

week 7. Irish-American Nationalism

1. Irish Diaspora
 - a. President of Ireland, Mary Robinson's inaugural speech, Dec. 1990, focuses on Irish diaspora
 - b. British PM Tony Blair's speech remembering famine, Cork, 1997
2. Great Famine and migration
 - a. Who?
 - i. probably 3,000,000 emigrating between 1845 and 1870 is the minimal figure
 - ii. Earlier and regular migrations:
 - iii. Women migrants
 - iv. by 1890, 3,000,000 Irish-born people live overseas (39% of those alive who had been born in Ireland)
 - b. How?
 - i. ships, horrors of "coffin ships" (20% emigrants from Cork to Quebec in 1840s died either on board or just after landing)
 - ii. monuments to the dead in Quebec, Montreal, and other places in Canada (anything in USA?)
 - iii. Shorter ferry migrations
 - c. Where?
 - i. Mainly USA (84%, 1876-1921; 8% GB [statistic uncertain because of ease of going to GB] , 7% Australia and Canada)
 - ii. But large number in Britain: over 400,000 Irish born in 1841 census; nearly 750,000 in 1851 census
3. Result of Great Famine and Migration
 - a. not consolidation of larger holdings, but maintenance of peasant farms
 - i. Tenant League (1850s) → Irish Land League (1879–): the 3 "F"s: fair rent, fixity of tenure, and free sale
 - b. In USA, Irish immigrants increasingly literate from 1870 onwards; enter police force, nursing, civil service
 - i. still strong subculture in Boston cellars, NYC "barrack" tenements
 - (1) racial hatred of Britain flourishes in US
 - (a) 1858, secret society founded in Dublin and NYC, Fianna or the Fenians, also became known as the IRB
 - (b) Clan na Gael founded in NYC, 1867, oath-bound organization, loosely under the IRB (important up to 1930s)
 - (2) Irish in USA provides huge monetary backing to Fenians (1867), Land League (1879-82); de Valera (1919-21)