HIST31451 The Great Irish Famine and its Impact, 18451900

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'?

The Gardeners' Chronicle.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1845.

MEETINGS FOR THE TWO FOLLOWING WEEKS. WEDNESDAY, Sept. 17-South London Floricultural . 1 P.M.

Wadshadar, Sept. 17 - Hexham Floral and Herticultural. Sept. 19 - Devon and Exeter Butanical and Hort. Tausadar, Sept. 25 - Surrey Horticultural and Floral.

WE stop the Press, with very great regret, to announce that the Potato Murrain has unequivocally declared itself in Ireland. The crops about Dublin are suddenly perishing. The conversion of Potatoes into flour, by the processes described by Mr. Babington and others in to-day's Paper, becomes then a process of the first national importance; for where will Ireland be, in the event of a universal Potato rot?







Eviction, 19thC Ireland





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)

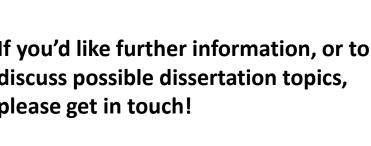
And some studies of the Irish Famine specifically:

- 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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