



Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture

EXPLORING THE UNIQUE HISTORY OF THE IRISH

The impact of the Irish upon the arts, popular culture, world and American history, scholarship and politics has been immense. Literature in English cannot be fully explored without consideration of such Irish notables as James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, W.B. Yeats, Samuel Beckett, Seamus Heaney and many others. Names such as Guinness and Charles Parnell are immediately recognizable. And the struggle for Irish independence in the 20th century — including the continued strife over the North-South issue — has captured the world's attention.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY COVERAGE

Covering this unique background and cultural landscape, the *Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture* from Macmillan Reference USA,™ an imprint of Gale,® part

of Cengage Learning, explores both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in detail, from prehistoric times to the present. Four hundred entries present an inclusive, cross-disciplinary approach, written by specialists in history, archaeology, anthropology, geography, politics, economics, the Irish and English languages and literatures, the visual arts and other fields. Supporting a variety of curricula and disciplines, this comprehensive encyclopedia provides extensive coverage of the Irish people and their history.

The *Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture* includes entries on a wide range of topics written by contributors from around the globe under the editorship of James S. Donnelly, Jr., professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Each article features a full bibliography and extensive cross-references that guide researchers to related topics. The

Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture also includes 150 primary source documents, such as statutes, proclamations, treaties, agreements and literary works. Additional features include 200 black-and-white maps and illustrations; a chronology of major events in Irish history; and a comprehensive index.

E

European Union

In January 1972 the Taoiseach Jack Lynch and his foreign minister Dr. Patrick Hillery left Dublin airport for Luxembourg to sign Ireland's Treaty of Accession to the European Communities. Just over fifty years after the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, which gave the people of twenty-six of the thirty-two counties of Ireland the right to establish a state (the Irish Free State) separate from the United Kingdom, an Irish government negotiated membership of a community that had altered the nature of statehood in Europe. Ireland as a relatively young state was preparing to pool and share its sovereignty with the other member states of the Union in a dynamic political experiment. The Irish government made its first application for European Union (EU) membership on 31 July 1961. It took twelve years to bring this key foreign-policy goal to fruition, largely because of events beyond the control of any Irish government. Throughout the 1960s successive governments remained wedded to Ireland's essential membership of the Union. In 1972, 83 percent of those who voted in the referendum voted in favor of membership.

THE NICE NO

Ireland's engagement with the EU system was relatively smooth until the shock of the defeat of the Nice referendum in June 2001. Ireland was the only member state that had to submit the Nice Treaty to a popular referendum for constitutional reasons. In Ireland this was the fifth referendum on the EU since 1972. All of the others had been passed by a comfortable, albeit declining, majority. On 7 June 2001 the Irish electorate voted no to the Nice Treaty by 54 to 46 percent in an extremely low

voter turnout of just 35 percent. The outcome of the referendum was a major reversal for the government that had negotiated the treaty, for the main opposition parties that had advocated a yes vote, and for the peak groups in civil society, notably the main business associations, farming organizations, and the Trade Union Congress. Although a second referendum in October 2002 reversed this decision by a decisive 62 to 38 percent, Irish attitudes toward the EU have since entered a more complex and a more ambivalent phase.

IRELAND'S POLICY INTERESTS

There is remarkable consistency in the policies that are accorded a high priority by Ireland in the EU. Preferences were molded by Ireland's low level of development relative to the continental European economies, by sustained high levels of unemployment, and by Ireland's dependence on mobile foreign investment. The aim was to try to ensure that Ireland could accommodate developments in social and economic policy at the EU level. From an Irish perspective, the key policy areas were as follows:

- The EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) enabled Irish agriculture to escape from the traditional cheap-food policies of the United Kingdom. The emphasis in relation to the CAP is to maintain or improve farm incomes. Ireland and France remain the key supporters of CAP.
- Cohesion policies at the EU level assist Europe's peripheral areas in catching up. Successive Irish governments deployed considerable diplomatic effort to ensure that the EU would develop a cohesion policy and that Ireland would benefit from financial transfers from the EU budget. Following reform of the structural funds in



The first European Economic Community (EEC) summit in Dublin. Left: Italian Foreign Minister Siccardi, the European Commission President François-Xavier Ortoli, Hans Schmidt, Luxembourg Prime and Foreign Minister Gaston Thorn, Netherlands Prime Minister Aans den Uyl, British Foreign Minister R. A. Butler (at back), W. T. Cosgrave, French President Giscard d'Estaing, British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, and Foreign Prime Minister Leo Tindemans. Photograph by Don Lovell. Courtesy of the Irish Times.

