

IRELAND DOCS 1



SIGNIFICANT DATES

- 17th Century Elizabeth and James I settled plantations in the North with success, usually with English owners and Scots settlers.
- 1649 Cromwell "subdues" Ireland - massacres of Drogheda and Wexford.
- 12 Jul 1690 Battle of the Boyne - James II defeated by William of Orange. Protestant ascendancy established.
- June 1798 Wolfe Tone and the United Irishmen inspired by French ideas foster revolution.
- 1800 Pitt determined to control Ireland more effectively and with a mixture of bribes and threats; Act of Union.
- 1846 Potatoes fail as a crop. Non-payment of rents, evictions, emmigration, Boycotting and bitterness.
- 1886 Gladstone's Home Rule Bill wrecked on the rock of the Charles Stuart Parnell and Mrs O'Shea divorce. Lord Randolph Churchill commits the Conservatives to the "Orange" cause.
- 1913 Ulster Volunteer Force formed and acquires arms open drilling alarms the South, and the Liberal Govt.
- 1914 Irish Republican Army (Brotherhood) gained significance with the growth of the UVF - arms imported.
The First World War Popular with all parties. Ulstermen volunteered to fight for the Empire; the rest of Ireland to fight for Catholic Belgium.
Government of Ireland Act suspended.
- 1916 The Easter Rising - Dublin GPO - unpopular until the execution of Sir Roger Casement.
- 1918 Sinn Fein ignores Parliamentary elections, holds it's own Dail in Dublin. Royal Irish Constabulary unable to hold the situation in the South - special unit formed - Black and Tans.
- 1918 - 1920 Called the "Anglo-Irish" War by Republicans
Burning of centre of Cork by the Black & Tans removed support in Liberal Party for Govt Policy.
- 1920 Govt of Ireland Act - two Parliaments; Stormont and the Dail - Irish Free State.
Irish Republican Brotherhood continues war against the Treaty, largely over the partition issue.
- 1922 The Dublin Dail ratifies the Treaty.
- 1927 Fianna Fail enters the Dail as constitutional party.
- 1932 Fianna Fail forms a coalition Government.
- 1939-45 The Republic of Ireland remains neutral.
- 1948 The Republic of Ireland Act - outside Commonwealth.
- 1956-62 IRA Border Campaign
- 1969 Civil Right March at Derry attacked by 'B' Specials
- 1972 January Bloody Sunday - 13 killed by Security Forces. Derry.
July Bloody Friday - Belfast: IRA kill 11 injure 130.
March Stormont Govt suspended; Wm Whitelaw Sec State for NI.

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THE ORANGE ORDER

Founded at Benburb by James Wilson, a Presbyterian farmer in Co Tyrone 1793. Extended to a Federated system in 1795. Parade every 12 July to commemorate the Victory of King William over James II at the battle of the Boyne.

"We also associate in honour of King William III, Prince of Orange, whose name we bear, as supporters of his glorious memory, and the true religion by him completely established; and in order to prove our gratitude and affection for his name, we will annually celebrate the victory over James at the Boyne on the 1st day of July in every year, which day shall be our grand day for everr"

Popular manifestations tend to be strongly anti-Catholic. An example of an early 19th century oath, repeated today, not necessarily with serious meaning: The Orange Toast -

"To the glorious, pious and Immortal Memory of King William III, who saved us from Rogues and Roguery, Slaves and Slavery, Knaves and Knavery, Popes and Popery, from brass money and wooden shoes; and whoever denies this Toast may he be slammed, crammed and jammed into the muzzle of the great gun of Athlone, and the gun fired into the Pope's belly, and the Pope into the Devil's belly, and the Devil into Hell, and the door locked and the key in an Orangeman's pocket."

Exploitation of Orange sentiment by Tory politicians revealed in Lord Randolph Churchill's letter to Lord Fitzgibbon February 1886.

"I decided some time ago that if the G.O.M. (Grand Old Man = Gladstone) went for Home Rule, the Orange card would be the one to play. Please God it may turn out the ace of trumps and not the two."

Most Unionists politicians have been members of the Orange Order; though some have felt like Mr Richard Ferguson, who late in 1969 announced "in the interests of moderation" that he was resigning from the Loyal Orange Order. In January 1970 following repeated threats on his life, he resigned from Stormont.

