

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Saints and Kings: Ireland's Early Years</i>	9
Chapter 1: No Man Is an Ireland	11
Chapter 2: The First People Arrive	21
Chapter 3: The Early Irish Kings	35
Chapter 4: Snakes Alive! Christianity Comes to Ireland	45
<i>Part II: The Normans Are Coming! The Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries</i>	61
Chapter 5: The Vikings Arrive First	63
Chapter 6: Irish vs. Norman Invaders . . . But Who's in Charge?	75
Chapter 7: Boy Meets Gael: The Norman-Irish Alliance	89
<i>Part III: The Invading English Kings: The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries</i>	103
Chapter 8: The Scottish-Irish Rebellion and its Aftermath	105
Chapter 9: From Richard II to Henry IV: More Turmoil in Ireland	119
Chapter 10: Family Feuds I: The Wars of the Roses	131
<i>Part IV: Religious Wars and Family Feuds: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries</i>	147
Chapter 11: Popes vs. Archbishops: The Reformation and Ireland	149
Chapter 12: Religious Roundabouts and Irish Rebellion	161
Chapter 13: James I and the Plantations; Charles I and Chaos	179
Chapter 14: Family Feuds II and III: The English Civil War, then William and James	195
<i>Part V: Catholic and Protestant: The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries</i>	211
Chapter 15: Going Irish? Grattan's Parliament and Wolfe Tone's Rebellion	213
Chapter 16: Going British: The Act of Union	225
Chapter 17: Three Strikes for Irish Independence: O'Connell, Davis, and Mitchel	241
Chapter 18: The Great Hunger and the Land War	257
Chapter 19: The Fight Over Home Rule	277

<i>Part VI: Divided in Two: Life from the 1880s</i>	295
Chapter 20: Balls and Books in Irish: The Cultural Revival	297
Chapter 21: Fighting Against Britain: The Revolution	313
Chapter 22: One Land, Two Systems: Partition	325
Chapter 23: Troubles Begin Again . . . And Maybe Finish.....	343
<i>Part VII: The Part of Tens</i>	363
Chapter 24: Ten Top Turning Points	365
Chapter 25: Ten Major Documents.....	369
Chapter 26: Ten Things the Irish Have Given the World	373
Chapter 27: Ten Great Irish Places to Visit.....	379
Chapter 28: Ten Irish People Who Should Be Better Known	385
<i>Index</i>	391

Table of Contents

.....

***Introduction*..... 1**

About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book	2
Foolish Assumptions	3
How This Book Is Organised.....	3
Part I: Saints and Kings: Ireland’s Early Years	3
Part II: The Normans Are Coming! The Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries.....	4
Part III: The Invading English Kings: The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries	4
Part IV: Religious Wars and Family Feuds: The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries	4
Part V: Catholic and Protestant: The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.....	5
Part VI: Divided in Two: Life from the 1880s.....	5
Part VII: The Part of Tens	6
Icons Used in This Book.....	7
Where to Go from Here.....	7

***Part 1: Saints and Kings: Ireland’s Early Years* 9**

Chapter 1: No Man Is an Ireland 11

I’m Irish – But Who Isn’t?	12
Arrivals	12
Departures.....	14
So Much History in Such a Small Place	15
Ireland and the land across the Irish Sea.....	15
Religion	16
Land.....	16
Famine.....	17
Emigration	17
Self-determination	17
Culture	18
Living History	19
Ireland Today.....	19

