

Tracing the History of Conflict in Ireland/Northern Ireland

1169 Norman Invasions

- begins 800-year struggle between Ireland and England
- English immigrants enter on wide scale (many settle in "The Pale" around Dublin-others assimilate)

1558 Elizabeth I assumes throne of England

- Irish Chieftains had resisted her father's (Henry VIII) attempt to convert them to the "new" English religion, Protestantism- she is determined to do it

Colonization

- Elizabeth gives land in the North of Ireland (Ulster) to Scottish and Northern English Protestants- once-powerful Irish-Catholic Lords are reduced to tenants on their own land

1640's Irish Revolts

1649 Cromwell Invades

- the man who diminished the English Monarchy's power, Oliver Cromwell, leads brutal invasion of Ireland- in some villages, all men are "put to the sword"

1660 Charles II assumes throne of England

- Catholicism is allowed to be practiced

1685 James II assumes throne of England

- younger brother of Charles II is a Catholic himself- hopes are high in Ireland

William Of Orange leads revolt, becomes King of England

1689 James II flees to Ireland

- welcomed- his forces occupy the entire country except Ulster in the North, which is mainly Protestant
- siege on Derry occurs there- James puts a wall around city for 105 days- people there resort to eating cats and dogs at times- William of Orange eventually comes to their rescue

*** Battle of the Boyne**

- William wins Ireland, James flees
- (annual parade commemorating today)

1695 14% of land controlled by Irish-Catholics

1714 7% of land controlled by Irish-Catholics

- only the "Protestant Ascendancy" have political rights- Catholics can't legally practice their religion

- 1798 Irish Revolt**
 - influenced by American Revolution and supported by France
- 1800 *Act of Union**
 - imposed by England on Ireland- England will directly rule from now on, Irish parliament abolished
- 1829 Daniel O' Connell secures Catholic Emancipation**
 - Catholics can practice religion again
 - but he fails to convince those at Westminster (London) to repeal Act of Union
- 1840's Irish Potato Famine**
 - 1 million Irish starve to death
 - 1 million emigrate to America (eg. Kennedy's)
- 1867 Fenian Rebellion in Ireland**
 - Fenians in the U.S. invade Canada- both rebellions fail
- 1914 England is about to repeal Act of Union when WWI breaks out-postponed**
- 1916 *Easter Uprising**
 - for end to Act of Union
 - one week of bloody fighting in the streets of Dublin v.s. British Army
 - British prevail- 16 leaders are executed- thousands revolt after this (formation of I.R.A. (Irish Republican Army) -lead by Eamon de Valera and Michael Collins
 - guerrilla warfare used
- 1921 Irish Free State established**
 - forced by world opinion
 - Michael Collins signs treaty with British P.M. Lloyd George establishing the Irish Free State- all of Ireland except the six counties in the North (Ulster) get basic independence- Northern Ireland is given limited self-government (majority is Protestant, wants to still be part of Britain)
Michael Collins Assassinated
 - perceived "sell-out" of the North
 - **Civil War**- Collins' side wins
- 1932 Eamon de Valera becomes leader**
 - although he fought against Collins' side
 - keeps Ireland neutral in WW2
 - defeated in election after the war in 1948
- 1949 Republic of Ireland born**
 -total independence of former Irish Free State-the North becomes a separate country- "Northern Ireland", still part of British Empire