"Romantic Ireland is dead and gone," declared the poet William Butler Yeats. But Yeats was premature in writing this obituary. Romantic Ireland, like Mark Twain, might well respond that the reports of its death have been greatly exaggerated. And indeed, they have been, for the ideal of a free and independent Irish nation, nurtured by the countless patriot men and women who rebelled against British rule in 1798, 1848, 1867, and 1916, remains alive and well in Ireland today.

In this course we will examine the historical development of this ideal of Romantic Ireland and its attendant handmaidens, Revolution and Nationalism, from its infancy in the eighteenth century through its maturity today. Irish patriots have tended to regard revolutionary republicanism as a phoenix, the mythical bird which emerges renewed with youthful vigor from the ashes of its own funeral pyre. "Out of the graves of patriot men and women," declared the celebrated rebel Patrick Pearse, "spring living nations."

It is this cult of the dead which has made every failure an inspiration to subsequent patriot rebels, providing even more sacrificial victims to the altar of an independent Irish republic. It was this tradition which succeeded in 1921-2 in securing the independence of twenty-six of Ireland's thirty-two counties. The fourth green field, the six-county northern slate, still eludes the revolutionary republicans.

The revolutionary tradition of 1798, 1848, 1867, 1916, and of the Provisional Irish Republican Army today is only half the story of Romantic Ireland's quest for liberation. A succession of constitutional nationalists have denounced violence as a means of overthrowing British rule. And they too can point to successes as well as failures. Nevertheless, the record of achievement favors the men of violence, not the men of peace. Every major concession extracted from a reluctant Britain was secured by Irish violence or the threat of it, a conclusion which strongly enforces the persistency of the IRA in today's struggle. If history tells them anything, it is that they will in time prevail.

But the persistence of discontent and division in Ireland cannot be laid solely at the feet of the unresolved national question. Social and economic problems continue to vex modern Ireland as they have in the past. Most of the time social and economic protest has been subsumed within the nationalist juggernaut. Nevertheless, such protest requires our attention.

Lastly we shall examine how the course of Irish history has determined not only the content of the current "troubles" in the North, but also the nature of politics and society in the South today. As Yeats asked, was it:

"For this that all the blood was shed,
For this Edward Fitzgerald died,
And Robert Emmet and Wolfe Tone
All that delirium of the brave."
Written assignments and exams

There will be a mid-term take-home exam (approximately 750-1,000 words or 3-4 double-spaced typed pages) due on Monday, June 30. The final exam will be held on the last day of class, July 10.

Required Readings


Dervla Murphy. A Place Apart

Gearoid O Tuathaigh

Alan J. Ward. The Easter Rising: Revolution and Irish Nationalism

General Course Outline

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Hurst, Michael, **Parnell and Irish Nationalism.** London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1968.


Inglis, Brian, **Roger Casement.** New York: Harcourt Brace Javanovich, 1974


* ______, **Ireland since the Famine:** New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971.


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*Paperback
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY OF IRISH HISTORY

Synopsis

I. Before 1800

II. Since 1800
   a. Politics, 1800-1914
   b. Politics since 1914
   c. Economic, Social, and Cultural History

III. Two Textbooks

I. Before 1800


Lydon, J.F., The Lordship of Ireland in the Middle Ages. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1972. No other book attempting to deal with medieval Ireland has similar breadth and scope; yet mainly a work of interpretation rather than description.


Moody, T.W., F.X. Martin, and F.J. Byrne, eds., A New History of Ireland, Vol. III: Early Modern Ireland, 1534-1891. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1976. Much of what is known, and worth knowing, about early modern Ireland can be found in this rich volume, the first to appear in a grand project of collective scholarly labor. All major aspects of the history of the period are treated, each by an expert.
Nicholls, K.W., Gaelic and Gaelicized Ireland in the Middle Ages. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1972. The first coherent account of the society, laws, and institutions that lay beyond the reach of the Dublin government; a work of considerable erudition in a neglected field.


II. Since 1800

a. Politics, 1800-1914


b. Politics since 1914


Whyte, J.H., Church and State in Modern Ireland, 1923-79. 2nd ed. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1984. The classic work on the political influence of the Catholic church; takes the measure of the church's power without exaggerating it, as numerous writers have done.

c. Economic, Social, and Cultural History


Connolly, S.J., Priests and People in Pre-Famine Ireland, 1780-1845. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1982. The most important book in Irish ecclesiastical history in many years; shows how wide was the cultural gulf between the Catholic clergy and their often nominal parishioners; also shows that sexual repression was not a characteristic of pre-Famine society.


Donnelly, J.S., Jr., The Land and the People of Nineteenth-Century Cork: The Rural Economy and the Land Question. London and Boston: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1975. Prize-winning study of the transformation in Irish agriculture and rural social relations, as seen from the perspective of Ireland's largest county; revises long-established views about the mercenary character of Irish landlordism after 1850.


III. Two Textbooks

Ó Tuathaigh, Gearóid, Ireland before the Famine, 1798-1848. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1972. By far the most comprehensive and reliable general work on early nineteenth-century Ireland; suitable for the specialist and nonspecialist alike.

Lyons, F.S.L., Ireland since the Famine. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971. The magisterial work of a great historian; better for political and cultural than for social and economic history, but offering more solid fare than any five competitors.