Chapter 2: The First People Arrive	21
Anyone There? Early Settlers	21
Hunters and gatherers	22
New (Stone) Age farmers.....	23
Buildings and Bracelets: The Bronze Age	25
Life in Bronze Age Ireland	26
Bronze Age metalworking.....	26
Then Comes the Iron Age – and the First Celts.....	27
The Priteni.....	28
Taking over half of Ireland: The Bolgic	28
And then the second half: The Leginians	29
Iron Age advancements	30
Celts Go Gaelic.....	30
Minding P’s and Q’s: A new tongue	31
Houses and settlements	32
Slige: The Gaelic motorway.....	32
Why the Romans Never Made It.....	33
Chapter 3: The Early Irish Kings	35
The Romans: They Came, They Saw, and They Didn’t Bother	35
To invade or not	36
Rome’s impact on Ireland	37
The Rise of the Irish Kings	37
Two cheers for Tuathal, the first true Irish king	38
He’s so cool: Finn Mac Cool	40
Niall of the Nine Hostages	41
Ogham Is the Word: The First Irish Texts	43
Chapter 4: Snakes Alive! Christianity Comes to Ireland	45
Holy Tree Huggers! The Druids	45
Druid beliefs	46
Living in pagan Ireland	47
Knocking on Heaven’s Door: Enter St Patrick.....	47
Patrick: the early years.....	47
Holidaying in Europe.....	48
A brief sojourn in Britain.....	48
Then back to Ireland	49
Christianity Comes to Ireland.....	49
Tackling the five kingdoms.....	50
Patrick’s contribution in a nutshell.....	53
Christian Ireland.....	54
The influence of the monasteries	55
Monk-y business, Part I: On a mission round Ireland	57
Monk-y business, Part II: Taking God farther afield	57
The King–Church connection	59
Forget Christian Kindness! This Is War!.....	59

***Part II: The Normans Are Coming! The Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries* 61**

Chapter 5: The Vikings Arrive First 63

The Men from Scandinavia	63
The pattern of attack	64
Looting the Church	65
Founding Dublin (and you thought it was Irish)	65
The Irish Get Their Own Back	66
The Return of the Vikings	67
Irish kings regroup	68
Two cultures become one	69
Big Brian Boru	70
The rise of a legend	70
The Irish kings get together	71
The kings fall out	72
Brian Boru, the High King	73
Attacking Ulster	73
Brian's last stand	74

Chapter 6: Irish vs. Norman Invaders . . . But Who's in Charge? 75

Realities of Irish Kingship: A Royal Pain	75
The Kingly Contenders, Round 1: The Munster Men	76
Donnchad (Brian Boru's son)	77
Diarmait	77
Turlough (Donnchad's brother)	78
Muirchertach (Turlough's son)	78
The Legacy of the Munster Kings	80
The Contenders, Round 2	80
Turlough O Connor	80
Squaring off: The fight for supremacy	82
Rory: At last, a High King	83
Bout's Over: Enter the Normans	83
Early skirmishes	84
Strongbow settles in	84
The Power of the Church	85
Growing more connected	85
Church councils	86

Chapter 7: Boy Meets Gael: The Norman-Irish Alliance 89

Strongbow: Making Political and Personal Hay	90
Fighting the good fight	91
Claiming his kingdom	91
King Henry Comes to Ireland	92
Henry decides to invade but doesn't	93
To heck with it! Henry invades	94
The kings submit	95
Stopping future rebellions	95



- Doing Things the English Way96
 - The Irish Church.....96
 - Intermarriage97
 - Language.....98
 - Land charters.....98
 - The middle nation98
- King John Takes Over99
 - Party time! Teen idol John in Dublin.....99
 - King John takes on a changing Ireland100
 - Lands of peace vs. lands of war.....100
- Edward I and the First Irish Parliament101

***Part III: The Invading English Kings: The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries* 103**

Chapter 8: The Scottish-Irish Rebellion and Its Aftermath105

- The Scottish Rebellion105
 - The chiefs invite Robert the Bruce106
 - Defeating the English: Edward the Bruce107
 - Joining the fun: Robert the Bruce arrives108
 - Gotta go: Robert returns to Scotland.....109
 - The defeat of the rebels.....109
- Squashing the Irish: Edward III.....109
 - Edward’s reforms.....111
 - Anglo-Irish response: Give us a break!.....111
 - On-going problems in Ireland112
 - Sending his son to the rescue.....114
- The Statutes of Kilkenny115
 - Outlawing Irish customs.....116
 - Defining the Irish117
 - The impact of the Statutes118

Chapter 9: From Richard II to Henry IV: More Turmoil in Ireland . . .119

- Richard II Arrives120
 - 34,000 armed tourists in Ireland.....120
 - The locals don’t like tourists120
 - It all goes wrong.....122
 - Richard comes back, goes home, and dies123
- Henry IV’s Impact.....123
 - Ireland under Henry IV123
 - The Pale.....124
 - Making matters worse: Snow and plague126
- Henry VI, Richard Plantagenet, and Irish Chutzpah126
 - Richard Plantagenet arrives in Ireland127
 - Take your places please: Yorkists vs. Lancastrians
 - in Ireland128
 - Ireland: Dick’s our man!.....128
 - The battle begins and goes on and on and129

