

PHASES OF IRISH HISTORY

What follows is an outline of Irish History written by Col. P.G. of Staff, American Irish Republican Army Society out of Puyallup, Washington approximately 25 years ago. Still, reading the information today is still relevant and may enlighten you about Irish History. We will present this article as a series throughout the remainder of the year. So if you are interested please retain this copy to continue the article in June, August, October and December issues. Anyone wishing a copy should contact the editor. We will begin with a poem to set the tone for the report.

800 YEARS OF PROSECUTION, PERSECUTION AND EXECUTION

*Who is Ireland's enemy? Not Germany or Spain,
Not Russia, France nor Austria,
They forged for her no chains,
Nor quenched her hearths, Nor raised her homes,
Nor laid her altars low, Nor sent her sons to tramp the hills,
Amid the winter's snow!*

*Who murdered kindly Shane O'Neill?
Who poisoned Owen Roe?
Who struck Red Hugh O'Donnell down?
Who filled our land with woe?
By night and day, a thousand times, in twice 400 years,
Till every blade of grass was wet, With blood and tears?*

*Who spiked the heads of Irish Priests on Dublin Castle gate?
Who butchered helpless Irish babes,
The lust for blood to sate?
Who outraged Irish maidenhood and tortured aged sires.
And spread from Clare to Donegal,
The glare of midnight fires?*

*Who sent in thousands o'er the waves to slavery and shame,
The children of the Irish land to end their race and name?
Who sold them like a flock of sheep
and laughed in hellish glee,
When mothers, mad with grief,
Sought death beneath the sea?*

*Who scoured out land in '98, spread torture far and wide,
Till Ireland shrieked in war and pain,
And hell seemed fair beside?
Who pulled the pitch-cap and then sword,
The gibbet and the rack?
Oh God! that we should ever fail to pay those devils back!*

*Who robbed our land in '47 of all her stores and food,
When at her gates, with poisoned breath,
Gaunt famine grimly stood?
Who filled her fields with whitened bones?
Who drove across the sea,
The kindest hearts in all the world,
the kin of you an me?*

*Who slew the three at Manchester,
one dread November dawn?
While round them howled in fury the devil's hungry spawn?
Who shattered many a Fenian mind,
In dungeon o'er the foam,
And broke the loyal Fenian hearts,
That pined for them at home?*

*Who shot down Clarke and Connolly
And Pearse at dawn of day,
And Plunkett and MacDiarmada,
and all who died that day?
Who robbed us of MacSwiney brave,
Who murdered Mellows true,
Sent Barry to a felon's grave,
And slaughtered Cathal Brugha?*

*Not Germany, nor Austria,
Not Russia, France or Spain,
That robbed and sieved this land of ours,
that forged her rusty chain,
But England of the wily-words-
the crafty, treacherous foe,
Twas England scourged our Motherland,
Twas England laid her low!*

*WISE UP! O dead of Ireland,
and rouse her living men!
The time has come to us at last to win our own again,
To sweep the English enemy
From hill and glen and bay,
And in your name, O holy dead,
Our sacred debt, we'll pay!*

In order to understand the present day situation and problems in Ireland, we must know something of the past. For over the last 800 years it has been a long struggle for survival and freedom. We must know where the Irish came from and what makes them so different that the Anglo-Saxon.

Every people have two distinct lines of descent; by blood and by traditions. Race is often used in a very loose and misleading way in popular writings, and discussions. We hear of the Latin race, Saxon race or garlic race. They are all mixture of the same races, but in different proportions. It is the different proportions and traditions that make the great difference in these groups.

Many refer to the Irish as Celts. This is wrong! These Celts were an enlightened war like race and they conquered most of western Europe including Germany, France, Britain, and Spain, as far south as Rome, even into the Balkans. Politically they were a federation of small republics each with a king and ruler, a system which they brought with them to Ireland.

Milesius was a leader of one branch of these people and was such a great military leader that many kings hired his services. He was from a branch of the Celts that settled in the Pyrenees mountains of Spain. Here they mixed their blood with the Iberians, a dark people they found there. This blood was the start of the Gaedhal (Gael), more than 1000 years before Christ, some historians say it was three centuries before Christ.

