

Making Everything Easier!™

2nd Edition

Irish History

FOR

DUMMIES®

Learn about:

- Early Irish history
- Ireland's proud religious history
- Britain and Ireland's complex relationship
- Irish culture and its impact throughout the world

Mike Cronin, PhD

*Academic Director at the Centre for Irish
Programmes, Boston College, Dublin*



Making Everything Easier!™

2nd Edition

Irish History

FOR

DUMMIES®

Learn about:

- Early Irish history
- Ireland's proud religious history
- Britain and Ireland's complex relationship
- Irish culture and its impact throughout the world

Mike Cronin, PhD

Academic Director at the Centre for Irish Programmes, Boston College, Dublin



Irish History For Dummies[®], 2nd Edition

Visit

www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/irishhistoryuk
to view this book's cheat sheet.

Table of Contents

[Introduction](#)

[About This Book](#)

[Conventions Used in This Book](#)

[Foolish Assumptions](#)

[How This Book Is Organised](#)

[Part I: The Snakes Leave Ireland](#)

[Part II: The Normans Are Coming! The Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries](#)

[Part III: The Invading English Kings: The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries](#)

[Part IV: Religious Wars and Family Feuds: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries](#)

[Part V: Catholic and Protestant: The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries](#)

[Part VI: Divided in Two: Life from the 1880s](#)

[Part VII: The Part of Tens](#)

[Icons Used in This Book](#)

Where to Go from Here

Part I: The Snakes Leave Ireland

Chapter 1: No Man Is an Ireland

I'm Irish – But Who Isn't?

Arrivals

Departures

So Much History in Such a Small Place

Ireland and the land across the Irish Sea

Religion

Land

Famine

Emigration

Self-determination

Culture

Living History

Ireland Today

Chapter 2: The First People Arrive

Anyone There? Early Settlers

Hunters and gatherers

New (Stone) Age farmers

Buildings and Bracelets: The Bronze Age

Life in Bronze Age Ireland

Bronze Age metalworking

Then Comes the Iron Age – and the First Celts

The Priteni

Taking over half of Ireland: The Bolgic

And then the second half: The Lagenians

Iron Age advancements

Celts Go Gaelic

Minding P's and Q's: A new tongue

Houses and settlements

Slige: The Gaelic motorway

Why the Romans Never Made It

Chapter 3: The Early Irish Kings

The Romans: They Came, They Saw, and
They Didn't Bother

To invade or not

Rome's impact on Ireland

The Rise of the Irish Kings

Two cheers for Tuathal, the first true Irish
king

He's so cool: Finn Mac Cool

Niall of the Nine Hostages

Ogham Is the Word: The First Irish Texts

Chapter 4: Snakes Alive! Christianity Comes to Ireland

Holy Tree Huggers! The Druids

Druid beliefs

Living in Pagan Ireland

Knocking on Heaven's Door: Enter St Patrick

Patrick: the early years

Holidaying in Europe

A brief sojourn in Britain

Then back to Ireland

Christianity Comes to Ireland

Tackling the five kingdoms

Patrick's contribution in a nutshell

Christian Ireland

The influence of the monasteries

Monk-y business, Part I: On a mission round Ireland

Monk-y business, Part II: Taking God farther afield

The King-Church connection

Forget Christian kindness! This is war!

Part II: The Normans Are Coming! The Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries

Chapter 5: The Vikings Arrive First

The Men from Scandinavia

The pattern of attack

Looting the Church

Founding Dublin (and you thought it was Irish)

The Irish Get Their Own Back

The Return of the Vikings

Irish kings regroup

Two cultures become one

Big Brian Boru

The rise of a legend

The Irish kings get together

The kings fall out

Brian Boru, the High King

Attacking Ulster

Brian's last stand

Chapter 6: Irish vs. Norman Invaders . . . But Who's in Charge?

