

## CHAPTER III

### HISTORY

#### 3. History of Ireland

In order to facilitate this chapter with the object analyses, the writer divide the history of Ireland into four points, they are, the history of Irish, the history of Irish religion, the history of Irish independence, and also the history of The Troubles.

##### 3.1. History of Irish

Irish people originally came from northern Spain. The ancient Leabar Gabála (the Book of Invasions) tells how the three sons of Mileadh of Spain, namely, Heremon, Heber, and Ir, came to Ireland about the time of Alexander the Great and conquered the land. From the three sons of Mileadh descended all the royal clans of later Ireland (Curtis 1). Ireland was first peopled by Neolithic men, users of flint, and then by dark, small people from the Mediterranean, users of bronze, who are perhaps the Firebug of traditions. Then about 350 BC, came Celts from the center of Europe, a tall race, red blond of hair, speaking a language close to Latin. The Gaelic Celts comes direct by sea from south France and perhaps northern Spain, conquered Ireland. A great Celtic empire had once covered central Europe, but now Ireland today is the only Celtic nation State left in the world (1).

In Romans, they were known as the Scots, to themselves they were the Gaels, and they called their country Ériu, a name familiar to us is Erin, and to the

Latin world as Hibernia (2). Politically they also took over many things.

Monarchy became a feature of their government, though on the continent the Celts were republican. Ireland was already divided into five kingdoms, and this division has lasted until today, though Meath no longer is a province. Ulster, Connacht, Munster, north and south Leinster, and the province-kingdoms were divided again into petty states called Tuatha (2).

People were already coming from all over Europe to study in Ireland's monasteries, to trade and even settle. Life in Ireland was not perfect as there had been internal feuds with the clans who had control over different areas. Ireland had been split into several large Kingdoms with lesser Kingdoms and Dynasties being established so there would always be some sort of dispute about who owned the land. A great cause for concern though came when ruthless warriors known as Vikings started arriving in Ireland, Britain and France. These Vikings were amazing sailors who would travel from places such as Denmark, Norway and Sweden using well-built long boats. After first arriving in Ireland at approximate 795 AD they would continue to arrive for the next 200 years, some settle with others to plunder what they could find. The Vikings would attack Irish monasteries and raid them for their gold, but they would also create settlements in places we know today as Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Wexford and Waterford (20).

The next invasion on Irish was not from the Vikings but from the Norman in 1169. This invasion would leave England to be embroiled in Ireland. Although an important pieces of Irish history, the life of the Normans in Ireland was somewhat short lived in terms of occupation. In saying this, the Norman invasion

of Ireland would lead to English occupation on the Irish soil for over 800 years, a reason why this era held importance in Ireland's history. The Normans brought many new things to Ireland such as architecture, languages, such as English and French, and farming ideas (41).

### **3.2. History of Irish Religion**

In the spiritual history of Ireland the first great name is St. Patrick, 'the Apostle of Ireland'. He gave to this pagan island the priceless gift of the Christian faith and the moral order of the Christian Church (Curtis 6). He had laid the foundations of the Church in Ireland.

In the sixth century the Church began to take a characteristic form which we call Celtic, a word applied also to the sister churches of Scotland, Wales, and Brittany. It was to the great abbots that in later times the Pope had to address himself as the heads of the national church, and the Latin tongue and the study of the Bible and Catholic theology now entered the country (10).

The division of Ireland into province-kingdoms and petty 'tuatha' led to the bishops being numerous and each of them ruling a 'tuatha' or two with spiritual functions only. On the other hand, numerous monasteries were founded by gifts of land from some local chief to some prominent saint. The abbot became more important than the bishop, and the bishop generally resided modestly in some monastery. In the endowment of an abbey the first abbot's kin were generally given the succession in the office (10). This period also called the

Golden Age of Ireland because the structural unity of Ireland had now remained intact for four centuries in language, law, religion, and culture (18).

The changes begin to occur when the English began to invade Ireland. In England the Tudor revolution was begun when King Henry VIII renounced the Catholic Church and the authority of the Pope and declared himself the leader of the Church of England. He was determined to be the one and only ruler and wanted to reduce the power of the provincial magnates. Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries in Ireland and remitted their revenues to the state. In 1541, he declared himself King of Ireland and introduced the Crown of Ireland act 1542. He subdued the Irish chieftains by taking their lands, then returning them, but with an English legal title (145).