Milesius led his conquering armies far to the East and led Egypt against Ethiopia. He married a daughter of the Pharaoh named Scots, and after seven years returned with her to Spain, to become King of Galicia, where he died after a reign of 35 years.

Shortly after the death of Milesius a great drought, which lasted several years in Galicia, brought famine to the land, which forced the people to leave. The sons of Milesius called their chiefs and followers together, being advised by the Druids that there was a rich and beautiful Island in the northwest of Europe, where they could live free from famine. Then the eight sons of Milesius, with his widow, and their army set sail for Ireland with 60 ships. Off the coast of Ireland they ran into a great storm and five of Milesius' sons were drowned, but three sons along with their mother, Scots and their followers, landed in Ireland. Heber-Finn in the Southwest, and Hermon on the East Coast. With Amhergin, who was a Druid, Heber-Finn and his followers began a march inland and encountered the first Tuatha DeDanaan army commanded by their princess Eire. The Tuatha DeDanaan were defeated with a loss of one thousand men, the Milesians lost 300 men and Scots the widow of Milesius. She was buried in a valley in Kerry called Glen Scotthin.

After the battle the victorious Heber-Finn continued his march until he met his brother Hermon. The brothers with their united forces decided to march against the main Tuatha DeDanaan army encamped at Tailton under their three Princes and in the battle that followed the Tuatha DeDanaan army was destroyed with their Princes and all the chief officers. At this battle the Milesians won for their descendants the Empire of Ireland, making it a land of plenty for centuries, until despoiled by the brutal English invader.

The brothers, Heber-Finn and Hermon, as children of Milesius, divided Ireland between them; Heber-Finn getting Munster and Hermon Leinster. They gave Ulster to their Nephew Heber-Don. Connaught was given to the Firbolgs who fought with them against the Tuatha DeDanaan.

Later, in disputes over boundaries the brothers fought a great battle in which Heber-Finn was slain. Hermon then became ruler of Ireland for the next thirteen years. Most of the great Gaelic families of Ireland are descendants of Hermon. The 3rd brother Amhergin received no land because he was a Druid and was forbidden by his religion to own land,

Other branches of the Celts crossed Europe, one group going north, mixing with ancient peoples along the way. The Celt mixture, landing in England also found and conquered an ancient people, later to mix with the Romans, Saxons, Danes, etc. This formed the Anglo-Saxon race in England today, a race that places their goals to be the attainment of material wealth above all else, while the Gaelic race of Ireland places highest in their goal of attainment of Spiritual wealth. This is the first of many differences between these two peoples. Today, one can see evidence of this in the cluttering of England with factories and waste while Ireland has the pastoral scene.

Some Gaels later crossed from Ireland to what is now Scotland. At this time the Ireland we know today was called Scotia. This group landing in Scotland settled and mixed with the Danes there, and we now find a Gael slightly different than the Gael in Ireland. This new land became known as Scotia-Minor. Some of these descendants later re-settled back in northeast Ireland and are known as the Scotch-Irish. The Gaels of Scotland also mixed with the Scandinavian bloods and today we find many Scots with names such as Watson, Stephenson, Jackson, Jameson, etc.

The Roman conquerors by-passed Ireland but Roman missionaries visiting Ireland found Irish Culture and traditions very strange to them.

In 795 The Vikings appeared and ended the happy state in Ireland. The Vikings came often and plundered and took slaves. The happy go lucky Irish were no match for them. The Vikings developed the cities of Dublin, Cork, and Waterford. Their rule lasted until it was broken by King Brian Boru in 1014AD..