Realities of Irish Kingship: A Royal Pain

The Kingly Contenders, Round 1: The Munster Men

Donnchad (Brian Boru's son)

Diarmait

Turlough (Donnchad's brother)
Muirchertach (Turlough's son)
The Legacy of the Munster Kings

The Contenders, Round 2

Turlough O Connor
Squaring off: The fight for supremacy
Rory: At last, a High King

Bout's Over: Enter the Normans

Early skirmishes
Strongbow settles in

The Power of the Church

Growing more connected
Church councils

Chapter 7: Boy Meets Gael: The Norman-Irish Alliance

Strongbow: Making Political and Personal Hay

Fighting the good fight
Claiming his kingdom

King Henry Comes to Ireland

Henry decides to invade but doesn't
To heck with it! Henry invades
The kings submit

Stopping future rebellions

Doing Things the English Way

The Irish Church

Intermarriage

Language

Land charters

The middle nation

King John Takes Over

Party time! Teen idol John in Dublin

King John takes on a changing Ireland

Lands of peace vs. lands of war

Edward I and the First Irish Parliament

Part III: The Invading English Kings: The Fourteenth
and Fifteenth Centuries

Chapter 8: The Scottish-Irish Rebellion and Its
Aftermath

The Scottish Rebellion

The chiefs invite Robert the Bruce

Defeating the English: Edward the Bruce

Joining the fun: Robert the Bruce arrives

Gotta go: Robert returns to Scotland

The defeat of the rebels

Squashing the Irish: Edward III

Edward's reforms

Anglo-Irish response: Give us a break!

On-going problems in Ireland

Sending his son to the rescue

The Statues of Kilkenny

Outlawing Irish customs

Defining the Irish

The impact of the Statutes

Chapter 9: From Richard II to Henry IV: More
Turmoil in Ireland

Richard II Arrives

34,000 armed tourists in Ireland

The locals don't like tourists

It all goes wrong

Richard comes back, goes home, and dies

Henry IV's Impact

Ireland under Henry IV

The Pale

Making matters worse: Snow and plague

Henry VI, Richard Plantagenet, and Irish
Chutzpah

Richard Plantagenet arrives in Ireland

Take your places please: Yorkists versus
Lancastrians in Ireland

Ireland: Dick's our man!
The battle begins and goes on and on
and . . .

Chapter 10: Family Feuds I: The Wars of the Roses

A Rose by Any Other Name? An Enemy

Picking sides: The Butlers and the
Geraldines
The Battle of Pilltown

The Geraldines in Charge

Thomas fitz James fitz Gerald, Earl of
Desmond
John Tiptoft, 'The Butcher'
Thomas fitz Maurice, Earl of Kildare
Gerald: The new Kildare

The Fifteenth Century Success Story
Rejecting the Hunchback
Plotting Against Henry VII: Part 1

Hail the King: Lambert Simnel

Plotting Against Henry VII: Part 2

Hail the King: Perkin Warbeck
Trouble in Ireland

The New Broom: Edward Poyning

Warbeck's back, and so is Gerald Poynings and his Reforms

Part IV: Religious Wars and Family Feuds: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries

Chapter 11: Popes Versus Archbishops: The Reformation and Ireland

Henry VIII: Large and in Charge

The wives and woes of Henry VIII
No more Pope: The Reformation

Irish Eyes Aren't Smiling

Ireland's rebellion
Henry's response
Enforcing the Reformation in Ireland

Aiming for Supremacy in Ireland

A smallish rebellion
Making a deal with the Irish
Henry, from Lord to King of Ireland