After the death of Henry VIII his daughter, Mary, encouraged the British colonization of Ireland in the 1550's. However, the religious reformation waited even longer until Mary's sister Elizabeth became queen in 1558 (158). Ireland entered upon a new phase in her history. A new Irish nationality emerged, Catholic by conviction, a mixture of English and Gael by race, becoming in the upper classes ever more and more English speaking. There was no doubt that a new order had begun and that all Ireland was to be united as a kingdom under an English monarchy. The whole country was for the first time shared, and English sheriffs, justices on assize, jurors, and all the other forms of English law, land-tenure, and local administration appeared everywhere (192).

The Irish Parliament now became a permanent element in the Constitution. Ireland was so completely controlled from England. The constitutional dependence of Ireland on the de facto government of England was frankly admitted by the new ascendancy (240). In the period 1714 to 1760 Ireland had little or no political history. The Protestant ascendancy in Church, government, law, parliament, local government, industry, was complete (252).

In Ireland itself the Protestant population, though dominant only in the north, was widely and strongly spread over the rest of the country and only slowly lost its position as a ruling minority (339). The city of Belfast had now become a first rate factor in all considerations of Irish politics, and it was considered a rebel center. Ireland had remained under the old Dublin parliament and there had been no Union, probably the Ulster problem would not have arisen, but the Protestants who in 1800 had been against the Union were now for it, while the Catholic majorities were against (340). Ireland may have appeared a relatively stable and prosperous province of the United Kingdom, however, beneath the surface, it was a troubled island riddled with sectarian and political divisions.

### **3.3. History of Irish Independence**

The beginning of the 20th century, there was turmoil in the body of the Irish Parliamentary Party who plays an important role in the activity of the internal politics of Ireland and loyalist-unionist leanings, thus giving flexibility for the nationalist and republican to immediately seek the restoration of the Irish parliament. These events bring fear to the unionist and loyalist who was a

Protestant majority. They worry that if the restoration of parliament was actually materialized, their fate as a minority on the island would be threatened. In 1912, the unionist and loyalist forces eventually established called the Ulster Volunteers. Shortly thereafter, the nationalist and republican established armed forces named Irish Volunteers with the goal of offsetting activities of the Ulster Volunteers (Cottrell 23).

In 1916 occurred one of the most important events in the history of Ireland. A group of nationalist republican sympathizers seized the post office (General Post Office) in Dublin city, and then fly the green flag that symbolizes the "Republic of Ireland" as proclaimed the independence of Ireland. An event which is also known as the Easter Rising is at first ignored by the majority of the people of Ireland, but everything changed when the 16 people who are considered involved in the incident was executed two years later by the British. The execution of the action has seen resistance from the people of Ireland that led to the armed forces Irish Republican Army (IRA) which is the result of the reorganization of the armed forces Irish Volunteers (26).

Sinn Fein party who's the majority members are Catholics utilizing the majority of Irish public opinion at that time who deny the existence of English on the island of Ireland. Sinn Fein party won the republican nationalist dominant voice in many parts of Ireland in the elections in 1918, but only won a little voice in the north of Ireland or Ulster (Curtis 349). The success of Sinn Fein won many voices in Ireland that gave them dominance in the Irish parliament, thus giving

them the freedom to form their own parliament and conduct negotiations with the United Kingdom to determine the fate of Ireland next.

In 1920, through the Anglo Irish Treaty, which agreed with the Parliament of Ireland, United Kingdom eventually gave independence to the majority of the region as an independent state of Ireland dominion status to full independence as Republic after World War II, but still enter the territory of Northern Ireland as part of his kingdom. England argued that policies already agreed upon in the treaty which basically stated that the elections that do, the majority of the people in some parts of Northern Ireland elected to join the British (Cottrell 41). The decision was welcomed British loyalists and unionists, but was rejected by the nationalist and republican who stated that the decision was against the wishes of the majority of Irish people overall. A little info, the unionists, loyalists, and Protestants are a majority in the territory of Northern Ireland, but a minority in the territory of the whole island of Ireland. The policy caused friction in the body of IRA so that there was civil wars between the Irish groups that pro treaty with a distinguished group of anti treaty which wants a united Ireland (42). A war known as the Irish Civil War and also began an earlier Ireland as The Troubles island, it is ended with the victorious group with pro treaty.