We must not forget St. Patrick and his effect on Ireland, for no history of Ireland would be complete without his mention. But, before St. Patrick's mission to Ireland there were already traces of small Christian communities in Ireland, but these records have been discredited in a desire to make it appear these See's were founded by Patrick. St. Patrick himself, in his Confession, seems to testify by implication to the existence, not merely of individual Christians, but of Christian communities with their clergy in and before his time. Patrick was not Irish but his mother was a Breton and his father was a Dane. Patrick

was captured as a slave and taken to Ireland when a boy. He made his escape but he loved the people he knew in Ireland and in his later years as a missionary he returned to Ireland where he brought Christianity to the entire island. In fact, if it were not for St. Patrick there would be no Christianity in the world today for, during the dark ages, all Christianity was wiped out in Europe and it was the Irish Missionaries that traveled over Europe bringing light back to Europe.

About 1175 a provincial king, Dermot McMurrough of Leinster, was driven from his throne because of his evil ways. He appealed for help from Henry 11 of England, and Henry gave him leave to enlist volunteers from his followers, and also, some Normans arrived to aid him. They soon over ran Leinster and Munster. Hot on their heels came Henry 11, loudly proclaiming his zeal for the reforms of the manners and morals of Ireland. He had provided himself with some form of authority from Pope Adrian the red-headed, the only English Pope ever to head the Catholic Church. He served as Pope only four years. The authenticity of this authority has long been questioned. Here began a misunderstanding that was to confuse Irish affairs for centuries.

Henry claimed the feudal lordship of Ireland and the right to let the land to his nobles, Norman and Irish, in return for loyalty and service. But under Irish Law, the land was owned by individuals or groups, and the King had no rights to their land. Irish Law said that the owner had the right to resist, even by force, any attempt to rob him.

For the next 350 years Norman families held about half the land, either by conquest, marriage, royal grants or mere swindling.

Henry V111 inherited a rich and strong kingdom from Henry 11 and he was able to turn his attention to Ireland. At first he tried to win over the Irish Lords by persuasions. He made two mistakes; he claimed the right to feudal monarch to dispose of the land of Ireland to those friendly to him. His second mistake was his break with Rome. Up to now the English King's claimed Lordship of Ireland thru the Pope's feudal grant, but Henry had sacrificed even the dubious legality of this when, after failing to get permission to divorce the queen so he could marry a woman he had made pregnant, he established his own church in defiance of the Pope. (The bastard child from his marriage was Elizabeth 1) He now proclaimed himself King of Ireland by right of conquest and faced the task of effectively conquering Ireland to make good his claim; his methods were to smash down all Irish opposition. Until this time Catholicism was rather weak in Ireland but now the native Irish rushed to the Church and embraced Catholicism fervently, more to spite the hated king.

This policy was continued by his daughter, Queen Elizabeth. Elizabeth saw first the extinction of the Fitzgerald and then the Anglo-Irish lords of Connaught and the great princes of Ulster. A few years later the surviving lords of Ulster fled and England ejected the remaining land holders and planted 20,000 Scotch Presbyterians and European Protestants on some 2 million acres of confiscated land in northeast Ireland in 1608. This plan was to dilute the Irish blood and secure the English hold on the richest part of Ireland. by now, the last vestiges of Irish independence disappeared.

Now the conquest was complete and the Irish, with their land desolate by war and racked by famine, their old lords banished, their trade and commerce destroyed, their language outlawed and their religion forbidden, were left to the mercy of the conquerors.

Insurrection broke out in 1641, which had the dual roles of religious freedom and restoration of confiscated land. The first victim's of this fighting was the new Scots and English settlers in Ulster whom had become greater haters of English tyranny than the native Irish. Many were driven from their homes and killed. A twelve-year war raged.

Cromwell came to finish this war by bringing his victorious Parliamentary Army to Ireland to wipe out all opposition, whether Catholic, Protestant, Irish, Scotch or English. Cromwell brought a new depth of horror with rape, famine and massacre, He cut and burned crops. Thousands were driven into buildings and the buildings were set on fire, burning people alive. Hundreds of homeless men women and children were rounded up and shipped to the sugar islands as slaves. Young men were forced into the military service of England. Cromwell confiscated all lands of those that opposed him.