REPUBLICANISM

Origins in armed resistance to the Act of Union 1800. The Young Irelanders movement of 1848, and the Fenians of 1867. Fears of the resistance of Carson's followers to Home Rule, and other uses they might make of their arms, lead to the growth of the Irish Republican Brotherhood

Original Irish Republican Brotherhood Oath; included a Constitution -

- "1. The Supreme Council of the IRB is declared to be the sole Government of the Irish Republic.
2. The President of the IRB shall be in law and in fact the President of the Irish Republic.
3. The Supreme Council being the sole Government of the Irish Republic retains the right to make treaties and declare war, and negotiate terms of peace."

The 'Declaration of the Republic' drawn up by Pearse and Connolly and read outside the General Post Office Easter 1916.

"The Provisional Government
of the
IRISH REPUBLIC

To the people of Ireland

Irishmen and Irishwomen: In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible ...

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities for all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past...

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline, and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

Thomas J. Clarke

Sean MacDiarmada
PH Pearse
James Connolly

Thomas MacDonagh
Eamonn Ceannt
Joseph Plunkett "

ENTRENCHED ATTITUDES

Sir Basil Brooke: Minister of Agriculture (NI) later Premier
Speech in 1933.

"There are a great number of Protestants and Orangemen who employ Roman Catholics. I fell I can speak freely on this subject as I have not a Roman Catholic about my place ... I would appeal to Loyalists, therefore, wherever possible, to employ good Protestant lads and lassies."

And His Statement issued in 1934:

"Thinking out the whole question carefully ... I recommend those people who are loyalists not to employ Roman Catholics, ninety nine per cent of whom are disloyal ... I want you to remember one point in regard to the employment of people who are disloyal ... If you don't act properly now, before we know where we are we shall find ourselves in the minority instead of the majority."

The Fianna Fail Government's amendment to the Constitution 1937:

Article 44.1.2.

"The State recognizes the special position of the Holy Catholic Apostolic and Roman Church as the guardian of the Faith professed by the great majority of the citizens."
(This Article was revoked in 197)

41.3.2.

"No law shall be enacted providing for the grant of a dissolution of marriage."

Captain Terence O'Neill - speech May 1969

"It is frightfully hard to explain to Protestants that if you give Roman Catholics a good job and a good house, they will live like Protestants, because they will see neighbours with cars and television sets.

They will refuse to have eighteen children, but if a Roman Catholic is jobless, and lives in the most gastly hovel, he will rear eighteen children on National Assistance.

If you treat Roman Catholics with due consideration and kindness they will live like Protestants in spite of the authoritative nature of their Church".

Disturbances in Northern Ireland: Report of the Commission
appointed by the Governor of Northern Ireland - 1969
(Cameron Commission Report).

"We have to record with regret that our investigations have led us to the unhesitating conclusion that on the night of 4th/5th January a number of policemen were guilty of misconduct which involved assault and battery, malicious damage to property in streets in the predominantly Catholic Bogside area giving reasonable cause for apprehension of personal injury among other innocent inhabitants, and the use of provocative sectarian and political slogans. ... we are afraid that not only do we find these allegations of misconduct are substantiated, but that for such conduct among members of a disciplined and well-led force there can be no acceptable justification or excuse."

Mr Jack Lynch - Prime Minister of Irish Republic - July 1970

"I very much regret the injuries suffered by British soldiers during the course of the duties imposed on them in the north of Ireland; these young British boys find themselves in a situation which must seem to them inexplicable."

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SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER READING

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| Two Centuries of Irish History Edited: J Hawthorne BBC Publications 1966 + | Excellent series of essays on important events in Irish History |
| Curragh Incident Sir James Fergusson Faber 1964 | Interesting in the attitudes it reveals within the establishment during the 1914 Irish Crisis. |
| Ireland DeVere White Thames & Hudson 1968 | Good general background of culture and history. |
| To Take Arms Maria McGuire Macmillan 1970 | A revealing glimpse of the life-style and motivation of the Provisional IRA. |
| The IRA Tim Pat Coogan Praeger Publications 1970 | Well informed though critical look at the IRA throughout it's history. |
| Northern Ireland 50 Year of Self Government Martin Wallace David & Charles 1971 | Provides the necessary background on the Constitutional details of the Stormont system. |
| Towards a New Ireland Garret Fitzgerald Knight & Co 1972 | A sympathetic look at divided Ireland, tries to understand the fears of the Northern Protestant |
| Church & State in Modern Ireland JH Whyte Gill & Macmillan | Detailed examination the role of the RC Church in the Republic. |
| Divided Ulster Liam de Paor Pelican Books 1971 Ed. | Well written and comprehensive guide to Northern Ireland's troubles - historical background good with Republican sympathies. |