As part of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland has the privilege of setting up their own parliament. In the government, Northern Ireland implements policies that tend to privilege the majority of Protestants and ruled out Catholics in various areas of life, such as education, employment, housing, and voting rights in the election. Conflict and bullying also occurs in areas that are dominated by a

particular religion, so since the 1930s, migration with regions sectarian backgrounds occurs in Northern Ireland. Finally, Northern Ireland society divided into two regions, the eastern region, which is dominated the Protestants based in Belfast and the western region, which is dominated by the Catholic based in Derry (79).

### **3.4. History of The Troubles**

Some believe that the Anglo Irish War has its roots in the Norman invasion of 1169, which resulted in the kings of England becoming the titular rulers of Ireland (14). Ireland became a trouble's island because there is a problem between Catholics as an Irish and Protestant as an ethnicity of English in Ireland. Most Protestants determined to expose its nationalist character, a substantial minority instinctively set siege to Catholics, corralling them physically and politically (112). The Troubles estimated to end with Anglo Irish Treaty in 1920, but in the fact, this conflict still exists until ninety's decade.

Refers to Marc Mulholland's *The Longest War: Northern Ireland's Troubled History*, the continue of The Troubles divide into four periods, there are sixty's decade, seventy's decade, eighty's decade and ninety's decade.



### 3.4.1. Sixty's Decade

Since the early decades of the 60's, a group of Catholics who call themselves the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) protest the policies that are considered discriminatory and discredit Catholics. Their protest began to find a bright spot when Terrence O'Neill, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland at the time, said that he would listen to their protests and promised there would be changes. It invited the fear of the unionist and loyalist that dominated by Protestant who worried that they will lose dominance in Northern Ireland. In the middle of 1966, a group of sympathizer from the unionist and loyalist paramilitaries set up against the paramilitaries named Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). In firstly founded, the group immediately declared war against the IRA and also would direct states to execute people who are considered as IRA sympathizers. Some of their actions are attacking a pub belonging to the Catholics in Belfast in 1966 and killed a Belfast Catholic in other areas in the same year. Due the actions of them, the Northern Ireland government declared the UVF is illegal movement and capture their leader, but the fact UVF remains launched their action (67).

In 1969, there was battle known as the Battle of the Bogside between local residents with the security police of Derry or RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) in the area of Bogside, Derry city. The conflict began when on 12 August, a convoy of Apprentice Boys which commemorates the victory of the Protestants in Derry conquest in the 17th century. The action got a throwing stones from local residents when the convoy approached the City of Derry who predominantly

Catholics. RUC who were assigned guard the parade forced the local resident back into Derry City, but when the RUC attempted to go into town, they immediately bombarded with throwing stones and Molotov by Derry residents. RUC then responded by releasing tear gas into the city. There was no casualty in the battle, but the victim is reaching thousands of people (69).

Traced back to a few months earlier, the Battle of Bogside can be said the culmination of Catholics and nationalist resentment against the RUC police performance. In beginning 1969, clashes broke out between Derry's resident with loyalist in the parade People's Democracy, which considered nationalist, Derry's residents have attacked by a loyalist on his way to Derry, while the RUC who assigned deemed not trying to protect the parade (71).

As a protest against the attitude of the RUC in the Battle of the Bogside, on August 13, a group of people who comprise of the Catholic and nationalist demonstrations in the city of Belfast. The demonstration became anarchy when Catholics and Nationalist attacked property owned by the RUC and the Protestants. The loyalist and Protestant perform retaliation in the form of destruction and burning the houses of the Catholic community in Belfast. Recorded 7 people were killed and thousands more injured in riots that happened until the August 17 (73).

