THE IRISH QUESTION 1870-1922
Themes

• Historical memory
• Demand for Home Rule
• The Orange Card
• Gaelic Revival
• Politics and Rebellion 1910-1916
• Independence and Partition
Historical Memory

Cromwell
Land dispossession in 16th. Cent

Effect of Cromwell on land Ownership in Ireland

- 0-24% Catholic
- 25-49% Catholic
- 50-100% Catholic

1641

1703

Created for the Ireland Story. This map may be used elsewhere provided a link is provided to www.irelandstory.com and the site is non-profit.
Historical Memory

• Famine 1845-46
Historical Memory

• Religion and politics: James II; Battle of the Boyne; Catholics and Protestants; Ulster

• Ireland as Britain’s first colony
Parnell and Gladstone
The Demand for Home Rule

- Union with Britain in 1800 to form United Kingdom
- Home rule idea defines Irish Nationalism from 1830s
- Charles Stuart Parnell and the Irish Party in the House of Commons in 1880s
- Fenian Terrorism
Fenian Terrorism or Freedom Fighters for Ireland: Clerkenwell Bombing 1868
Fenian Terrorism . . . Rescue of Fenian Prisoners, Manchester 1868
The Demand for Home Rule

• All this led William Gladstone, leader of Liberal Party, to accept Home Rule as government policy when he came into power in 1880.

• But this made the Irish Question a divisive issue in British politics.

• The Conservative Party adopts anti-Home Rule policy and plays:
The Orange Card

• That is, using the Protestantism of the Northern Irish to argue that Home Rule should never be granted to Ireland because that would have meant CATHOLIC dominance
• Liberal Party split on issue 1885
• Home Rule dead as a political issue for 20 years
• Meanwhile, back in Ireland itself
Gaelic Revival

• Cultural Nationalism from 1890s: theater, plays, revival of the Irish language
Politics and Rebellion 1910-1916

• 1910 election and balance of power in House of Commons held by Irish MPs
• Thus Home Rule back on the agenda of politics
• But the Orange Card still in play; thus polarization of politics; military preparations by Protestants and Catholics
• Easter Rebellion 1916
Independence and Partition

- Sinn Fein and election of 1918
- 1922 Treaty of Independence and Partition of Ireland into the south (Catholic) Irish Free State and the north (Protestant), Ulster, remained part of the United Kingdom