1801-29

Union Act 1800 (Enacted 1 Jan 1801)

No emancipation

Resignation of William Pitt (P.M.1783-1801)

Catholic Emancipation

Catholic Ass'n 1823 County Clare bielection 1828 Catholic Relief Act 1829 £10 Freehold franchise

1830-43

Whig governments 1830-41 Coercion Act 1833 3 Irish Reform acts: Educational 1833 Ecclesiastical 1833 Municipal 1840

Political Stalemate

Repeal of Union Campaign 1841-3

Failure Oct'43

1844-67

Peel's Reforms Failure of Franchise & Land bills 1844

Maynooth Act 1845 grant increased

Great Famine

1845-9 Causes & conditions

Corn Law repeal'46 Whig relief 1847-51 Emigration

1852-66 Farming improved; So rents increased&

So too evictions;
Oct. 1867

Oct. 186 Manchester martyrs Clerkenwell bomb

Emancipation, Stalemate & Famine, 1801-67:

When Pitt pushed through the Act of Union, Promises he'd made

That Catholics should have full inclusion

Soon began to fade;

For George III had sworn allegiance

To the Protestant cause,

And Pitt resigned, when Catholic freedoms

Could not be restored...

Till O'Connell raised Emancipation,

With his Catholic rent;

And winning the County Clare election,

Roused such discontent,

That the Duke informed the King he must

Remove the Irish yoke...

But parrying any Irish thrust:

The £10 freehold vote:

So bedevilling the Irish were the English in their land, Where unrest at its widest had forced the government's hand; Whose recourse to repression left injustices full blown, And every slight concession like squeezing blood from stone.

Though reform of Parliament gave O'Connell 39 M.P.s,

The Tithe War forced the Whigs to promulgate more harsh decrees;

But then pledged national education,

Scrapped 10 Anglican sees,

Formed 58 new Corporations,

Catholic, 10 of these.

Stalemate followed, so O'Connell

Sought repeal from Peel,

But since they'd almost fought a duel,

Unlikely was a deal;

And though both priest & peasantry

Supported his campaign,

The meeting planned at Clontarf, banned,

His star began to wane...

So bedevilling the Irish were the English in their land, Where protest was a high risk, the scaffold close at hand; Where force deployed to crush this left seeds of hatred sown, And promises of justice like squeezing blood from stone.

Though Peel knew well that "confrontation

Could not remedy...ills",

His £5 vote and compensation

Both remained as bills;

He increased cash to Maynooth, so as

To reconcile more priests;

But neither church would succour those

Whom they were not to teach.

Then rising births, potato blight

And landless evictees,

Would mean around a million died

From **Famine** and Disease.

And despite corn freed, too few relieved

Sent millions fleeing abroad;

And where cattle grazed, new rents were raised,

From which eviction soared...

So bedevilling the Irish were the English in their land, Where distress at its direst found no relief in hand; Where Young Ireland & the Fenians found hatred fully grown, And any act of lenience like squeezing blood from stone. (Wm. Pitt the Younger P.M.: 1783-1801: 1804-6)

Abolished the Irish Parliament & replaced it With 100 Irish M.P.s elected to Commons; 4 bishops & 28 barons to the House of Lords

Emancipation = abolition of restrictions on Catholics to hold offices of state or sit as M.P.s

George III's adherence to his coronation oath

(1760) to uphold Protestant supremacy, meant that Pitt could not keep his promise & so he resigned.

- ♦ Daniel O'Connell 1775-1847 Irish Liberator

 Catholic Association: formed 1823 collected
 rent (£20,000) to finance Emancipation campaign

 V.Fitzgerald, M.P. appt'd Pres. of Board of
 Trade so bi-election held which O'Connell won
- Emancipation & Gt. Reform Act (of Parlt.) =
 O'Connell 29 Catholic M.P.s (1830) & 39 (1832)
 Violence continued in Ireland & Tithe War v.
 Anglican Church led to Coercion Act (Arb.Arr.)
 Three attempts by Whig. Govts to ease Irish conditions . set up national system of schooling
 suppressed 10/22 Anglican bishoprics (sees) . reform of local govt. v. "pocket" corporations
 (ie boroughs controlled by local Protestant aristocracy)
- Whigs replaced by Conservatives under Peel
 O'Connell wanted repeal of Act of Union
 Peel (P.M.1841-6) not prepared to concede it
- ❖ O'Connell had support of most Irish peasants and Catholic priests

BUT: movement lacked unity & support such as there'd been in 1828-9

O'Connell planned mass meeting at Clontarf, which the authorities banned & it was accepted without violence

❖ Peel accepted "confrontation could not remedy Irish social ills", & reform was essential:

J BUT: bills to reduce Irish franchise from £10 to £5 & compensation for improvement made by tenants at the end of a lease were defeated.

So: he insisted on increasing the grant to Maynooth College (for training Cath.priests) but plans for less sectarian higher education failed, owing to opposition of both churches' leaders.

• rise in birth rate; . potato blight; . inefficient and insufficient farms, whose tenants were subject to rising rents and eviction by absentee landlords

c. 1 million Irish farmers, wives & children died; population fell by a quarter 1845-49 (c8-6m.)

Despite repeal of corn laws, Whig relief was inadequate; c.1.5 million migrated in same period.

Improvements to farming methods and intro. of livestock during 1850s & 60s allowed landlords to charge higher rents & evict for non-payment

J Irish nationalism, inspired by Young Ireland & Fenians campaigned (peacefully at first) for fairer conditions, but Parliament turned a deaf ear...

So, the inevitable cycle: bombs & executions