

Home Rule and Unionism

1. Parnell and Home Rule
 - a. Parnell manages to unite radical Fenians, peasants, and conservative Catholic clergy
 - i. 1880s American Clan na Gael (Fenians) re-institute violent campaign
 - ii. 1881, Land League outlawed by Gladstone; Parnell happy with that,
 - iii. 1884/5, Parnell's Home Rule Party gets 85 Mps
 - iv. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill of 1886, however, a two-edged sword
 - b. Fall of Parnell
 - i. attack on Parnell in *The Times*, victory
 - ii. 1889, Capt. William O'Shea, erstwhile friend and Home Rule MP, sues for divorce
 - iii. 1891 by-elections: Parnellites against new Home Rulers
 - iv. 1893, 2nd bill passed in commons, defeated in Lords
2. The Situation circa 1900
 - a. Gladstone Liberals: Rebuilding
 - i. Fight for the Succession
 - ii. 1899 Boer War nadir
 - (1) Lloyd George outspoke against
 - (2) Revived from 1900-1902
 - b. Irish National Party
 - i. Decline in 1890s with Parnell's fall
 - ii. Rebirth with Redmond circa 1898
 - c. Unionists
 - i. In Ulster, a separate Irishness?
 - (1) Orange Societies expand dramatically in 1880s
 - ii. In Britain
 - (1) Constructive Unionism
 - (2) 1890s and British racialism
 - (3) British imperialist/protectionist vision circa 1900
 - d. Cultural and Political Nationalists
 - i. Irish-Ireland
 - (1) Yeats and cultural nationalism
 - (2) Gaelic League and Gaelic Athletic Association
 - (3) Problem for Home Rulers seeking a united Ireland is that Irish Nationalism increasingly a Catholic nationalism
 - ii. Sinn Fein
 - (1) Arthur Griffith and *Sinn Fein*, 1898, est. 1905 as an organization
 - (2) Relations with radical republicans and trade unions
 - (3) Not politically successful before 1914
3. Home Rule and Britain, early 20th century
 - a. 1906 Liberal landslide (majority of over 200) means don't need Irish Home Rulers
 - i. sop of devolution (1907) a Council of elected and appointed representatives offered
 - (1) Redmond and the H.R. convention reject it.
 - ii. massive Liberal welfare initiatives in Britain and Ireland
 - iii. Conservatives seek anything to stop Liberals
 - (1) turn to encouraging Unionist violence
 - (2) and use of Lords
 - b. 1910 elections, Liberal majority of 2 then even
 - i. depend on Labour Party and Home Rule Party for majority
 - ii. concessions to Labour and Home Rulers means Home Rule
 - iii. Parliament Act of 1911, new voters, but House of Lords absolute veto now curtailed
 - (1) (monetary vs. non-monetary matters)

4. Home Rule and Prospect of Civil War
 - a. 1912, Home Rule: what would it mean?
 - i. elected lower house, appointed upper; nationalist and unionist Irish MPs remain at Westminster; retain the RIC for six years, no religious legislation
 - ii. Sir Edward Carson and Irish Unionists reject,
 - (1) 470,000+ sign “solemn league and covenant” to defeat Home Rule “all means...necessary”
 - (2) Carson heads Ulster Unionist Council
 - (3) supported by the *Times* and Conservatives
 - b. Redmond and acceptance of six year vote for 4 northern counties on Home Rule
 - i. understood that Home Rule would mean division
 - (1) but 4 better than 6, better than 9
 - ii. Sinn Fein would later claim that division was a sellout
 - (1) but perhaps all that could be achieved
 - (2) [Neither Home Rulers nor Nationalists really have a solution to Ulster question]
 - c. Organizing to fight
 - i. Ulster Volunteers (created Jan. 1913)
 - (1) early 1914, Volunteers bring in 20,000 rifles and ammunition from Germany despite 1913 ban
 - (2) Some 90,000 members
 - ii. IRB creates Irish Volunteers, Nov. 1913
 - (1) by May 1914 100,000 members; by September 180,000
 - (2) Irish National Volunteers attempt to bring in some 1500 rifles and ammunition
 - iii. On eve of WWI, British Government realizes an Irish Civil War could envelop all of the B.E.F.
5. Home Rule and WWI
 - a. Aug. 1914, Redmond commits Irish Volunteers to join with Ulster Volunteers
 - i. moment of unity in Westminster
 - ii. but no unity from common war experience
 - (1) (Ulster allowed distinctive insignia/badges, not Home Rule Irish)
 - b. Blood sacrifice: from initial enthusiasm to disenchantment to large-scale resistance to conscription
 - i. Aug. 1915: 132,454 Irish in British Army (77,511 Catholics, 52,943 Protestants)
 - (1) by April 1916: 150,183
 - ii. sad state of hundreds of thousands of Irishmen who had volunteered to serve in British Army, only to return in 1918 to a changed Ireland: never recognized as returning war heroes
 - (1) as one Home Ruler noted of his service: after Easter 1916, while the rebels would “go down in history as heroes and martyrs, I will go down—if I go down at all—as a bloody British officer.”
 - (2) just now being studied
 - c. pro-Germanism of Roger Casement and others
 - i. revolutionaries will look for German aid
 - (1) “Ireland’s opportunity is England’s adversity.”
 - (2) anti-conscription feeling grows as war goes on
 - d. Home Rule passes Commons and receives royal assent 14 Sept. 1914
 - i. Immediately followed by suspension