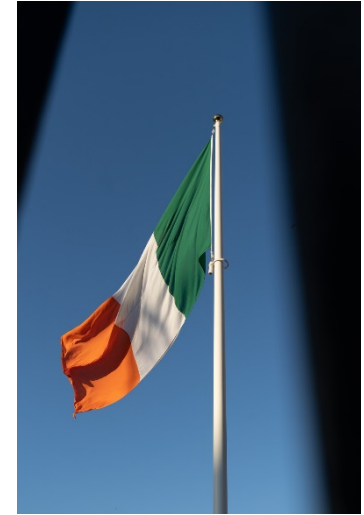


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THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

HOW A PEOPLE SHAPED A NATION



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Facts about Ireland (Eire)

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Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle, this is because of its lush greenery and rolling hills. The country receives a lot of rain each year, which keeps the grass green and the plants blooming.

Ireland is known throughout the world for its vast amount of castles. Ireland's history is dotted with wars and violence, so castles were built to protect families from invaders. Today, most of the castles are still standing and some can even be visited by tourists.

Northern Ireland is governed by the United Kingdom, while the rest of Ireland is an independent nation.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, is celebrated grandly in Ireland. People consume traditional Irish food and beverages which includes beer, pink bacon, and savory chicken.

The Irish famine in the 1840s led to a population decline of two million people because of immigration and starvation.

IRELAND'S STATS

The Republic of Ireland has a population of 4.89 million and Northern Ireland has a population of 1.882 million.

The two largest cities in Ireland are Belfast (Republic of Ireland's capital) and Belfast (Northern Ireland's capital).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): 388.7 billion USD.

Ireland's unemployment rate: 5.8%

Ireland's Main Import Partner: United Kingdom

Ireland's Main Export Partner: United States

Irish Currency: Euro

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IRISH HISTORY

Ireland may date to about 12,500 years ago

By the late 4th century AD, Christianity had begun to gradually replace the earlier Celtic polytheism. By the end of the 6th century, it had introduced writing along with a predominately monastic Celtic Christian Church.

The Norman Invasion of 1169 resulted again in a partial conquest of the island and marked the beginning of more than 800 years of English political and military rule over Ireland.

Reduced to the control of small pockets, the English crown did not make another attempt to conquer the island until after the end of the War of the Roses.

From 1536, Henry VIII of England decided to reconquer Ireland and bring it under crown control.

The conquest was completed under the reigns of Elizabeth and James I.

In 1614 the Catholic majority in the Irish parliament was overthrown through the creation of numerous new boroughs which were dominated by new settlers.

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IRISH HISTORY (CONTINUED)

From the mid-16th to the early-17th century, crown governments had carried out a policy of land confiscation and colonization known as Plantations.

These settlers formed the ruling class and several Penal Laws aimed at Catholics, Presbyterians and other Protestant dissenters were imposed on behalf of the established Anglican Church (Church of Ireland).

Because of religious persecution and a downturn in the Linen Industry, it's estimated that 250,000 Ulster Scots, or Scots-Irish, immigrated to the American Colonies from 1717-1776. They were Presbyterians and other Protestant Dissenters from the North of Ireland (Ulster).

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IRISH HISTORY (CONTINUED)

In the wake of the American and French Revolutions, a number of influential Irishmen attempted to rebel against the British.

This was the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and was led by both Irish Catholics and Protestants alike.

Wolfe Tone and Henry Joy McCracken were two well known leaders of this rebellion. The rebellion was unsuccessful.

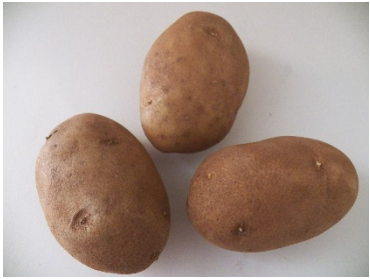
Due to the Rebellion and fears of an independent and sovereign Ireland no longer under British control, in 1800, the British parliament enacted the Acts of Union stripping and usurping more sovereignty away from the Irish people.

Poor Irish Catholics were effectively disenfranchised and not able to participate in the British government.

Daniel O'Connell (The Great Liberator) fought hard to repeal the 1800 Acts of Union and grant full Irish emancipation.

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AN GORTA MOR

An Gorta Mor (The Great Hunger) 1845-1849.

The worst year was 1847 also known as Black 47.

Total Deaths 1 Million

Population of the island fell by 20-25% due to mortality and immigration.

Permanent change in the country's demographic, political and cultural landscape.

The potato blight caused the failure of the crop which was heavily relied upon by the Irish.

Shortly before the famine, the British government reported that poverty was so widespread that one third of all Irish small holding could not be supported.