A number of Catholic and nationalist accused the IRA failed to perform his duty to protect the existing Catholic community in Belfast. IRA itself argues that they are trying to avoid gunfire in a densely populated area to prevent further

sectarian conflict. The IRA policies caused internal division and finally IRA divided in two groups, Provisional IRA (PIRA) who nationalist republic and Official IRA (OIRA) that socialist (77). PIRA and OIRA have the same purpose, to unite Ireland become one country, but in a way that is different. OIRA trying to avoid gunfire in a densely populated area in the hope of uniting Catholic and Protestant community, while the PIRA did not hesitate to take armed action in densely populated areas with the goal of making enemy casualties as much as possible until the British agreed to go from Northern Ireland (79).

The fragmentation of the IRA, which was followed by the establishment of PIRA who claimed not hesitated to take action against the loyalists raised new fears for the loyalist and Protestant. Then in 1971, the loyalist reformed paramilitary organization named Ulster Defense Association named (UDA) which aims to protect the existence of Protestant loyalists (99).

### **3.4.2. Seventy's Decade**

Early to middle 1970 was one of the bloodiest era in the development of The Troubles, because at this time, IRA, especially PIRA, actively being an armed action that is directed against British troops and loyalists. One of the most important events in the 1970s was the Bloody Sunday incident that occurred on January 30, 1972 in the Bogside area, Derry City. There are a number of versions as to what actually happened in the incident, but the current version is widely believed British military hearing that there are a number of IRA's sniper who performed disguise in NICRA demonstration. The news then responded with the

deployment of British troops to the Bogside area of Derry, who then opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators that 14 people were shot dead and 13 others injured. The troops said that they only react because first attacked by demonstrators wearing guns and homemade bombs, but the claim was contradicted by witnesses who said that none of the protesters who were shot carrying or using a weapon (98).

Regardless of the claims of each other, the events of Bloody Sunday have negative impacts for both the British Army and the development of The Troubles own. Before the events of Bloody Sunday, Catholics are being warm to the British soldiers because they are considered as a neutral that can be counted on to protect them from sectarian conflict. But after the shooting, their opinion changed where they assume the army is no different with the paramilitary group the Ulster and RUC police who arbitrarily. On the other hand, the changes opinion of Catholics against British soldiers makes The Troubles more complicate, because after Bloody Sunday, the number of people who joined PIRA is increase (102).

In May 1974, a bomb explosion in the city of Dublin and Monaghan, Republic of Ireland, which resulted in the deaths of 33 people and injuring hundreds more. The bombing was also noted as a bombing which resulted most casualties during The Troubles. No one claimed responsibility for the incident before the loyalist paramilitary UVF claimed in 1993 those who did the bombing (111).

#### **2.3.4. Eighty's Decade**

In 1985, Britain in talks with Ireland and resulted in an agreement which is known as also the Anglo-Irish Treaty (Anglo-Irish Agreement). The essence of the agreement is entitlement to Ireland as an advisor to Northern Ireland to resolve the conflict and there will be no change in the constitution of Northern Ireland, unless a majority of members choose to join the republican community. However, the agreement also got a rejection of the unionist and republican. The unionists rejected the agreement because it gives Ireland to intervene in the Northern Ireland political activities (114).

#### **3.4.5. Ninety's Decade**

Apart from the conflict that still continues, efforts to end the conflict in Northern Ireland are increasingly finding a bright spot. In 1998, after a lengthy discussion that was held over many years between the parties in Northern Ireland along with the United Kingdom and Ireland's government, the Belfast Agreement, also known as the Good Friday Agreement was formulated. A number of important points in this agreement include Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom, the establishment of human rights commissions in Northern Ireland, preparation the system of government in Northern Ireland that the composition of the members shall consist of a loyalist and republican and the last is the end of British military operations in Northern Ireland. The Belfast Agreement noted as the end of The Troubles (175).

A various changes were made as a continuation of the implementation of the Belfast Agreement. One of the important changes that are made in is reforming the police force RUC (Royal Ulster Constabulary) and renamed to be Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) which member composition consists of fifty percent Catholic and fifty percent Protestant. The changes were made to erase the image of the police in Northern Ireland who have been considered discriminatory and arbitrary to the Catholic and nationalist community (181).