

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwR4wzk323M>

W. B. Yeats
(1865-1939)

Irish History

EUROPE



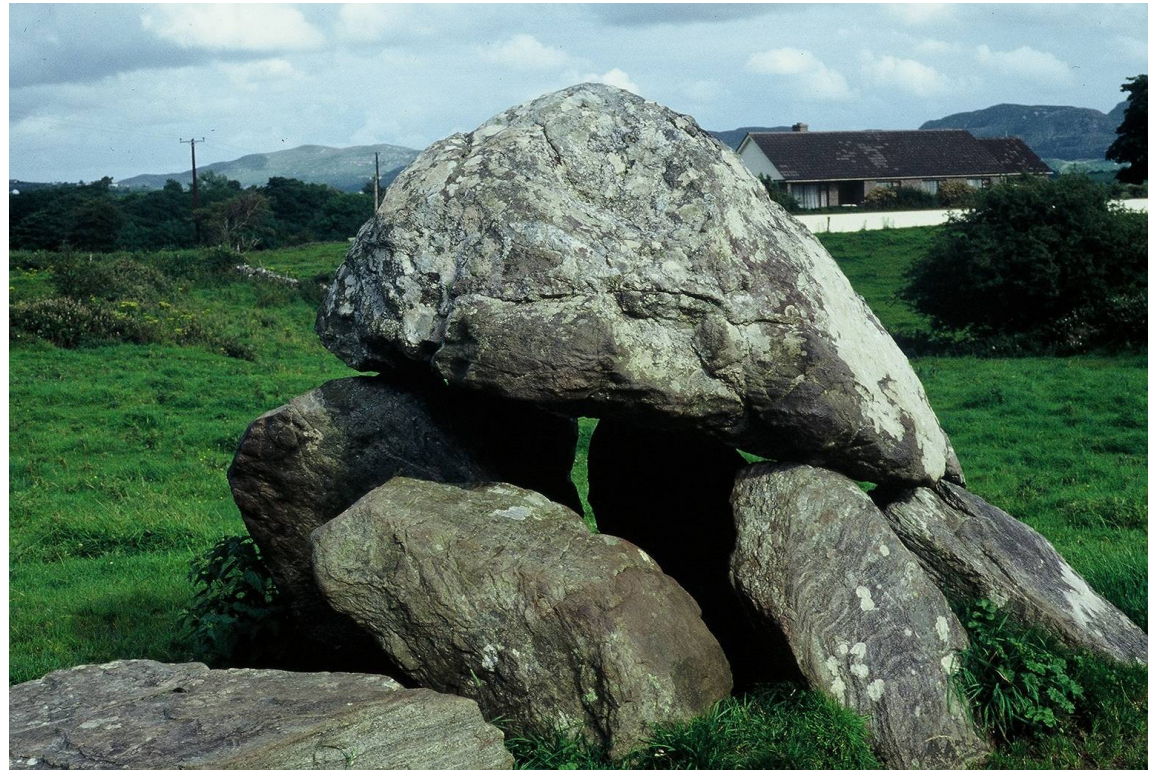


Population of the Republic of Ireland

- Irish population = approximately 4 million
- 25% are under the age of 30
- About 15% now new immigrants
- Centuries of **emigration** (late 18th – 1970s) have resulted in an Irish population dispersed around the English-speaking world (the “Irish Diaspora”)
- Status as a “new nation” has made the Irish very conscious of a distinctive identity

Prehistoric Ireland

Many prehistoric monuments, including ring forts, burial mounds, and dolmens such as this one in Sligo, are evidence of pre-Celtic history in Ireland