Chapter 12: Religious Roundabouts and Irish Rebellion

Edward VI: Young, Sick, and Protestant

First gift to Ireland: A closed fist
Second gift: The Book of Common Prayer

Mary, Mary Quite Contrary – and Catholic

The counter-Reformation in Ireland

A delicate balancing act: Divided loyalties

The death of Mary

Elizabeth, the Virgin – and Protestant – Queen

What to do in Ireland? Carry on

Trouble in Tyrone: Shane O'Neill

New goal: Conquering Ireland

Big problems in Munster

Rebellion in Ulster

The worm turns

The rebellion spreads

The unsuccessful English response

Madeira for everyone! The Spanish arrive

England versus the Spanish and Irish

combined team

The flight of the earls

Chapter 13: James I and the Plantations; Charles I and Chaos

James I and Ireland

The fractious Irish populations

Saving Catholics from their addiction

Power plays in Parliament

James is dead

The Plantation System

The first plantations in Ulster

Ireland's first survey

The Beginners' Guide to Plantation

Attracting settlers

The results: A mixed bag

Charles I and His European Unions

Appeasing the Old English: Round 1

Appeasing the Old English, Round 2: The Graces

Wentworth: No friend of ours

Bad times for Good Time Charlie

Foras feasa ar Éirinn: A History of Ireland

Chapter 14: Family Feuds II and III: The English Civil War, then William and James

The Civil War

The Rebellion of 1641

Planning the rebellion

Massacres in Ulster

England responds

The fighting escalates

The Confederation

The Pope interferes

Death to Charles – and the Confederation

Cromwell in Ireland

Defeating the Irish
No more Catholicism
No more land for Catholics

The Wart Is Dead, Long Live the King (Charles
II, That Is)
The Rollicking Rule of James II

The Williamite Wars
Getting another go at rebellion
It goes wrong . . . again
Painting the Boyne orange

William, Orange Not Green

Part V: Catholic and Protestant: The Eighteenth and
Nineteenth Centuries

Chapter 15: Going Irish? Grattan's Parliament and
Wolfe Tone's Rebellion

The More Things Change: Irish Innovations
and Institutions

Inventions from Ireland
Trinity College
The Black Stuff: Guinness Arrives

The More They Stay the Same: Troubles for
Irish Catholics

One priest per parish only
No votes

Famine

Trouble Brewing

An Irish Parliament for some people
French and American ideas

The 1798 Rebellion

A shot across the bow: The United
Irishmen and Wolfe Tone
Out-and-out war
To the victor . . . : Britain takes over

Chapter 16: Going British: The Act of Union

Explaining the Act of Union

Understanding the Act
What Union meant: The good bits
What Union meant: The bad bits

Robert Emmet's Small Rebellion

Emmet's grand plan
The best laid plans
Often go awry: A riotous rebellion
Emmet's trial
A traitor's death
After Emmet: The disloyal Catholics?

The Battle for Converts
Land and Famine

Going hungry
Stay or go? Irish emigration begins

The Population Explosion

Chapter 17: Three Strikes for Irish Independence: O'Connell, Davis, and Mitchel

Agitating on the Land

Rural violence
Tithing
Poverty
Secret societies

Daniel O'Connell and Catholic Emancipation

The campaign for emancipation
The Catholic Association
The campaign begins
O'Connell stands for election
Nice Mr Wellington and a compromise

Repealing the Act of Union

Taking the idea to Parliament
O'Connell's plan
Monster meetings
The end of the Repeal efforts

Rebelling Against the Union

Thomas Davis and the Young Irelanders

John Mitchel and the Irish Confederation
The cabbage patch revolution

Chapter 18: The Great Hunger and the Land War

The Famine

Black '47: The worst year of the famine
Succumbing to disease
Half-hearted attempts to solve the problem
Who lives, who leaves

Assigning Blame

The life of the poor
Nasty Mr Peel and government policy

Sailing Away: The Irish Diaspora

The Irish in America
The Irish down under
Across the water to Britain
Irish everywhere?

The Land War: Davitt and Gladstone

Boycotting unscrupulous landlords
Land and country: The link to nationalism
Nice Mr Gladstone and the Land Act

Chapter 19: The Fight Over Home Rule

The Great National Leader: Charles Stewart Parnell

His rise to prominence

His allies: Radicals and politicians

His balancing act

His prison time: the Kilmainham Treaty

Gladstone tries to help

Parnell's Fall and His Party's Decline

The scandal

The political fallout: No party for the Irish

The Land Purchase Act of 1903: Killing Home Rule with Kindness

Unionist Response: Just Say No

Unionist ideas

Signing the Solemn League and Covenant

Protecting the Protestant way of life: The

Orange Order

Protecting the Protestant economy:

Belfast the powerhouse

Protecting the Empire

Home Rule at Last!