When King James took the throne he was an English Catholic and brought some relief to Ireland but trouble soon developed between him and the other claimant to the throne, William of Orange. After two years of fighting James surrendered and the end came to freedom for all Catholics. The Irish Protestants did not accept this rule and discipline and were denied any

privileges of land holding, education or office holding. Schools and books were destroyed and the speaking of Irish was forbidden.

So far we have touched on points to show that the Irish are different than any other race in culture, traditions and temperament. They are made up of the fair hair of the Celts and the dark Irish of the Iberian strain, but so different that they stand out from any others of the white race, especially the Anglo-Saxon. There is too much difference between these two peoples to ever live side by side except as equals. One thing England has never tried in trying to get along with the Irish is Christian compassion. She has built an unbridgeable gap between herself and the Irish through her torture and deceit.

Britain has found she can only continue her stay in Ireland through violence. She has tried famine, slaughter, slavery, dilution of the race, destroyed her trade and language to conquer the Irish people, but each generation finds the Irish still trying for freedom. Britain founded the Orange Order to divide and conquer, to divide the people on religious lines. England has preached the lie to the Irish Protestants that a united Ireland would find the Catholics killing off the protestants, yet thousands of protestants live in peace and equality in the 26 counties today. England buys these descendants of the settlers off with jobs, grants and housing. Is it any wonder they cling so desperately to Mother England's skirt?

Wolfe Tone, the father of the modern Irish Republicanism, saw the need to rid Ireland of the invader and her sectarianism as the only means of uniting the Gaelic people. Tone was the son of a protestant minister. Tone said: "To subvert the tyranny of our execrable government, to break the connection with England, the never failing source of all our political evils and to assert the independence of my country—these are my objectives. To unite the whole people of Ireland, to abolish the memory of all past dissensions, and to substitute the common name of Irishman in place of the denomination of Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter."

Wolfe Tone sought the aid of France in his attempt to gain freedom for Ireland as he had been commissioned an officer in the French forces. Due to bad storms at sea at the crucial moment to strike, his aid did not come and Tone was captured and sentenced to death.

Tone's father, the minister, had some pull in English politics so he sought his son's release on the grounds that Tone was an officer in the French forces. His release was promised and while his clemency papers were being drawn up, British soldiers went into his cell at night and cut Tone's throat. It was then announced that Tone has "committed suicide," this was in 1798.

The society of United Irishmen had been formed in 1791 to unite the Irish Catholics and Irish Protestants. Their objective was to break the connection with England. England declared it illegal in 1794. From this time on the movement for Irish independence became democratic and republican in character; and the United Irishmen, who included Protestants, Roman Catholics and Presbyterians were foremost in shaping it.

The English opposed the United Irishmen in several ways. They crushed, with great severity, the republican insurrection of 1798 in which Ulster Presbyterians, led by men like Henry Joy McCracken and Henry Munroe, took up arms for an Irish Republic and were joined by Irishmen of all denominations in various parts of the country. It was then in 1795 that the English promoted the Orange Order, a sectarian and exclusively protestant secret society which soon instituted wide spread terror, horror and persecution. This was the imperial policy of "divide and Conquer." Britain still uses it today. English Chief Secretary, Thomas Pelham, approved a plan "to increase the animosity between Orangemen and the United Irishmen." Later Pelham's successor, Sir Robert Peel, also endorsed this view. Referring to Roman Catholics and Protestants, he said, "I hope they may always be disunited. The great art is to keep them so." English propaganda represented the insurrection as a 'civil war', and any attack on Protestants by Irish Catholics as a "Popish Plot."

In spite of Britain's efforts there were still many Protestants, however, who felt themselves to be Irishmen and whose first devotion was to the cause of freedom. Robert Emmet was one of them. A young man of great intellectual promise, he led, in 1803, a revolt against English rule. An attack on Dublin Castle was elaborately planned but, by accident and treachery, was brought to a disastrous end. Seventeen of the conspirators were executed. Robert Emmet was publicly hanged in Dublin and his body beheaded. In his speech from the dock he said. "When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then, and not until then, let my epitaph be written." The Irish people have not yet written his epitaph.