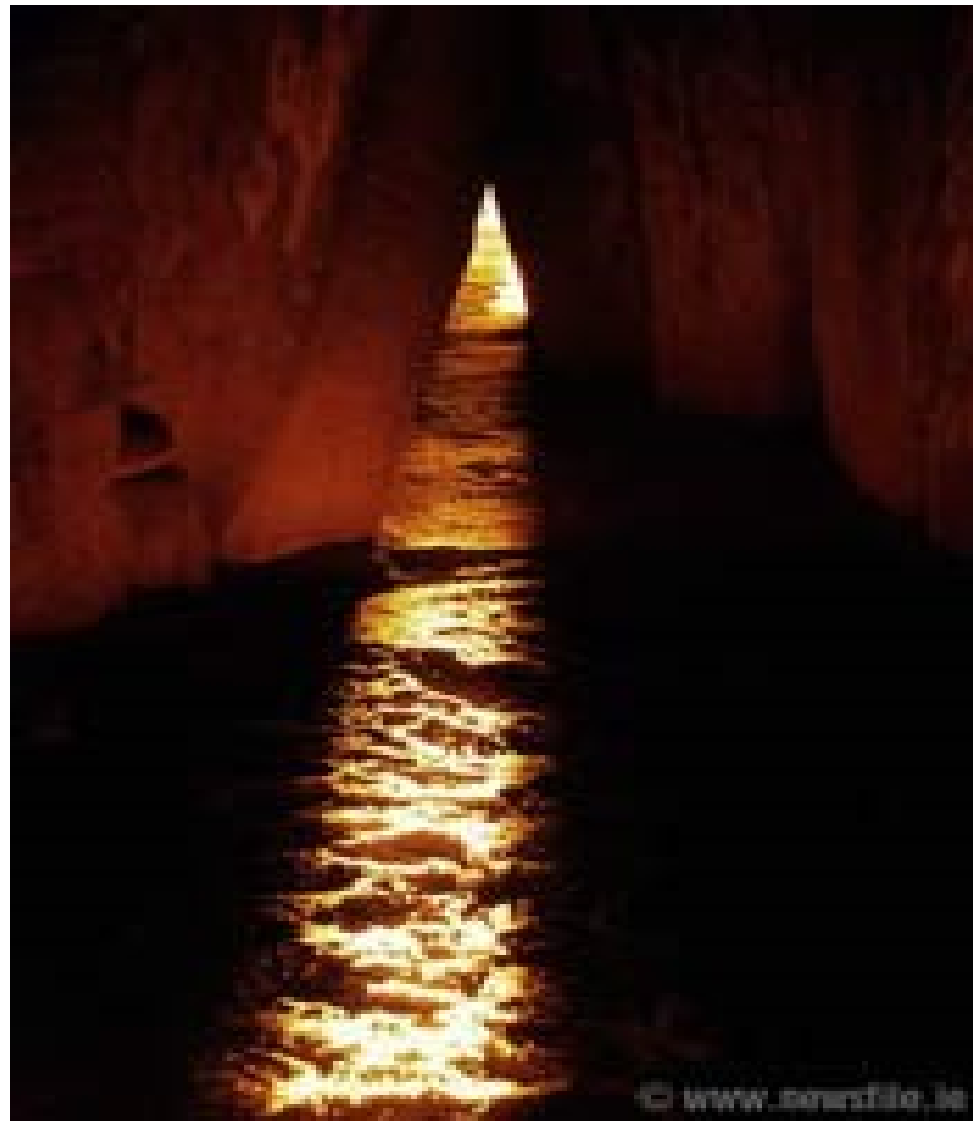


Newgrange--A Prehistoric Passage Tomb





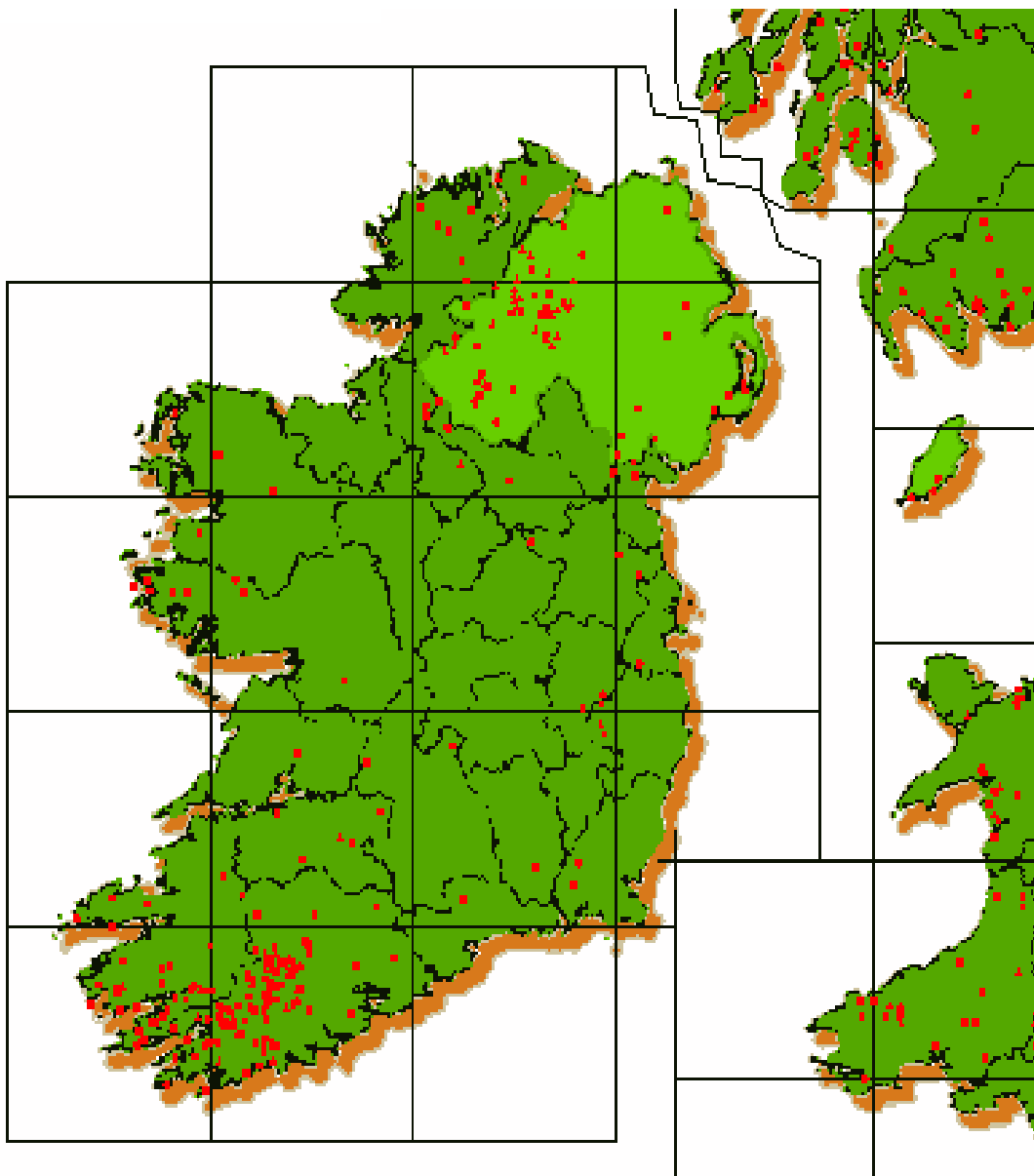










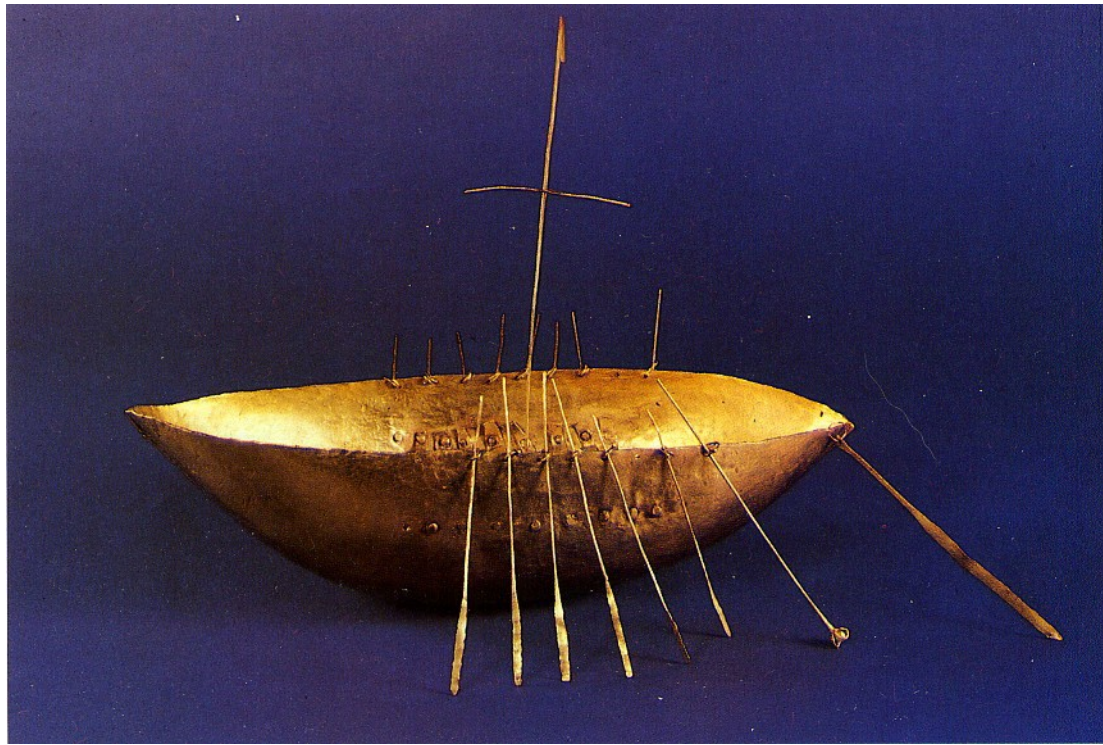


Celts > Ireland as
early as 400 B.C.

The Celts brought Iron
Age technology and
European Celtic
artistic styles (known
as *La Tène* style) with
them.



Gold Boat, Early Iron Age



The Tara Brooch



Fantastic heroic tales and myths from
Irish Celtic culture = transcribed by
Christian monks

Christianization of Ireland = supposed to
have been brought about by St. Patrick in
432 A.D.

Among the most famous human heroes =
Finn MacCumhail and **Cuchulain**.



CUCHULAIN OF MUIRTHEMNE

LADY GREGORY



“I had three interests: interest in a form of literature, in a form of philosophy, and a belief in nationality. None of these seemed to have anything to do with the other, but gradually my love of literature and my belief in nationality came together. [...] Now all three are, I think, one” (W.B.Yeats, 1919)

The Celtic myths retain a cultural potency in Ireland, where Cuchulain, for example, serves as a symbol of heroism and defiance for Nationalists and Loyalists.