Reuniting the Home Rule party

Party leader Redmond's juggling act

Attacking the House of Lords

Part VI: Divided in Two: Life from the 1880s

Chapter 20: Balls and Books in Irish: The Cultural Revival

Preserving Everything Gaelic

Keypoints of the Irish Revival

Why the Irish wanted to be different

Spearheading the Preservation

The Gaelic Athletic Association: Hurling and football

The Gaelic League: Language and letters

Turning back the clock

Revisiting the country of saints and scholars

Their inspiration

Why all the fairies?

The Literary Revival: Yeats and Others

The Abbey Theatre

Playboy riots

A National Style: The Rebirth of Irish Art

Lots of Art

Hugh Lane and his famous pictures

Was the Cultural Revival a Success?

Preserving Irish nationalism

Preserving Ireland as an Irish land

Chapter 21: Fighting Against Britain: The Revolution

Home Rule and a House Divided: Nationalists vs. Unionists

Sinn Fein et al.: The advanced nationalists

The unionists and the Ulster Volunteer Force

Civil war looms

Time Out for a World War

Achtung, baby! The Germans show up
Ireland responds

Easter Time in Dublin: The Failed Rebellion and Its Effects

The enemy of my enemy . . .

Crushing the rebellion

The fallout from the Rebellion

Bloody Ireland: The War of Independence

The combatants

Truce – Part I: A divided Ireland

If at first you don't succeed: Truce – Part II

Civil War and a Free Ireland

Chapter 22: One Land, Two Systems: Partition

Who Rules What? The Two Irelands
Life in Northern Ireland, 1920s and '30s

Party politics, Unionist-style
Economic woes

Building a Free Irish State, 1920s

Creating an independent Irish identity
Embracing Irish tradition: The Irish
Olympics
Power for the people
Unfinished business: The legacy of
Partition

De Valera and His Happy Maidens: The Free
State in the 1930s

Enter the Fianna Fail
The Free State under de Valera
Fighting over the beef
Reaction to de Valera: The Blueshirts
A new Ireland and a new constitution

To Fight or Not to Fight? Ireland and World
War II

Northern Ireland at War
The Irish at Home
Post-War Rebuilding

Chapter 23: Troubles Begin Again . . . And Maybe
Finish

Troubles in the '60s and '70s

NICRA and civil rights

The violent response

Troops in

Enter paramilitary forces

Internment of Catholics

Bloody Sunday

Direct rule from London – again

The IRA attacks

No one can win

Troubles in the '80s and '90s

The hunger strikes

Bombing Britain

The American angle

Going political

Peace Comes Dropping Slow

Getting everyone to talk

Good Friday, New Northern Ireland?

The IRA standing down?

The Celtic Tiger

Ireland gets rich

Being Irish is trendy

The boom goes boom

The outsiders arrive

Any Good Points?

Part VII: The Part of Tens

Chapter 24: Ten Top Turning Points

The Arrival of Christianity

The Normans Arriving

The Reformation

The Battle of the Boyne

Wolfe Tone's Rebellion

Famine and Emigration

The Cultural Revival

The Revolution

Joining the European Union

The Good Friday Agreement

Chapter 25: Ten Major Documents

Confession of St Patrick, 450

The Book of Kells, 800

History of Ireland, 1634

Pairlement Chloinne Tomáis, 17th Century

The Irish Rebellion, 1646

The Necessity for De-Anglicising Ireland, 1892

Proclamation of the Irish Republic, 1916

Bunreacht na hEireann, 1937

Ulysses, 1922

Teenage Kicks, 1978

Chapter 26: Ten Things the Irish Have Given the World

Irish Coffee

The Abominable Snowman

[The Pneumatic Tyre](#)

[Wind](#)

[Presidents of the United States of America](#)

[Shorthand Writing](#)

[The Submarine](#)

[Love of Animals](#)

[The Hypodermic Syringe](#)

[The Ejector Seat](#)

[Chapter 27: Ten Great Irish Places to Visit](#)