After Emmet, no revolution leader arose for a generation. Daniel O'Connell's leadership was of a pacific kind and his repeal of the Union failed. He succeeded in the concession known as "Catholic Emancipation", but this only helped the Irish and English Catholics of means, as those of "no Property" had no rights to vote or hold office. This caused opposition to O'Connell by labor unions who claimed this only served to drive a wedge deeper between the Protestants and Catholics. But the Duke of Wellington, (Arthur Wellsey) declared that if O'Connell's bill had not passed he would be unable to hold Ireland with less than 70,000 men.

The Irish population had grown from 6 million in 1821 to 8 million in 1841, and England was greatly alarmed over the rapid growth. This was half the population of the rest of the British Empire. But, in 1847 the English landlords discovered that there would be no potato crop in Ireland because of the blight. PRAIRIES, as they were locally called, were the main diet of the Irish as all other foods and grain, was shipped to England by the English Landlords. Now, 1847 was a most bountiful year for all other crops and livestock. The English mind worked fast. They realized that here was a chance for them to at last solve the Irish "problem." Before the poor Irish knew what was going on the English worked day and night shipping the other crops out of the 13 ports of Ireland to England, including the livestock, and soldiers were placed around the granaries. The purpose was to starve the Irish people. The English owned all the farmland and their excuse for seizing all the food was for payment of rent from the tenant farmers. Immense herds of cattle, sheep and hogs were floating off at every tide to be loaded on waiting ships. For landlords, were living in England. All this while hundreds of Irish families lay by the roadside to die. America offered to send food but England would not allow American ships to land in Ireland. One shipload of starving Irish families made it to England but they were promptly shipped back and dumped on the Irish shore. England allowed many to leave Ireland to go to America and 50% of those that left died at sea in the crowded ships. Ships loads that reached America were not allowed to land because American Labor Unions were afraid the Irish would take jobs at reduced wages so they were dumped on the Canadian shores to die. After several million died, America finally did allow many to enter America. Landlords, according to English law, not only had a right to evict the Irish, but they had the power to deport them. Ireland's population dropped from nearly 9 million to less than 4 million. 2,300,000 landed in America, and during this period more Irish entered America than all other foreigners for the previous 70 years. America was about to lose the Civil War to the South when a million of these Irishmen took up arms to turn the tide of battle.

About this time, when England thought she had destroyed all records and history of Wolfe tone, another great Irishmen picked up Tone's banner and led a fight to unite the Irish Catholic and protestants along the same lines outlined by Tone. Charles Gavan Duffy was born in County Monaghan a Catholic raised with Protestants. Early he learned how England divided his people by deceit and fear. Duffy who edited a newspaper in Dublin, said "Educate and we will be free." He spread the importance of educating the people to their history of the past. He set up reading halls and gathered forbidden books. He was criticized by his Catholic Bishop for his efforts to bring together the Northern Presbyterians and the Southern Catholics. "The slaves vice of paltering with the truth clings to our; people like rust to their chains," Duffy said.

Duffy contacted Dr. McKnight, a strong Presbyterian leader from Belfast. McKnight was also a newspaper editor and edited the Banner of Ulster. These two men formed a committee of which Duffy was Chairman. County meetings were held in quick succession and they drew tremendous crowds. At the first meeting at Enniscorthy, the farmers within a radius of 20 miles attended on foot and horseback and there was said to be enough present to control the county election. A couple of days later 8,000 farmers with most of the priests of the diocese of Ossory, walked into Kilkenny to hear speakers from North and south of Ireland. It was there that Dr. McKnight, in urging Irishmen of different faiths to abandon, once and for all, the aimless distinctions of party, grasped the hand of Father O'Shea, an incident that aroused the popular enthusiasm to a tempest. In his turn, Father Keefe told the gathering that they held in their hands a weapon sheathed for 300 years, a weapon never yet tried against England, the weapon of the union of all Irishman. The landlord's slogan was "divide and conquer", the people of Ireland had now raised the holier cry of "Unite and Conquer."

