exiled; Catholics excluded from government, army, & law; Catholics could not own weapons & their property was divided among sons at death; Catholics had almost no civil rights; tenant farm system almost fully established

1703--Roman Catholics won 14% of land

1750--Roman Catholics own 7% of land

1798--**Wolfe Tone's United Irishmen** rebel w/ French against Eng.; Tone jailed & commits suicide; 25,000-50,000 killed after insurrection is put down

1801--**Act of Union** = Ire. joins United Kingdom

1803--**Robert. Emmett's** rebellion against Act of Union

1823--**Daniel O'Connell**, "The Great Liberator" pushes for Catholic vote

1828--O'Connell voted to Eng. Parliament

1829--Catholic emancipation passed at Westminster

1842--**Thomas Davis's The Nation** published by **Young Ireland** movement, which wanted to repeal Act of Union

1845-51--Great Famine, failure of potato crop which eventually leads to death or emigration of 1 out of 4 people; watershed in Irish history; an end & a beginning

1848--uprising of Young Irelanders against Act of Union

1849--1000 people, 1/6 of population, are beggars

1858--James Stephens & Thomas Clarke Luby found Irish Republican Brotherhood

1867--IRB uprising fails

1870--Isaac Butt's **Home Rule** movement founded & Gladstone introduces tenant & tithe reforms Land Act

1879--ex-IRB Michael Davitt's **Land League** founded & Land Acts grant farmers "3 F's"; Fixity of Tenure, Fair Rents & rights of Free Sale

1881--Gladstone's 2nd Land Act & slowly began transformation of land ownership

1886--Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, developed w/ **Charles Stewart Parnell**, defeated & Gladstone ousted from office

1891--Parnell driven from office for Kitty O'Shea scandal; dies at age 45

1905--**Arthur Griffith** founds **Sinn Fein** ("Ourselves Alone") party as alternative to Parnell's powerless Irish Party; Griffith becomes central spokesman for republicanism

--IRB resurrected & dedicated to armed revolution

1914--Home Rule enacted but Ulster retained in UK

1916--April 24, **Easter Uprising** (over suspended Home Rule); leaders captured & executed which has massive propaganda value for Irish

1918--Irish Party, Sinn Fein, & Labor Party combine into Sinn Fein

1919--Sinn Fein deputies hold first session of Dail (Irish Parliament) unrecognized by England
--Black & Tans organized as police force comprised of unemployed, ex-British military

1920--George V institutes Govt. of Ire. Act which separates north as a single political entity

opposed to the South

1921--treaty signed setting up an Irish Free State as a self-governing dominion of British Empire & which pledged faith to the crown, assumed part of crown's debts

1922--**Irish Civil War**, certain factions oppose Daile's acceptance of Ire. Act

1923--**Eamon de Valera** forms **Fianna Fail Party** ("Warriors of Destiny") who would use Free State Dail but not recognize it as true legal body of Republic & refused British oath of allegiance

1936-IRA outlawed

1937-- de Valera govt. produces new constitution which virtually writes out vestiges of British influence; the Free State becomes Eire; still part of British Commonwealth but very loose connection

1949--**Irish Republic** proclaimed; withdrew from Commonwealth & claimed jurisdiction over 6 Ulster counties (though nothing has come of this claim)