

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