Chapter 10: Family Feuds I: The Wars of the Roses131

A Rose by Any Other Name? An Enemy	132
Picking sides: The Butlers and the Geraldines	132
The Battle of Pilltown	132
The Geraldines in Charge.....	133
Thomas fitz James fitz Gerald, Earl of Desmond.....	134
John Tiptoft, ‘The Butcher’	135
Thomas fitz Maurice, Earl of Kildare	136
Gerald: The new Kildare	138
The Fifteenth Century Success Story	139
Rejecting the Hunchback	140
Plotting Against Henry VII: Part 1	141
Hail the King: Lambert Simnel	141
Plotting Against Henry VII: Part 2	142
Hail the King: Perkin Warbeck	143
Trouble in Ireland.....	143
The New Broom: Edward Poynings	144
Warbeck’s back, and so is Gerald.....	144
Poynings and his reforms.....	144

***Part IV: Religious Wars and Family Feuds:
The Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries..... 147*****Chapter 11: Popes vs. Archbishops:
The Reformation and Ireland149**

Henry VIII: Large and in Charge.....	150
The wives and woes of Henry VIII.....	151
No more Pope: The Reformation	152
Irish Eyes Aren’t Smiling	152
Ireland’s rebellion.....	153
Henry’s response.....	154
Enforcing the Reformation in Ireland.....	156
Aiming for Supremacy in Ireland.....	157
A smallish rebellion.....	158
Making a deal with the Irish	158
Henry, from Lord to King of Ireland	159

Chapter 12: Religious Roundabouts and Irish Rebellion161

Edward VI: Young, Sick, and Protestant	161
First gift to Ireland: A closed fist	162
Second gift: The Book of Common Prayer	162
Mary, Mary Quite Contrary – and Catholic.....	163
The Counter-Reformation in Ireland.....	163
A delicate balancing act: Divided loyalties	164
The death of Mary	165

Elizabeth, the Virgin – and Protestant – Queen.....	166
What to do in Ireland? Carry on	167
Trouble in Tyrone: Shane O Neill	167
New goal: Conquering Ireland.....	170
Big problems in Munster	171
Rebellion in Ulster.....	173
The worm turns	173
The rebellion spreads	174
The unsuccessful English response	175
Madeira for everyone! The Spanish arrive.....	175
England vs. the Spanish and Irish combined team	176
The flight of the earls.....	177

Chapter 13: James I and the Plantations; Charles I and Chaos . . . 179

James I and Ireland	180
The fractious Irish populations	180
Saving Catholics from their addiction	181
Power plays in Parliament	182
James is dead.....	183
The Plantation System.....	183
The first plantations in Ulster.....	184
Ireland's first survey	185
The Beginners' Guide to Plantation	186
Attracting settlers	187
The results: A mixed bag.....	188
Charles I and His European Unions	189
Appeasing the Old English: Round 1.....	189
Appeasing the Old English, Round 2: The Graces	190
Wentworth: No friend of ours	190
Bad times for Good Time Charlie	192
Foras feasa ar Éirinn: A History of Ireland.....	193

Chapter 14: Family Feuds II and III: The English Civil War, then William and James . . . 195

The Civil War.....	196
The Rebellion of 1641	196
Planning the rebellion.....	197
Massacres in Ulster	198
England responds.....	199
The fighting escalates	200
The Confederation	201
The Pope interferes.....	202
Death to Charles – and the Confederation.....	202
Cromwell in Ireland.....	203
Defeating the Irish	203
No more Catholicism	204
No more land for Catholics	205

The Wart Is Dead, Long Live the King (Charles II, that is)206
 The Rollicking Rule of James II.....207
 The Williamite Wars208
 Getting another go at rebellion.....208
 It goes wrong . . . again209
 Painting the Boyne orange209
 William, Orange Not Green210

Part V: Catholic and Protestant: The Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.....211

