Land War or Land League; Republican Violence or Home Rule, to 1880s

1. The Great Hunger to 1870
   a. Irish reaction,
      i. 1847 Young Ireland movement established
      ii. support for nationalist movement from Irish diaspora abroad
   b. English Reaction
      i. Gladstone’s party returned to power in 1868

2. Home Rule Created
   a. Isaac Butt (1813-1879), Protestant member of the Ascendancy, barrister
      i. background
      ii. Advances idea of Home Rule
          (1) by 1867, sees need for local legislature
          (2) 1870, Home Government Association; 1873, Home Rule Confederation; later that year, Home Rule League created
          (3) Home Rule League
   b. Alternative to Butt’s conciliatory policy, Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891) decides on value of obstructionist techniques
      i. another member of Protestant ascendancy
      ii. 1877, Parnell one two MPs who blocked work of Parliament
      iii. late 1877, Charles Stewart Parnell elected leader of Home Rule Party

3. The Land Question
   a. Peasantry faced with Great Agricultural Depression in 1870s
      i. Landlords respond with evictions in favor of large farmers
   b. Irish Land League founded by ex-Fenian, 1879 (“Land for the People”)
      i. Charles Stuart Parnell, Home Ruler, becomes President of the Land League
      ii. Home Rule and Land League
   c. Boycotts and Land War
      i. Landlords respond by recruiting Protestants from the North to break the Land League
      ii. Some Land Leaguers take to assassinating recalcitrant landlords
      iii. 1880s “Land War” escalates with disturbances across Ireland

4. Mission to pacify Ireland
   a. When Gladstone’s party had won in 1868, he said “My mission is to pacify Ireland”
      i. But Acts passed not enough to pacify Home Rulers
      ii. And role of American Clan na Gael (Fenians) in late-19th century violence
      iii. new elections, 1885, 85 Home Rule MPs hold balance
   b. 1886, Gladstone comes out in favor of Home Rule
      i. stand splits Liberals in UK
      ii. Possibility of passing Home Rule energizes both Home Rulers and Unionists