Loyalist Wall-Mural, Belfast



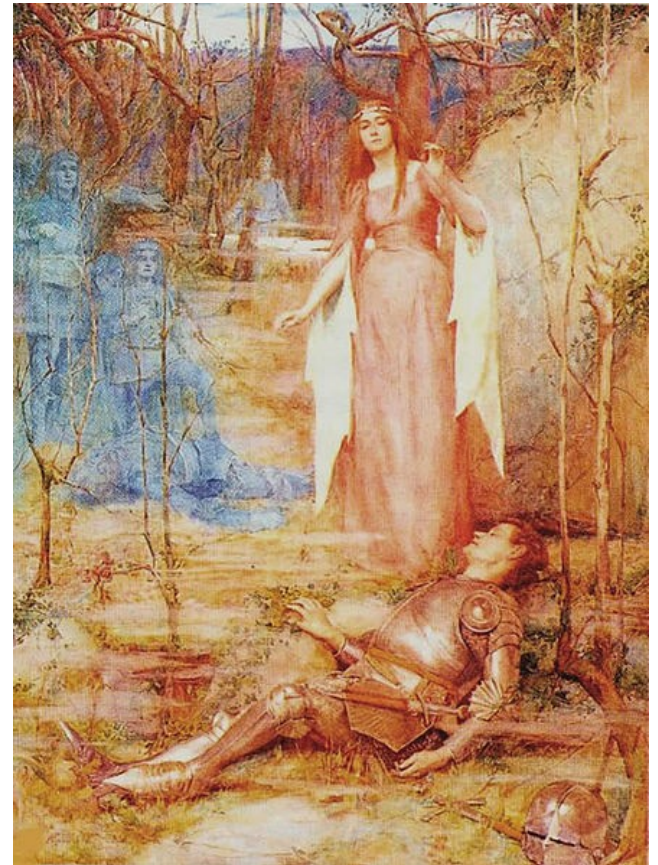
Celtic Christianity thrived in Ireland during the European “Dark Ages” and produced artistic masterpieces such as the 8th century Book of Kells.





Come away, oh human child
To the waters and the wild
With a faery, hand in hand,
For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand

(Yeats, *The Stolen Child*, 1889)



Viking Raids and Settlements, 793-1014

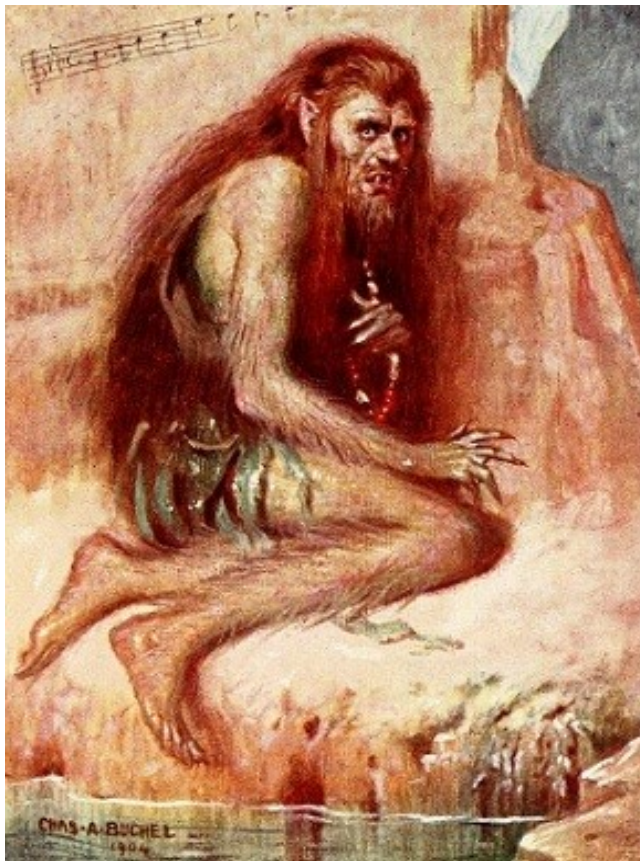


Norman Arrival and Settlement

(Marriage of Aoife & Strongbow, by Daniel Maclise, 1854)



1611: *The Tempest*, W. Shakespeare



Elizabethan Stereotypes of the Irish

坛 **Irish-speaking** vs. English-speaking

坛 **Illiterate** (an oral culture) vs. literate

坛 Therefore, **primitive** vs. civilized

坛 **Tribal** vs. national

坛 **Musical** vs. literate

dancing (performers)

musicians (harper)

坛 **Feckless** (irresponsible, carefree, drunken) vs. practical, responsible, reliable.

