

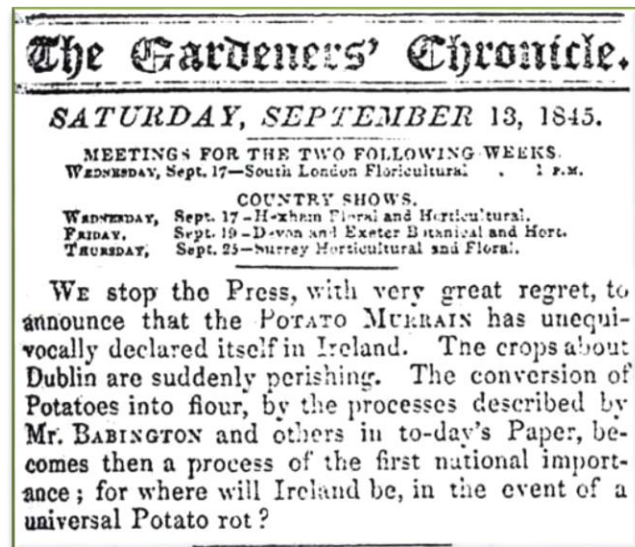
HIST31451

The Great Irish Famine and its Impact, 1845- 1900

The failure of just one crop – the potato – in the 1840s cost Ireland more than a quarter of its population. Over one million people died and a further one million emigrated – mainly to North America – making this a national crisis with global implications.

This module explores the background, process and longer term impact of this 'Great Irish Famine'. We will ask:

- What is a 'famine'?
- Can blame be attributed for it?
- How much did free-market ideology shape government relief efforts?
- How far did the Famine fuel Nationalist sentiment and violence?
- Did the Famine, ultimately, make Ireland 'modern'?



Eviction, 19thC Ireland

Above: The Blight's arrival announced; Food Riot. Below: Potato affected by Blight.





Punch cartoon on the Irish Fenian bombing campaign in Britain, 1860s

Indicative Reading List

If you know nothing about the history of modern Ireland the following are useful general introductions:

- E. Biagini & M. Daly, *The Cambridge Social History of Ireland* (2017)
- R.F. Foster, *Modern Ireland* (1988)

And some studies of the Irish Famine specifically:

- E. Delaney, *The curse of reason* (2012)
- M. Murphy, J. Crowley, W. J. Smyth et al (eds) *Atlas of the Irish Famine* (2012)

Method of Assessment:

- 1 x 2,000-word Primary Source Essay (240%)
- 1 x 3,000-word Assessed Essay (60%)

If you'd like further information, or to discuss possible dissertation topics, please get in touch!

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