[Cobh](#)

[Dingle Peninsula and the Blasket Islands](#)

[Irish National Stud and Museum](#)

[Giants Causeway](#)

[Derry](#)

[Kinsale](#)

[Croke Park](#)

[Knock Shrine](#)

[Natural History Museum, Dublin](#)

[Croagh Patrick](#)

[Chapter 28: Ten Irish People Who Should Be Better Known](#)

[Lady Betty](#)

[Big Bertha](#)

[Christian 'Kit' Davies](#)

[Tomás Ó Criomhthainn](#)

[Thomas 'Buck' Whaley](#)

[Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty](#)

[George Barrington](#)

Sir Leopold McClintock

Lola Montez

Mary McMullen

Cheat Sheet

Irish History For Dummies[®], 2nd Edition

by Mike Cronin



Irish History For Dummies[®], 2nd Edition

Published by
John Wiley & Sons, Ltd
The Atrium
Southern Gate
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 8SQ
England

E-mail (for orders and customer service enquires): cs-books@wiley.co.uk

Visit our Home Page on www.wiley.com

Copyright © 2011 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Chichester, West Sussex, England

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Chichester, West Sussex

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except under the terms of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 or under the terms of a

licence issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd, Saffron House, 6-10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS, UK, without the permission in writing of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, England, or emailed to permreq@wiley.co.uk, or faxed to (44) 1243 770620.

Trademarks: Wiley, the Wiley Publishing logo, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, A Reference for the Rest of Us!, The Dummies Way, Dummies Daily, The Fun and Easy Way, Dummies.com and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Wiley Publishing, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: The publisher, the author, AND ANYONE ELSE INVOLVED IN PREPARING THIS WORK make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without limitation warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. No warranty may be created or extended by sales or promotional materials. The advice and strategies contained herein may not be suitable for every situation. This work is sold with the understanding that the publisher is not engaged in rendering legal, accounting, or other professional services. If professional assistance is required, the services of a competent professional person should be sought. Neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable for damages arising herefrom. The fact that an organization or Website is referred to in this work as a citation and/or a potential source of further information does not mean that the author or the publisher endorses the information the

organization or Website may provide or recommendations it may make. Further, readers should be aware that Internet Websites listed in this work may have changed or disappeared between when this work was written and when it is read.

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

For technical support, please visit www.wiley.com/techsupport.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data: A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-119-99587-6 (paperback), 978-1-119-97306-5 (ebook), 978-1-119-97307-2 (ebook), 978-1-119-97308-9 (ebook)

Printed and bound in Great Britain by Bell & Bain Ltd., Glasgow, United Kingdom.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



About the Author

Mike Cronin studied history at the University of Kent and at Oxford, and has taught history to university students for the past fifteen years. He has published widely on the history of Ireland, and also on the history of sport. His books include a

history of sport and nationalism in Ireland, a jointly authored history of St Patrick's Day celebrations around the world, and a general history of Ireland. He is currently the Academic Director at Boston College's Centre for Irish Programmes in Dublin, and is researching the history of major public spectacles and festivals in twentieth century Ireland.

Author's Acknowledgments

Over the years I have taught many university students who knew no Irish history and had no Irish heritage. This was a challenging and fascinating process as it forced me to rethink my teaching of Irish history from the beginning. Much of what appears in this book, and the ways that different periods of Irish history are explained, emerge from the challenges laid down to me by my students over the years. To all of them, for their patience and their interest, I offer my thanks.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of two important people at Wiley: Alison Yates who first came to me with the idea for this book, and Rachael Chilvers who worked long and hard in making sure that everything was done properly. The efforts of the development editor, Tracy Barr, the copy editor, Martin Key, and the technical editor, Neil Fleming, are much appreciated, and all made incisive and valuable comments that have improved the text. For the new edition, I have to thank Mike Baker and Simon Bell for holding my hand and going through this all again.

My colleagues at the Centre for Irish Programmes at Boston College were, as always, a mine of useful information and a source of support, and in Dublin, Thea Gilien graciously allowed