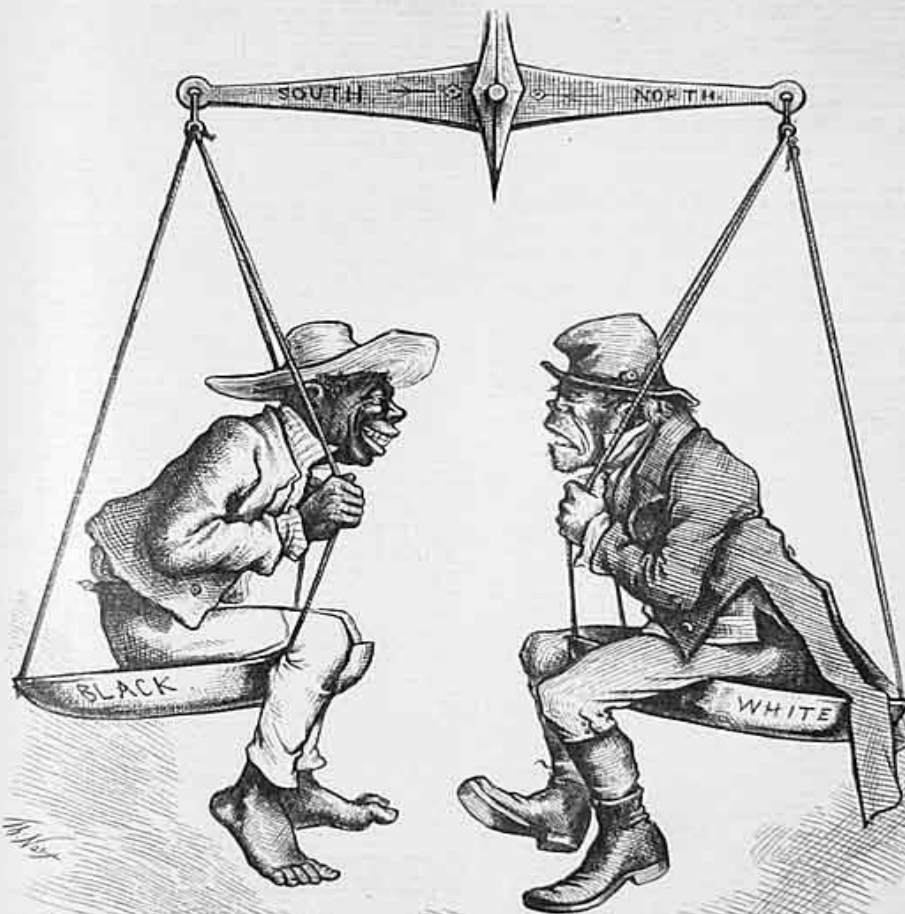
HARPER'S WEEKLY

A
JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

Vol. XX.—No. 1041.]

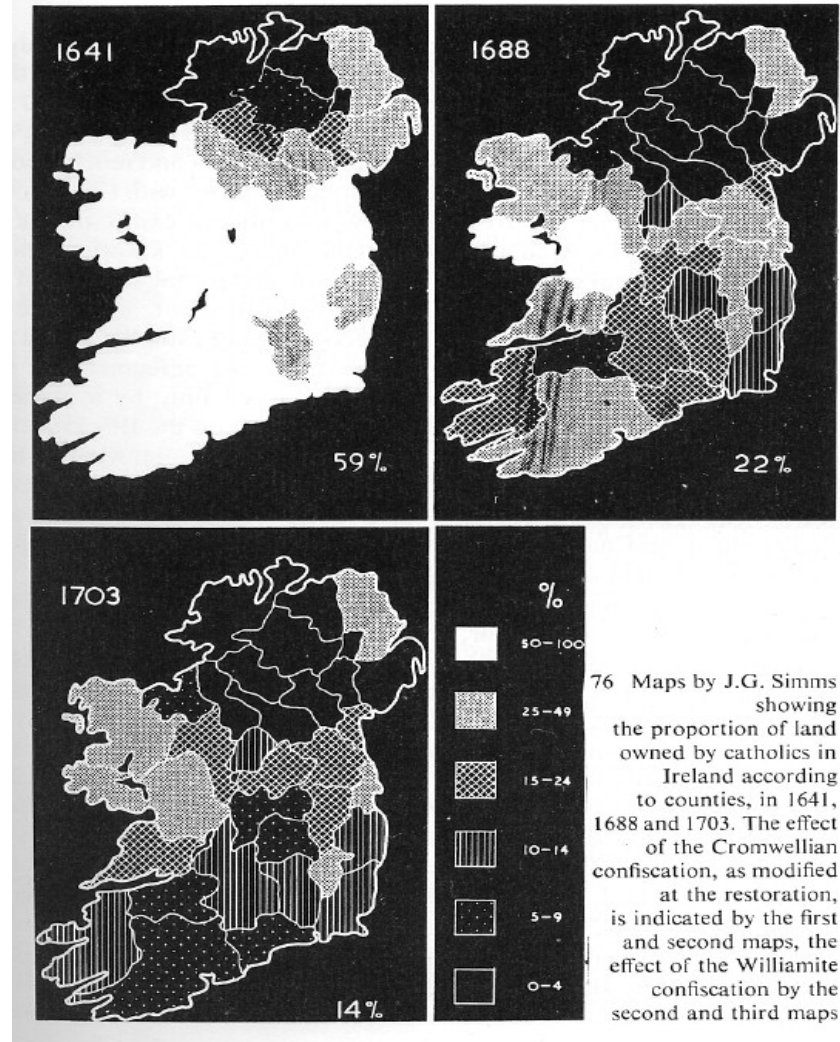
NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1876.

