



Griffith College Dublin

The History and Politics of Ireland: North and South

a) An Introduction to Irish History 1900 – 1923

This is designed to provide students with knowledge of the political and cultural milieu within which the independence movement thrived and ultimately succeeded in its aims and objectives. The lecture / seminars also examine the concept of “blood sacrifice” as a means of achieving political ends.

Readings

Coogan, Tim (1992) *The Man Who Made Ireland: The Life and death of Michael Collins*: Robert Rinehart Publishers: London

Dwyer, T. Ryle. (1982) *DeValera’s Darkest Hour 1919-1932*: Mercier Press: Dublin

O’Malley, Ernie (1948) *On Another Mans Wound: Memories of a Guerrilla War*: Cork University Press: Cork

Topics

The Rise of Sinn Fein

This looks at the birth of Sinn Fein, its aims and objective, and its influence on the aspirations of the advocates of home rule and the independence movement.

The Easter Rebellion

This section examines the rationale behind philosophy of armed rebellion advocated by the more radical elements within Sinn Fein and The National Volunteers.

The Anglo–Irish War 1919-1921

This section deals with, perhaps, the bloodiest period of Irish history and examines the prosecution of the war from both an Irish and British perspective.

The Anglo- Irish Treaty 1921

The Anglo Irish Treaty served as a means of concluding the Anglo-Irish War. It was, nonetheless, problematic in its application and was to sow the seeds of a bitter civil war of 1922 - 1923. The Civil War, although brief, was militarily and culturally intensive. It was to have a major impact on the subsequent development of the political culture of the State in succeeding years. In this section students have an opportunity to consider those impacts.

b) The Divided Society

Topics

Partition, Loyalty and "disloyalty" The Early Years of The Northern Ireland State

Following the Government of Ireland Act 1920 Ireland was partitioned into two separate states. Unionism expressed considerable opposition to the new Irish Free State taking a variety of measures to establish effective government over those who sympathized with it, whom the newly established Northern Ireland Government considered "disloyal".

A Divided Society

The political regime of Northern Ireland operated from Stormont. During this period Northern Ireland was said to have the largest shipyards in the world, the largest rope works and according to one student of Northern Ireland politics the largest "factory of grievances" This module examines why the Unionist controlled state generated political and social grievances and a divided society.

From Civil Rights to Armalites

The social unrest of the period of the O'Neill premiership gave rise to the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. Modeled on its American counterpart, the association's demands were primarily concerned with electoral reform and transparent governance. Brutal repression of movement led to the rejuvenation of armed resistance to the Northern Ireland Government.

The Social Aspects of Sectarianism

The divided society of Northern Ireland manifested itself beyond the realm of politics and employment; it remains present in Churches, sports, housing and education. This lecture / seminar examines the lasting impacts of sectarianism on contemporary Northern Irish society.

Readings

Bew, P. et al (1979) *The State in Northern Ireland 1921-1972*: Manchester University Press: Manchester

MacDonald, M. (1986) *Children of Wrath: Political Violence in Northern Ireland*: Polity Press: London

O'Dochartaich, Niall. (1997) *From Civil Rights to Armalites: Derry and The Birth of the New Irish Troubles*: Cork University Press Cork

Pollack, A. (1993) *A Citizens Inquiry: The Opsahl Report on Northern Ireland*: Lilliput Press: Dublin.