England up to now had never feared armed insurrection but this movement to unite all the Gaelic people and end sectarianism put great fear in the English Queen Victoria. She sent Prime Minister John Russell to either buy off the Presbyterians with jobs or cash. When Russell returned to England and reported his failure to separate the Presbyterians from the Catholics, Queen Victoria ordered the arrest of Duffy on charges of treason. He was sentenced to be hanged, drawn and quartered. Also arrested and convicted were Patrick Donahue, Thomas McGee, Maurice Luene, Richard O'Gorman, Michael Ireland, Terence McManus, Thomas Meagher and John Mitchell. Before passing sentence the judge asked if there were anything anyone wanted to say. Meagher speaking for all said, "This is our first offense but not our last; if you will be easy with us this once, we promise, on our

true word as gentlemen, to try and do better the next time, sure, and we won't be fools the next time to be caught!" There upon the indignant and enraged judge sentenced them all to be hanged, drawn and quartered.

Passionate protests from all over the world forced Queen Victoria to commute the death sentences and it was changed to life imprisonment and banishment to the penal colony in Australia. In 1874 word reached the astonished Queen Victoria that the Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, who had been elected Prime Minister of Australia was the same Charles Duffy that had been banished to Australia 26 years before. This caused the Queen to have an investigation made of the whereabouts and fortunes of the other eight men who had been convicted with Duffy. The Queen was astonished by the information received:

Thomas Meagher, Governor of Montana; Terrence McManus, Brigadier General U.S. Army; Patrick Donahue, Brigadier General U.S. Army; Richard O'Gorman, Governor General, Newfoundland; Maurice Luene, Attorney General for Australia; Thomas McGee, Member of Parliament, Montreal and Minister of Agriculture and President of Council, Dominion of Canada; John Mitchell, prominent New York politician and grandfather of John Purroy Mitchell, who became Mayor of New York City.

The political agitation for Irish Independence continued into the 20th century. In 1916 on Easter Monday 1000 Irishmen proclaimed Ireland an Independent Nation and attempted to set up a Republican Government. Padraic Pearse, a 36 year old lawyer and school teacher was commander in chief of the Republican forces and President of the Provisional Government. They seized the General Post Office in Dublin as headquarters. Women were assigned positions inside the post office as nurses and running of the commissary. Lois Gavan Duffy, niece of Charles Gavan Duffy, was appointed head of the women.

At this time there was some confusion among the forces as it was originally planned to start the war on Easter Sunday but Pearse felt too many would be in church so he sent word throughout Ireland that the move would take place Easter Monday instead. Eoin MacNeil misunderstood the order and thought the rebellion had been called off and sent word out to that effect. Hence we find the Dublin forces fighting almost alone.

After 6 days of fighting, thru which the English losses were very heavy, the insurgents were hopelessly out numbered. They considered conditional surrender to save the people of Dublin from being slaughtered. Sixteen of the leaders, including Pearse and Connolly, were executed, all signers of the Proclamation.

England promised to hold a plebiscite of the people of the whole of Ireland to vote for their freedom if the Irish would fight with England against Germany in World War 1. She explained this was to give the small nations their right to self determination. Ireland lost 50,000 men in this way.

In 1918 a plebiscite was held and 83% of the Irish people of the entire island voted for freedom. England did not believe the results and said the Irish were too ignorant to know what was good for them, She called for another vote in January 1919 and this time the vote carried 30 of the 32 counties for freedom. On July 21, 1919, Dail Eireann was established. In September 1919, a British Military proclamation declared Dail Eireann to be an illegal body. All Republican newspapers were suppressed and England unleashed a reign of terror, which continued until the signing of the Treaty in 1921.

England's answer to the risen people of Ireland was the Government of Ireland Act passed in Westminster without one representative from Ireland being represented, Protestant or Catholic. This Act not only partitioned Ireland but the 9 counties of Ulster. From the results of the vote England knew only two counties were heavily populated with British settlers, two adjoining counties were heavily Nationalist, but thin in population. England knew she could never hold all nine counties so she just took the six, Armagh, Derry, Tyrone, Antrim, Fermanagh, & Down. In spite of protests by many protestants and Catholics in these counties, Britain retained control of them. The remaining 26 counties got Dominion Status.