[WITH A SUPPLEMENT.
PRICE TEN CENTS.]



Plantations, war, emigration and Penal Laws helped to effect a gradual transfer of land from Catholic to Protestant hands between 1641 and 1703, as these maps show.

ASCENDANCY



English Woodcut of Irish Atrocities, 1798



8 *The Image of '98*, George Cruikshank endowed the rebels of 1798 with distinctly brutish and prognathous features, when he drew the illustrations for W. H. Maxwell's history of the rebellion in 1798 (London, 1845). (Detail from "Murder of George Crawford and his Granddaughter" in *History of the Rebellion in Ireland in 1798*, page 66. Reprint, London, 1894.)

Death of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, 1798



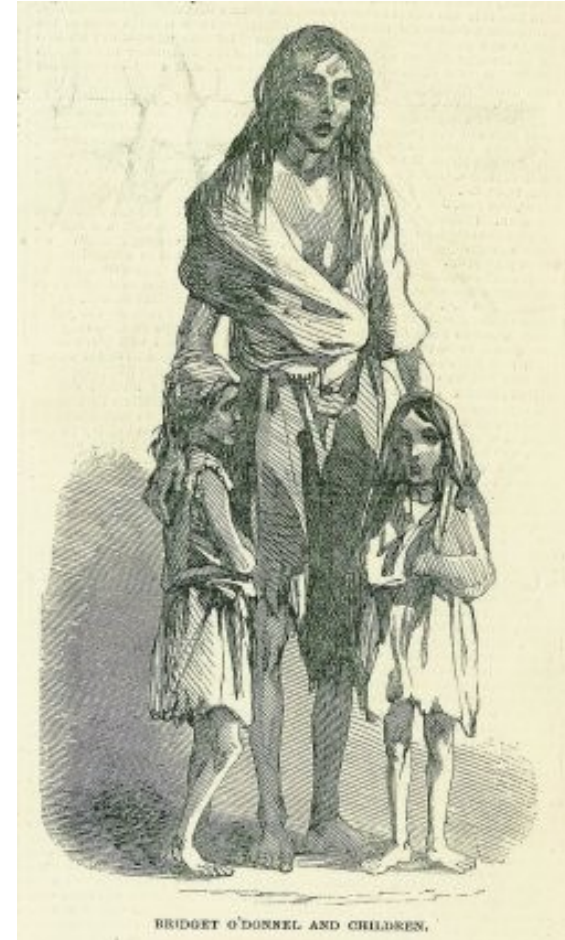
1801: **Acts of Union** > United
Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

Daniel O'Connell organized a movement for Catholic emancipation that succeeded in 1829; he then began a movement to repeal the Act of Union, which was brought to a halt by famine in 1845.



