

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Semester I, 2004-2005

History 365 REVOLUTION AND NATIONALISM IN IRELAND
1780 TO THE PRESENT

Prof. James Donnelly

TA: Catherine Plum

COURSE DESCRIPTION

"Life springs from death," cried a famous Irish rebel in 1915, "and from the graves of patriot men and women spring living nations." The British, he continued, "have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Since the 1790s Irish revolutionary nationalism has drawn much of its strength from this cult of the dead celebrated by Patrick Pearse in 1915. The Irish revolutionary tradition, however, was long denied its goal. Time after time, revolutionary republicanism either failed to arouse mass support, as in 1848, 1867, and 1916, or having done so, as in 1798, was crushed nevertheless. One of our objectives in this course will be to understand the reasons for these repeated defeats. But it was a central aspect of Irish nationalism that even the so-called constitutional nationalists, who rejected violence as the means of overthrowing British rule, were not without sympathy for the revolutionary tradition. We shall therefore be concerned to examine the succession of constitutional nationalist movements not only in their own right but also with an eye to the influence which the revolutionary tradition exercised over them. Finally, we will explore why it was that southern Ireland owed the degree of independence which it achieved in 1921-22 not to the constitutional variety of nationalism, dominant as it usually was, but rather to the violent revolutionary tradition. No doubt the triumph of 1921-22 was incomplete, but it was still substantial. The lesson of this triumph after repeated defeat is one of the things that gave such desperate courage and determination to the Provisional I.R.A. from the late 1960s to the late 1990s, when at last the Belfast Agreement of 1998 fundamentally transformed the politics of Northern Ireland.

LECTURES

Lectures two days per week (TR, 11-12:15), supplemented by weekly discussion meetings and/or audio-visual presentations, including films, slides, and music.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

Besides a final exam, there will be either one or two hour exams, depending upon the decision of the students during the first week of class.

REQUIRED READINGS

Boyce, D. George, Nationalism in Ireland (Routledge paperback). **This is our textbook.**

Hart, Peter, The I.R.A. and Its Enemies: Violence and Community in Cork, 1916-1923 (Oxford University Press paperback).

Jackson, Alvin, Irish Home Rule, 1800-2000 (Oxford University Press hardcover).

Moloney, Ed, A Secret History of the IRA (Penguin/Allen Lane paperback).

Tillyard, Stella, Citizen Lord: Edward Fitzgerald, 1763-1798 (Ferrar, Strauss, and Giroux paperback)

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading</u>
9/2-9/10	1. Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Ireland	Boyce
9/13-9/17	2. Protestant Nationalism and the United Irishmen	Boyce; Tillyard
9/20-9/24	3. The Rebellion of 1798 and the Union	Boyce; Tillyard
9/27-10/1	4. Catholic Emancipation, Repeal, and the Famine	Boyce; Jackson
10/4-10/8	5. Famine "Memory" and Fenianism	Boyce; Jackson
10/11-10/15	6. The Home Rule Movement under Butt and Parnell	Boyce; Jackson
10/18-10/22	7. The Land War, 1879-1903	Boyce; Jackson
10/25-10/29 Jackson;	8. The "Irishing" of Ireland: the Gaelic League, the Gaelic Athletic Association, and the Literary Revival	Boyce; Hart
11/1-11/5	9. The Home Rule Crisis: Ulster Blocks the Way, 1906-14	Hart; Jackson
11/8-11/12	10. The Easter Rising and the Sinn Fein Revolution, 1916-21	Hart; Jackson
11/15-11/19	11. From Free State to Republic: The Ascendancy of de Valera	Boyce; Jackson
11/22-11/26	12. Northern Ireland under Home Rule	Boyce; Jackson
11/29-12/3	13. From Civil Rights to the "Supergrass" Trials	Moloney

12/6-12/10	14.	From Hunger Strikes to the 1994 Ceasefire	Moloney
12/13-12/15	15.	The Making of the Belfast Agreement and Beyond	Moloney

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week

9/2-9/10	1.	Boyce, 15-93
9/13-9/17	2.	Boyce, 94-122; Tillyard, 1-154
9/20-9/24	3.	Boyce, 123-34; Tillyard, 155-298, 311-20
9/27-10/1	4.	Boyce, 134-75; Jackson
10/4-10/8	5.	Boyce, 175-91; Jackson
10/11-10/15	6.	Boyce, 192-227; Jackson
10/18-10/22	7.	Jackson
10/25-10/29	8.	Boyce, 228-58, Hart, 1-18; Jackson
11/1-11/5	9.	Boyce, 259-94; Hart, 19-183; Jackson
11/8-11/12	10.	Boyce, 295-338; Hart, 185-315; Jackson
11/15-11/19	11.	Boyce, 339-59; Jackson
11/22-11/26	12.	Boyce, 359-end; Jackson
11/29-12/3	13.	Moloney, first third
12/6-12/10	14.	Moloney, middle third
12/13-12/15	15.	Moloney, last third

