

Agnes Scott College Alumnae Trip to Ireland
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Study Questions for
***The Course of Irish History* by T. W. Moody and F. X Martin**

Chapters 1, 2, and 3

1 A Geographer's View of Irish History

2 Prehistoric Ireland

3 Early Irish Society: 1st-9th century

1. What are some ways in which geography, location, and climate influenced the development of Ireland?
 - a. What is the "eastern triangle" and how did it develop?
 - b. How did geography and other factors help to isolate the North in the prehistoric era?
2. What do we know (or what can we surmise) about the peoples of Ireland who built Newgrange and other similar megalithic tombs?
3. What are the *brehon* laws?
4. Like most regions of the world, Ireland was colonized by successive waves of "foreigners." In the period up to about 400 CE, who were these groups and where did they come from (to the best of our knowledge)?

Chapters 4, 5, and 6

4 The Beginnings of Christianity: 5th and 6th Centuries

5 The Golden Age of Early Christian Ireland: 7th and 8th Centuries

6 The Age of the Viking Wars: 9th and 10th Centuries

1. How did Ireland become Christian? Why was that process distinctive?
2. In seventh-century Ireland, two cultures developed around the Latin and Irish languages. Why was that so? What were the results—across a broad spectrum of activities—of having a two-language society?

- 3.
4. What role did the monasteries play in Ireland during the seventh and eighth centuries?
5. It has been said that in the seventh and eighth centuries, the Irish “saved civilization.” Whether this statement is an exaggeration or not, what developments lie behind the claim? What claim do the Irish have to “saving” the civilization of Europe?
6. In what ways did the Vikings leave their mark on Ireland?
7. What was the significance of the Battle of Clontarf in 1014? Who won, who lost and how was Ireland changed in the aftermath?

Chapters 7, 8, and 9

7 Ireland in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries: c. 1000-1169

8 The Normans—Arrival and Settlement: 1169-c. 1300

9 The Medieval English Colony: 13th and 14th Centuries

1. What role did the Irish play in bringing the Normans (sometimes called Anglo-Normans), the conquerors, to Ireland? Who were the important people in this series of events?
2. Why were the Normans able to establish themselves in Ireland in such a relatively short time?
3. How did the Normans change the landscape of Ireland? What kinds of structures did they build?
4. What were the key social and political features of the English colony in Ireland?
5. During this period, the English dominated part of the country. What was going on in the rest? What happened with the Gaelic chieftains after the English arrived?
6. Name and describe some of the monasteries of this period (thirteenth to fifteenth centuries). How did they differ from the monasteries of the Golden Age?

Chapters 10 11, 12 and 13

10 The Gaelic Resurgence and the Geraldine Supremacy: c. 1400-1534

11 The Tudor Conquest: 1534-1603

12 The Colonisation of Ulster and the Rebellion of 1641:1603-60

13 the Restoration and the Jacobite War: 1600-91

1. Who were the Anglo-Irish? Who were the Gaelic Irish? Why did the Gaelic Irish enjoy a resurgence in the fifteenth century.
2. The Tudor monarchs are said to have “conquered” Ireland, a conquest that consisted of “anglicization” as well as military conquest. How and why did the English attempt to anglicize Ireland during this period?
3. Why was it so important to the English under the Tudor monarchs to make Ireland Protestant?
4. What is the Flight of the Earls? Why was it significant for the Irish-speaking peoples of Ireland? Why was it significant for the English-speaking conquerors of Ireland?
5. The Battle of the Boyne is celebrated to this day by Protestants in Northern Ireland on July 12 with marches and bonfires. What happened at the battle and why would it be a cause for Protestant celebration?

Chapters 14, 15, and 16

14 The Age of the Penal Laws: 1691-1778

15The Protestant Nation: 1775-1800

16 The Age of Daniel O’Connell: 1800-47

1. What were the Penal Laws and how did they influence life in Ireland in the eighteenth century? How did the Penal laws influence church building in Ireland?
2. Who were the Whiteboys and what role did they play in stirring rebellion in eighteenth-century Ireland?
3. Gaelic- (Irish-) speaking poets played an important role in the eighteenth century, proving the centrality of poetry and literature to Irish culture. What was their role?

4. How did the American Revolution influence events in Ireland at the end of the eighteenth century?
5. Who were the United Irishmen, and how did their activities set in motion of chain of events that led to the Act of Union in 1800 that firmly placed Ireland under British parliamentary control?
6. Daniel O’Connell is nicknamed “the great liberator.” A statue of him stands in Dublin on “O’Connell Street” across from “O’Connell Bridge.” What did he do to deserve this title and such a prominent place in Irish history? What did he seek for Ireland?
7. What other movements or individuals offered resistance to British rule of Ireland in the first half of the nineteenth century?