Chapter 15: Going Irish? Grattan’s Parliament and Wolfe Tone’s Rebellion213

The More Things Change: Irish Innovations and Institutions214
 Inventions from Ireland214
 Trinity College.....215
 The black stuff: Guinness arrives217
 The More They Stay the Same: Troubles for Irish Catholics217
 One priest per parish only217
 No votes218
 Famine.....219
 Trouble Brewing219
 An Irish Parliament for some people220
 French and American ideas.....222
 The 1798 Rebellion.....222
 A shot across the bow: The United Irishmen and Wolfe Tone223
 Out-and-out war223
 To the victor . . . : Britain takes over.....224

Chapter 16: Going British: The Act of Union225

Explaining the Act of Union226
 Understanding the Act.....226
 What Union meant: The good bits227
 What Union meant: The bad bits.....229
 Robert Emmet’s Small Rebellion230
 Emmet’s grand plan230
 The best laid plans231
 Often go awry: A riotous rebellion231
 Emmet’s trial232
 A traitor’s death.....233
 After Emmet: The disloyal Catholics?.....233
 The Battle for Converts234
 Land and Famine235
 Going hungry236
 Stay or go? Irish emigration begins236
 The Population Explosion238

Chapter 17: Three Strikes for Irish Independence: O’Connell, Davis, and Mitchel	241
Agitating on the Land	241
Rural violence	242
Tithing	242
Poverty	243
Secret societies	244
Daniel O’Connell and Catholic Emancipation	245
The campaign for emancipation	245
The Catholic Association	247
The campaign begins	248
O’Connell stands for election	249
Nice Mr Wellington and a compromise	249
Repealing the Act of Union	250
Taking the idea to Parliament	250
O’Connell’s plan	250
Monster meetings	251
The end of the Repeal efforts	252
Rebelling against the Union	252
Thomas Davis and the Young Irelanders	253
John Mitchel and the Irish Confederation	253
The cabbage patch revolution	255
 Chapter 18: The Great Hunger and the Land War	 257
The Famine	257
Black ’47: The worst year of the famine	259
Succumbing to disease	260
Half-hearted attempts to solve the problem	261
Who lives, who leaves	261
Assigning Blame	263
The life of the poor	264
Nasty Mr Peel and government policy	264
Sailing Away: The Irish Diaspora	265
The Irish in America	265
The Irish down under	270
Across the water to Britain	271
Irish everywhere?	272
The Land War: Davitt and Gladstone	273
Boycotting unscrupulous landlords	274
Land and country: The link to nationalism	275
Nice Mr Gladstone and the Land Act	275
 Chapter 19: The Fight over Home Rule	 277
The Great National Leader: Charles Stewart Parnell	278
His rise to prominence	278
His allies: Radicals and politicians	279
His balancing act	280

His prison time: the Kilmainham Treaty.....281
 Gladstone tries to help281
 Parnell’s Fall and His Party’s Decline282
 The scandal282
 The political fallout: No party for the Irish283
 The Land Purchase Act of 1903: Killing Home Rule with Kindness284
 Unionist Response: Just Say No286
 Unionist ideas286
 Signing the Solemn League and Covenant286
 Protecting the Protestant way of life: The Orange Order.....287
 Protecting the Protestant economy: Belfast the powerhouse.....289
 Protecting the Empire.....290
 Home Rule at Last!290
 Reuniting the Home Rule party291
 Party leader Redmond’s juggling act291
 Attacking the House of Lords292

Part VI: Divided in Two: Life from the 1880s.....295

Chapter 20: Balls and Books in Irish: The Cultural Revival297

Preserving Everything Gaelic297
 Keypoints of the Irish Revival.....298
 Why the Irish wanted to be different299
 Spearheading the Preservation299
 The Gaelic Athletic Association: Hurling and football300
 The Gaelic League: Language and letters.....301
 Turning back the clock302
 Revisiting the country of saints and scholars302
 Their inspiration.....303
 Why all the fairies?303
 The Literary Revival: Yeats and Others304
 The Abbey Theatre.....305
 Playboy riots306
 A National Style: The Rebirth of Irish Art307
 Lots of Art.....308
 Hugh Lane and his famous pictures.....309
 Was the Cultural Revival a Success?.....310
 Preserving Irish nationalism310
 Preserving Ireland as an Irish land.....311