England had been fought to a stand still in the Black and Tan war, and she asked for a truce to consider a treaty. The Irish delegates to this treaty were picked by England. They were: Cathal Brugha, Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, Barton Duggan (an ex British Officer), And George Gavan Duffy, son of Charles Gavan Duffy. General Smuts, Minister of South Africa visited Eamonn De Valera, Irish President, and urged the acceptance of a settlement similar to theirs, but DeValera paid no attention and refused to be stampeded into any sort of a compromise. He created the impression that it did not matter the least to the Dail whether the war dragged on endlessly, that the Irish could well stand the pace. Michael Collins felt differently. He stated, "It is either a peace with a truce to keep or no truce at all, because once a truce is agreed and we come out into the open,

it is extermination for all of us is the truce fails. We shall be like rabbits coming out of a hole; and potshots by the British should the truce fail."

The British delegation consisted of Prime Minister Lloyd George, Sir Austin Chamberlain, Lord Birkenhead, Sir Hamar Greenwood, Winston Churchill, Sir L. Worthington-Evans and Sir Gordon Hewart.

Lloyd George offered DeValera that if the truce were signed, all prisoners would be released and the partition would be "Temporary."

Arthur Griffith was prepared to accept Dominion status for a 32 county Ireland, he never, at any time, contemplated partition. He was cajoled into signing the treaty by the inclusion in that treaty of a clause which made provision for the setting up of a border commission to consider the wishes of the population in certain Nationalist areas such as Tyrone, Fermanagh, Derry City and South Armagh. Lloyd George assured Griffith that the Boundary Commission, when it met, would cede a large area of territory to the Southern State, that what would be left would not be a viable political entity for the Unionists and, as a result, full national unity would be inevitable, with British consent and support. Both Griffith and Collins fell for this British lie. They were in their graves when the Border Commission did meet in 1925, and its report, instead of recommending the transfer of territory to the southern state actually recommended the transfer of parts of Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan to the northern statelet.

Lloyd George told the delegates that if they did not sign the treaty, that Britain would execute the hundreds of Irish prisoners she held and unleash a terrible and devastating war from which Ireland would never recover.

Meanwhile, the British Army was taking another look at the truce, just in case. Sir Henry Wilson noted; We shall want 200,000 men and one or two years to stamp out for all time these murdering Irish and re-establish British Law and Order should they fail to sign the truce.

Collins was worrying himself to a point of illness. He set himself to the task to accomplish. A deadly fear gnawed away at him; if the truce should fail we are done for. He felt the British did not plan to keep their word. He could see the preparations for war in England all around him. Great decisions were being left on Collins' shoulders. Cathal Brugha had refused to attend the truce meeting and he did not trust the English.

On December 3rd, 1921, Lloyd George, getting impatient, took Collins aside and said, "We have already promised the release of the prisoners we hold when this treaty is signed, We now hold 26 of your people under sentence of death, hundreds more under penal servitude, thousands interned and dozens more waiting trial on capital charges over their heads, He hesitated and then continued. "Should you fail to sign this treaty you will never see these prisoners again. We now have the power to unleash a terrible and devastating war on Ireland that will settle this Irish problem for all time." Under these constant threats the treaty was signed

When the delegates returned to Ireland they found great unrest and turmoil. The Treaty did not solve anything nor settle anything. Hundreds of Irishmen had died for nothing. The great majority of the Irish people refused to accept the treaty. They were not allowed to vote on it. A civil war followed. Even when the Treaty was voted in the Dail it only passed by a very slim margin, and this after members were bought off by the British.