1988, Ireland experienced a significant increase in financial transfers from the EU budget, given Ireland's high level of economic growth in the 1990s, the volume of transfers will be reduced progressively until 2006.

- Successive Irish governments attempted to protect the domestic space by carefully vetting policies and EU regulations that were likely to have an impact on Ireland's competitive position and on regulatory frameworks at the national level. The internal-market program was thus accorded a high priority because of the weight of EC legislation and the need to prepare Irish industry and the service sector for the competitive shock of the 1992 program. Irish administrations have been adamantly opposed to any harmonization of taxation policy in Europe and have fought a hard campaign to maintain low levels of corporation tax.
- The 1992 Maastricht Treaty on European Union (TEU) marked further integration, with provisions on a single currency, the common foreign and security policy, and cooperation among EU members on justice and home affairs. Rather than dislodging the high-ranking policies of the past, the TEU simply added additional priorities and concerns. Irish governments in the 1990s showed considerable commitment to the public debt philosophy and targets set out in the Maastricht Treaty and supported the full observance of the Maastricht criteria across Europe. In practice the Irish political and policy system was converted to the social-money "right budget" philosophy of the German Bundesbank.

Successive Irish governments have endorsed EU social and environmental regulation, provided that regu-

lations do not impose an undue burden on Irish industry or the exchequer. The goal of maintaining Ireland's attractiveness to foreign mobile investment, particularly American capital, runs deeply through Irish policy. In promoting domestic preferences and protecting national space, Irish politicians and administrators have had to engage in coalition-building with like-minded states. Unlike other small states, such as the Nordic or the Benelux countries, Ireland does not have a natural grouping of like-minded states and thus must seek allies on a case-by-case basis: with the French on agriculture, the United Kingdom on taxation, and the other "cohesion countries" on regional funds.

Domestic adaptation to the challenge of competition and Ireland's vulnerability as a small open economy caused difficulties. Irish adjustment in the 1970s, notwithstanding the oil crisis, was relatively smooth. However, by the end of the 1970s Ireland had entered a vicious circle of economic policy. Ireland had the worst economic performance in Europe during most of the 1980s as a result of international recession, which was reinforced by dramatic domestic efforts to reduce public-finance and balance-of-payments deficits and to lower inflation. By the mid-1980s Ireland's economic and social strategy was in ruins and its hope of prospering in the EU was in considerable doubt. There was a widespread sense of Ireland's failure, not unlike the prevailing mood in the 1930s. The state and its society found itself at another critical juncture. Ireland had to find the institutional and cultural capacity to overcome the failure of the 1980s. Without this, the opportunities offered by the internal European market and the deepening of integration would have been lost. Tight management of the domestic budget and a new system of social partnership meant that Ireland could take advantage of the larger market. The conditions for the remarkable boom of the 1990s were in place.

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“The wearing of green on March 17 to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day is one of those customs that is followed with little understanding of the Irish history and culture behind it. This collection of historical events corrects that omission. The editors made a conscious effort to limit the number of biographies in the volumes, but one finds the major politicians. The article on the Irish language traces the attempt to reestablish Irish as the national language. The more than 400 signed articles with “see also” references and bibliographies include black-and-white photos, illustrations, maps and charts that are easy to read and understand for high school students. The second volume has the text of many primary documents. If you have a great many students with Irish names or a world history teacher with a deep interest in Ireland who covers the country in depth, this set is highly recommended. It is an excellent resource that might be a shared purchase with the public library.”

– *Reviewed by Blanche Woolls, Oneota Reading Journal, January 2005*

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