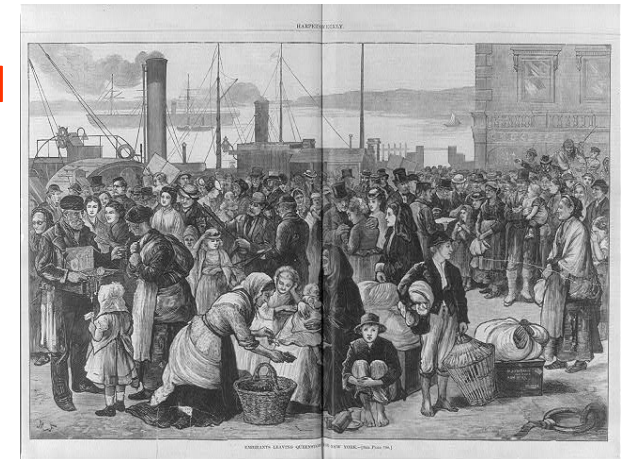
IRISH IMMIGRATION

Ireland's 1845 Potato Blight is often credited with launching the second wave of Irish immigration to America. The fungus which decimated potato crops created a devastating famine.

Starvation plagued Ireland and within five years, a million Irish were dead while half a million had arrived in America to start a new life.

In fact, Ireland's population decreased dramatically throughout the nineteenth century. Census figures show an Irish population of 8.2 million in 1841, 6.6 million a decade later, and only 4.7 million in 1891. It is estimated that as many as 4.5 million Irish arrived in America between 1820 and 1930.

Credit to: www.loc.gov



NO IRISH NEED APPLY



The maltreatment of newcomers to the United States was, of course, hardly a cross for the Irish to bear on their own. However, while the number of German immigrants entering the United States nearly matched that of the Irish during the 1850s, the Irish were particularly vilified by the country's Anglo-Saxon Protestants.

Credit to:
www.loc.gov

The Irish filled the most menial and dangerous jobs, often at low pay. They cut canals. They dug trenches for water and sewer pipes. They laid rail lines. They cleaned houses. They slaved in textile mills. They worked as stevedores, stable workers and blacksmiths.

The discrimination faced by the famine refugees was not subtle or insidious. It was right there in black and white, in newspaper classified advertisements that blared “No Irish Need Apply.”

In 1849, a clandestine fraternal society of native-born Protestant men called the Order of the Star Spangled Banner formed in New York. Bound by sacred oaths and secret passwords, its members wanted a return to the America they once knew, a land of “Temperance, Liberty and Protestantism.”

Within a few years, these societies coalesced around the anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant American Party, whose members were called the “Know-Nothings” because they claimed to “know nothing” when questioned about their politics. Party members vowed to elect only native-born citizens—but only if they weren't Roman Catholic.

IRISH ASSIMILATION

A generation after the Great Hunger, the Irish controlled powerful political machines in cities across the United States and were moving up the social ladder into the middle class as an influx of immigrants from China and Southern and Eastern Europe took hold in the 1880s and 1890s. “Being from the British Isles, the Irish were now considered acceptable and assimilable to the American way of life”.

They voted in higher proportions than other ethnic groups. Their sheer numbers helped to propel William R. Grace to become the first Irish-Catholic mayor of New York City in 1880 and Hugh O’Brien the first Irish-Catholic mayor of Boston four years later.

Over time, many Irish climbed occupational and social ladders through politically appointed positions such as policeman, fireman, and teacher. Second and third generation Irish were better educated, wealthier, and more successful than were their parents and grandparents, as illustrated by the Kennedy family.

The first Kennedy who arrived in the United States in 1848 was a laborer. His son had modest success in this country, but his grandson, college educated Joseph P. Kennedy, made the fortune that enabled the great grandsons (one of whom became President John F. Kennedy) to achieve great political success.

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FAMOUS IRISH AMERICANS

President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963)

Labor Activist Mary G. Harris Jones “Mother Jones” (1837-1930)

Singer and Actor Bing Crosby (1903-1977)

Cartoonist and Animator Walt Disney (1901-1966)

United States General Philip Sheridan (1831-1888)

At least 22 United States Presidents have either
Irish or Scots-Irish ancestry!

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, is a Catholic and Secular holiday honoring Ireland's Patron Saint, Patrick.

Large street parades mark St Patrick's Day in places like:

Savannah

Chicago

Boston

Houston

Philadelphia

New York

New Orleans



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ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONTINUED

Symbols

The most common St Patrick's Day symbol is the shamrock. The shamrock is the leaf of the clover plant and a symbol of the Holy Trinity. Other symbols include:

Almost anything green.

The green, orange and white flag of the Republic of Ireland.

Brands of beer associated with Irish culture.

The most famous of these annual festival traditions includes the Boston parade, with its first parade in 1737; the New York City parade, which began in 1762; and the Savannah, Georgia, parade which started in 1812.

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MAY THE LUCK O' THE IRISH BE WITH YOU



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