Many innocent young Irish boys, thinking they had won freedom hurried to join the puppet "Free State" army only to find themselves with guns being shoved in their hands and sent to kill their own people. The guns were furnished by the British. Those that refused were shot. They were fighting for a cause they hated against a cause they loved. Hunting and killing their own comrades and leaders, dying for their country's enemy, execrated by the people they had betrayed—what reward could the Empire offer to atone for this. Debauchery was the only refuge, the only stimulus to such work as they had to do. And all through this the English sat gleefully back, thinking that at last they had the Irish killing Irish instead of killing Englishmen.

Collins became very unpopular. Speaking before a crowd in Cork City on March 12, 1922 he said, "Will any man in this crowd stand up and tell me that he would not have signed the Treaty and condemned all of those prisoners to death?"

In the articles of agreement signed by Britain regarding the Six Counties, which was to be "Temporary", all police were to be 2/3 Protestants (Unionists) and 1/3 Catholic (Irish), all arms searches were to be made only by these uniformed officers. There would be no internment without trial and there would be no job discrimination, religious liberty was guaranteed. The IRA agreed to disband until such time as this treaty was broken. Now, this agreement had been broken many times, so, the IRA today is really a legal organization. England knows today that she can never grant civil rights to the Irish in the six counties due to the great differential in birth rate between the Irish Gael and the Anglo-Saxon for today the Irish children in the schools out number the English. In another generation they could again vote themselves free.

On December 6, 1921, the Treaty, the Council of Ireland was set-up— On December 6, 1973, another Council of Ireland was signed. On neither did an Irish person, protestant or Catholic had a vote to approve this. They are against the Irish Constitution and recognize Britain's right to the six counties. No referendum was ever offered to the Irish people. Everything favors England, nothing favored the Irish. The last time the Irish had a chance to vote for anything concerning their own welfare was in 1919 when they voted by 83% for freedom. This vote should have settled the issue for all time. Since then all peaceful political dissent has been outlawed in the 6 counties of Northern Ireland.

England has always degraded the Scotch Gaels and the Irish Gaels. Her system has always been to "divide and conquer." England does not care for these so called "Protestants", many of which never saw the inside of a church. She cares for the wealth they create for England. England will never give up the ship yards and naval base in Belfast peacefully. She got in Ireland by violence and she will only get out the same way. Unless the outside world learns the truth and brings sanctions and boycotts against England. She has already been found guilty of torture and denial of Human Rights by both the World Court and Amnesty International and she is guarding the news and greatly fears for the truth to get out.

Americans ask, "Why don't the Irish seek freedom peaceably?" They tried peaceful methods many times and were beaten down. They tried it in 1968, in 1969 and remember Bloody Sunday in Derry in January 1972? Thirteen unarmed marchers were shot dead. Any person today that is even suspected of being for Irish freedom or utters a word about Irish Unity can be imprisoned without trial and charged as being a criminal. Every crime committed is blamed on the IRA.

Since Britain can no longer get away with gerrymandering the votes in Ulster she has set out on a campaign of terror, genocide, burning and intimidation and even offering cash to get the Nationalist population to leave the six counties. They ever terrorized the children to get their families to leave. In America it is expected of foreigners who settle in America to become Americans. Ireland should expect nothing less..

Under the new Ireland (Eire Nua) there will be no Stormont or Dublin as the seats of government but a new federal seat of government under a new Ireland. The four provinces will have there own parliament to handle their internal affairs and Ulster will be better off than she is today with the tax money staying home instead of going to England.

Due to 800 years of British torture, deceit and persecution of the Irish people, she greatly fears retaliation from a free Independent Ireland. All the Irish want is to be treated as an equal. The Irish are not a war-like people and has never sought new worlds to conquer. All they want is their country. While there are two kinds of people in Ireland, those that will sell their freedom for the British pound, and those that just want their freedom, the latter far out numbers the first group.

The Irish will never give up their dream, the dream of Tone, Emmet, Duffy, Davis, Dillon, Pearse, Connolly and hundreds of others that gave their life for the cause of a Free Ireland.

With the current peace process currently going on in Ireland, there seem an outside chance that at long last peace may yet come to our native homeland. Still there are those who will do all in their power to continue they past history of "Divide and Conquer."