The Great Famine

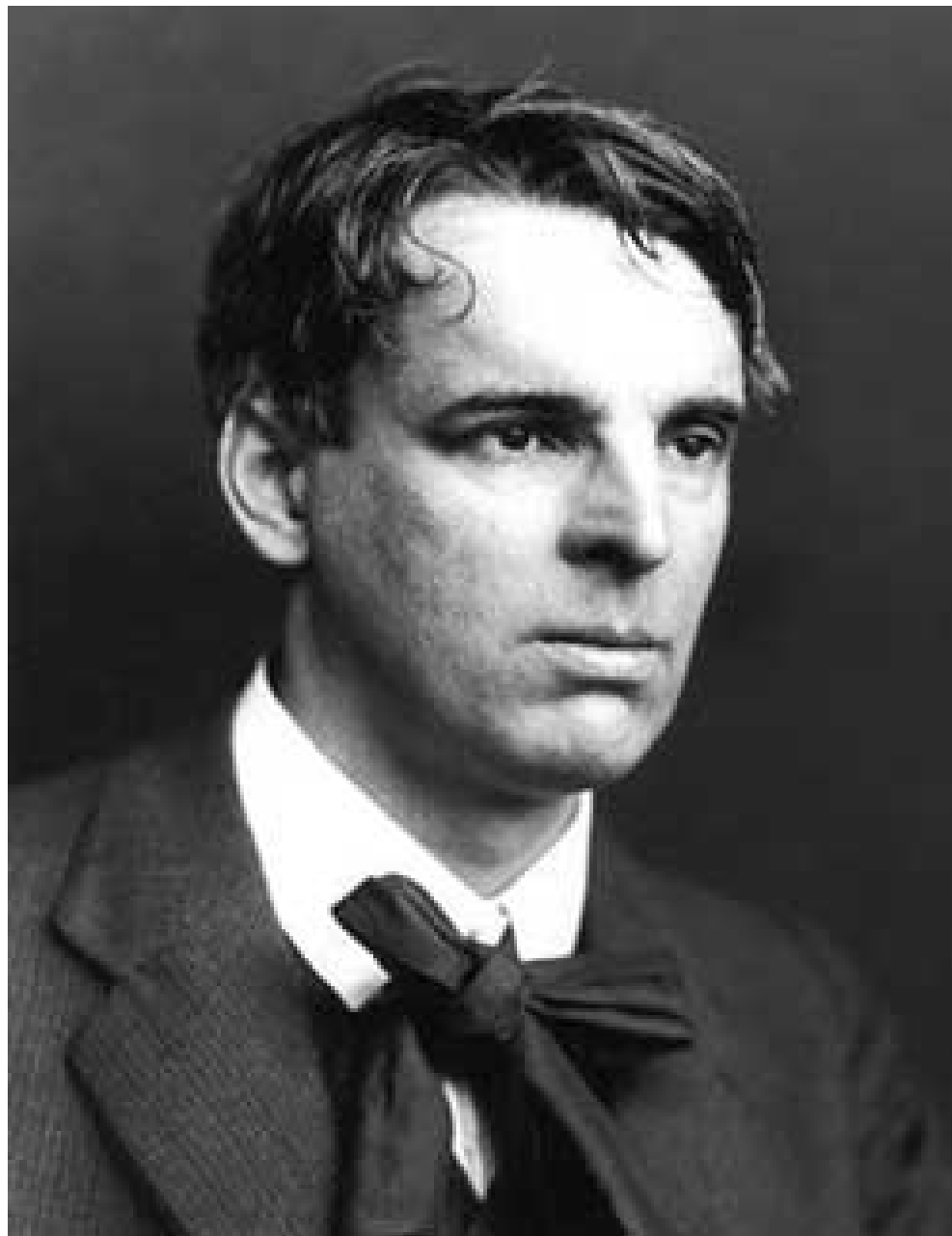
It began when the potato crop failed in 1845. For the next few years, a devastating famine followed, reducing the population drastically and changing Irish society forever.