Chapters 17 and 18

17 The Great Famine: 1845-50

18 Fenianism, Home Rule, and the Land Wars: 1850-91

1. What were the conditions in Ireland that prepared the way for the devastating famine that began in 1845? How had the potato contributed to these conditions even before the fungus that destroyed the crop of 1845?
2. What did the British do to provide relief during the famine? Why did their efforts have so little success? What attitudes towards the relief of the poor or towards Ireland underlay these measures?
3. What were the results of the famine for Ireland? Explain the drop in population from 8.5 million in 1845 to 6.5 million in 1851. Besides population decline, what else happened that would influence Ireland’s future?
4. What is Fenianism? Who were the Fenians? Where does their name come from? What did they do during the second half of the nineteenth century?
5. What was the Land War? How did it evolve into the Home Rule movement? How did the British view Home Rule in the late nineteenth century?
6. Charles Stewart Parnell was called the “uncrowned king of Ireland.” Why? What was his goal for his country and why did he fail to attain it? How do we measure his success?

7. How did the events of the second half of the nineteenth century lay the groundwork for the 1916 Rising and its aftermath?

Chapters 18, 20, and 21

19 From Parnell to Pearse: 1891-1921

20 Northern Ireland: 1921-66

21 The Irish Free State and the Republic of Ireland: 1921-66

1. In the period between Parnell's death in 1891 and the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921, a number of groups agitated in a variety of ways and for a variety of constituencies for the common goal of an independent Ireland. Identify each of these groups and explain the particular role each played in influencing the people of Ireland:
 - a. the Anglo-Irish literary revival (sometimes called the Celtic Revival);
 - b. Sinn Féin;
 - c. The IRB;
 - d. The Gaelic League;
 - e. The GAA
 - f. The labour movement
2. Many people argue that it was not the Easter Rising of 1916—which failed—but the aftermath that changed the opinion of the Irish people and convinced them of the need for an independent Ireland. Describe and explain this “aftermath.”
3. (Review of ch. 20) Who fought whom and for what during the Anglo-Irish War (sometimes called the **War of Independence** or the first “Troubles”) from 1919 to 1921? Who fought whom and for what in the **Civil War**, 1922-23?
4. The Government of Ireland Act of 1920 and the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 each divided public opinion in Ireland in very different ways. Explain the Act and the Treaty and their consequences.
5. What was the character of Northern Ireland as differentiated from the Free State or “the South”? In what ways were the two regions different and similar?
6. While in the “south” the Irish were fighting for independence from Britain, gained in 1922, and setting up their own government in the 1920's and 1930's, what was going on in Northern Ireland or “the North”?

7. Why did Ireland (the Free State) remain neutral in World War II in spite of Britain's urging that they support the Allies? Did Ireland actually remain neutral? What happened in Northern Ireland during the war and why?
8. Why did Northern Ireland thrive economically following World War II while the Republic of Ireland struggled?

Chapters 22, 23, 24, and 25

22 Ireland: 1966-82

23 Ireland: 1982-94

24 Ireland at the Turn of the Century: 1994-2001

25 Turning Corners: Ireland 2002-11

1. What was the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association? Why did the Protestant right wing object to this movement?
2. During the 1980s, economic and social changes in Northern Ireland changed the political balance of power and the issues to some degree. Explain.
3. The period from 1966 to 1982 was a period of rapid change for the Republic of Ireland. What kinds of changes were there and how did they affect the nation and its people?
8. The Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 marked a significant change in how the Northern Ireland problem would be handled, paving the way for eventual peace. Who signed this agreement and what did it mean?
9. What is the Celtic Tiger? What social and political conditions contributed to its coming into being?
10. President Bill Clinton and Senator George Mitchell are almost universally praised on both sides of the Northern Ireland conflict. Why? How did they achieve this amazing feat?
11. Explain the Good Friday Agreement (also called the Belfast Agreement) of 1998. Why is it significant?
12. Irish arts and culture have experienced something of a boom in the last twenty years. Why might that be so and who are some of the most prominent figures in this cultural renaissance?

13. How have things in Northern Ireland changed since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998? Consider politics, the economy, relations with the Republic of Ireland, culture, and cross-community relations.
14. The Republic of Ireland has faced a significant number of public scandals in the last twenty to twenty-five years, all of which undermined confidence in various forms of authority. What were some of these events?
15. What are the prospects for improved relations among communities in Northern Ireland and between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland? Do you see a time when there will be one Ireland, with North and South united? Is this desirable or not? This question goes beyond the scope of our textbook, of course!