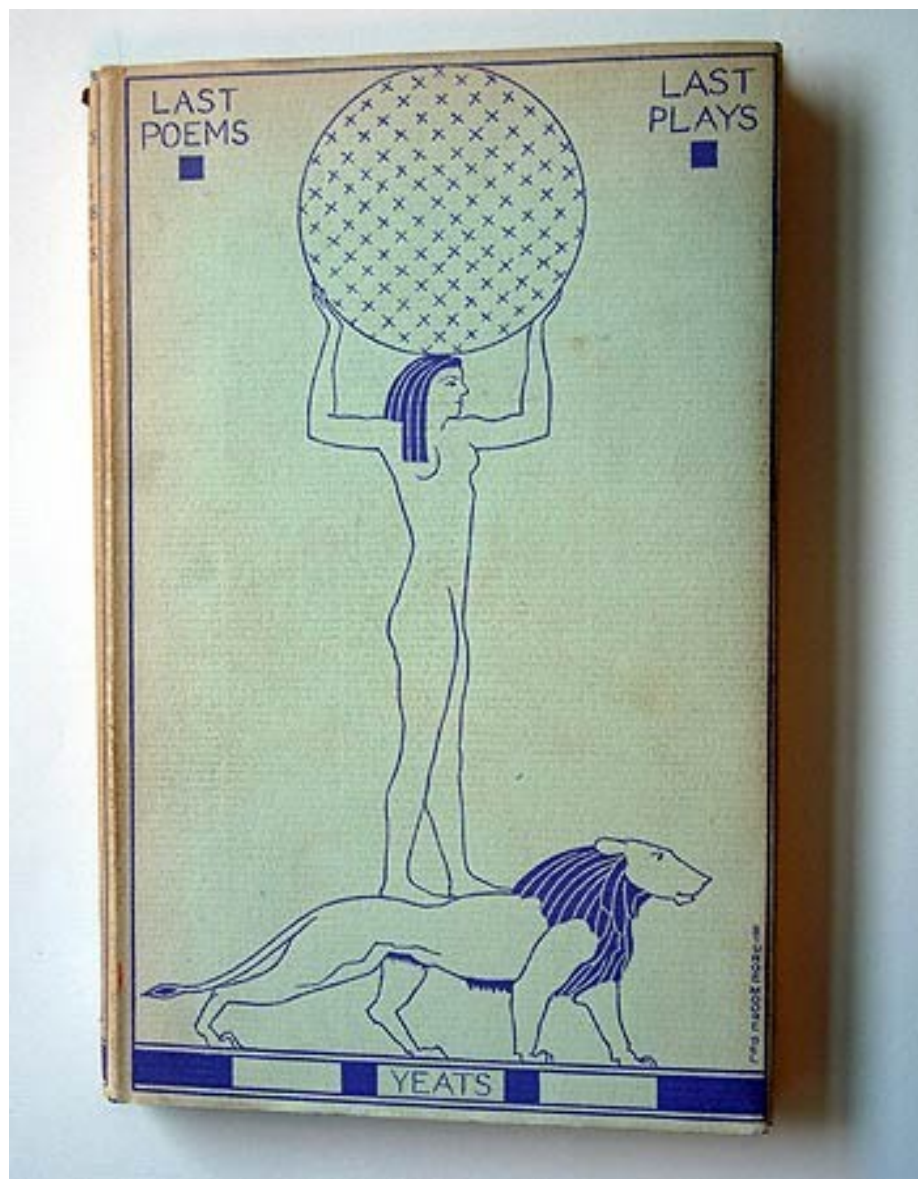




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Charles Stewart Parnell, the “uncrowned king of Ireland,” led the Irish parliamentary movement for Home Rule until he was stopped by scandal in 1890. He died soon after, in 1891.



Maud Gonne



The Mask (1910)

"Put off that mask of burning gold
With emerald eyes."

"O no, my dear, you make so bold
To find if hearts be wild and wise,
And yet not cold."

"I would but find what's there to find,
Love or deceit."

"It was the mask engaged your mind,
And after set your heart to beat,
Not what's behind."

"But lest you are my enemy,
I must enquire."

"O no, my dear, let all that be;
What matter, so there is but fire
In you, in me?"

1904: “That is not the poetry of insight and knowledge, but of longing and complaint”

- Abbey Theatre (1904)

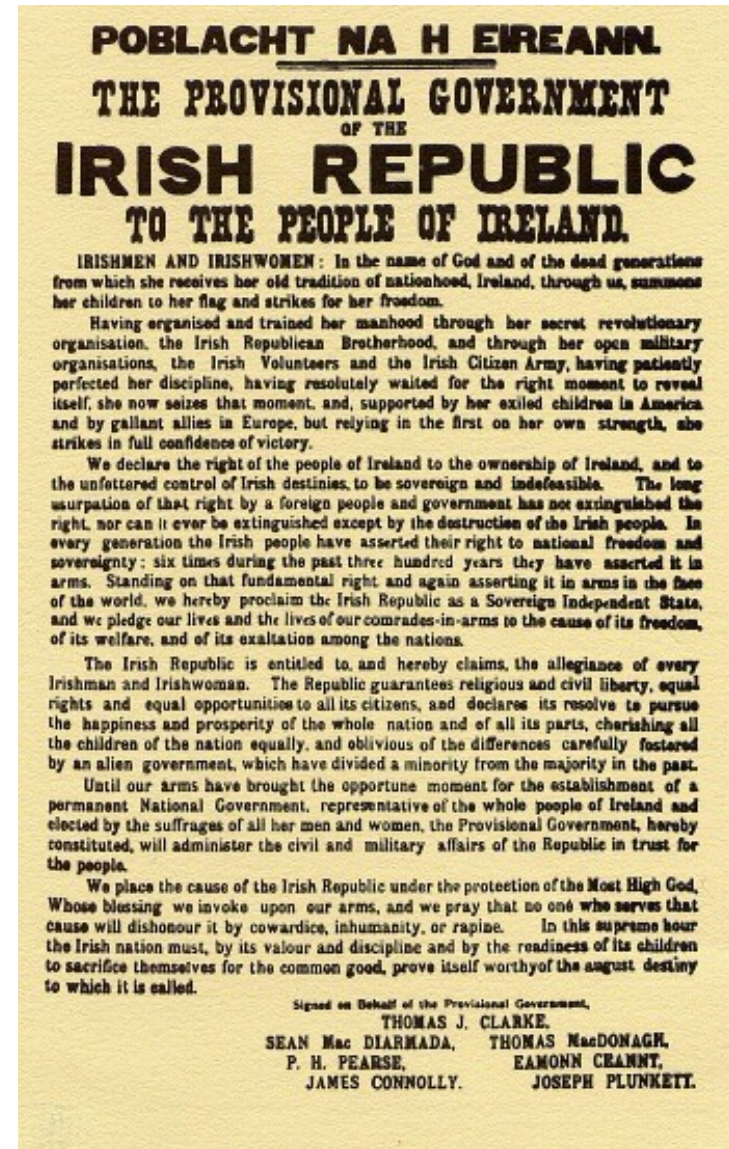
- Ezra Pound (1908)

A Coat (1916)

I made my song a coat
Covered with embroideries
Out of old mythologies
From heel to throat;
But the fools caught it,
Wore it in the world's eyes
As though they'd wrought it.
Song, let them take it,
For there's more enterprise
In walking naked.

Easter 1916

The Easter Rising in 1916 declared an Irish Republic and led to harsh English reprisals, executions, and finally, a war of independence.



the Easter Rising (1916)



- Contessa Markiewicz
- Padraic Pearse
- Thomas MacDonagh
- John MacBRide

War of Independence, 1918-1921



Civil War, 1922-1923



Northern Ireland and the “Troubles”