Chapter 21: Fighting against Britain: The Revolution313

Home Rule and a House Divided: Nationalists vs. Unionists313
 Sinn Fein et al.: The advanced nationalists314
 The unionists and the Ulster Volunteer Force.....315
 Civil war looms315

Time Out for a World War	316
Achtung, baby! The Germans show up.....	317
Ireland responds.....	317
Easter Time in Dublin: The Failed Rebellion and Its Effects	318
The enemy of my enemy	318
Crushing the rebellion	319
The fallout from the Rebellion	320
Bloody Ireland: The War of Independence.....	320
The combatants.....	321
Truce – Part I: A divided Ireland.....	322
If at first you don't succeed: Truce – Part II.....	323
Civil War and a Free Ireland	324
Chapter 22: One Land, Two Systems: Partition	325
Who Rules What? The Two Irelands	325
Life in Northern Ireland, 1920s and '30s.....	326
Party politics, Unionist-style.....	326
Economic woes	327
Building a Free Irish State, 1920s	328
Creating an independent Irish identity.....	329
Embracing Irish tradition: The Irish Olympics	330
Power for the people	331
Unfinished business: The legacy of Partition	333
De Valera and His Happy Maidens: The Free State in the 1930s	333
Enter the Fianna Fail	334
The Free State under de Valera.....	335
Fighting over the beef.....	336
Reaction to de Valera: The Blueshirts	337
A new Ireland and a new constitution	338
To Fight or Not to Fight? Ireland and World War II	339
Northern Ireland at War.....	339
The Irish at home	342
Post-War rebuilding.....	342
Chapter 23: Troubles Begin Again . . . And Maybe Finish	343
Troubles in the '60s and '70s	344
NICRA and civil rights.....	344
The violent response	345
Troops in	345
Enter paramilitary forces	346
Internment of Catholics	347
Bloody Sunday.....	347
Direct rule from London – again.....	348
The IRA attacks.....	348
No one can win	349

Troubles in the '80s and '90s351
 The hunger strikes351
 Bombing Britain.....353
 The American angle354
 Going political.....355
 Peace Comes Dropping Slow355
 Getting everyone to talk356
 Good Friday, New Northern Ireland?357
 The IRA standing down?358
 The Celtic Tiger359
 Ireland gets rich.....360
 Being Irish is trendy361

Part VII: The Part of Tens.....363

Chapter 24: Ten Top Turning Points365

The Arrival of Christianity365
 The Normans Arriving365
 The Reformation.....366
 The Battle of the Boyne.....366
 Wolfe Tone’s Rebellion.....366
 Famine and Emigration.....367
 The Cultural Revival.....367
 The Revolution367
 Joining the European Union.....368
 The Good Friday Agreement368

Chapter 25: Ten Major Documents369

Confession of St Patrick, 450.....369
 The Book of Kells, 800.....369
 History of Ireland, 1634.....370
 Pairlement Chloinne Tomás, 17th Century.....370
 The Irish Rebellion, 1646.....370
 The Necessity for De-Anglicising Ireland, 1892370
 Proclamation of the Irish Republic, 1916371
 Bunreacht na hEireann, 1937371
 Ulysses, 1922.....371
 ‘Teenage Kicks’, 1978372

Chapter 26: Ten Things the Irish Have Given the World373

Irish Coffee373
 The Abominable Snowman374
 The Pneumatic Tyre374
 Wind374

Presidents of the United States of America	375
Shorthand Writing	375
The Submarine.....	376
Love of Animals	376
The Hypodermic Syringe.....	376
The Ejector Seat	377
Chapter 27: Ten Great Irish Places to Visit	379
Cobh.....	379
Dingle Peninsula and the Blasket Islands.....	380
Irish National Stud and Museum	380
Giants Causeway	380
Derry	381
Kinsale	381
Croke Park.....	381
Knock Shrine	382
Natural History Museum, Dublin.....	382
Croagh Patrick	383
Chapter 28: Ten Irish People Who Should Be Better Known	385
Lady Betty	385
Big Bertha.....	386
Christian ‘Kit’ Davies.....	386
Tomás Ó Criomhthainn.....	386
Thomas ‘Buck’ Whaley	387
Monsignor Hugh O’Flaherty.....	387
George Barrington	388
Sir Leopold McClintock	388
Lola Montez.....	389
Mary McMullen.....	389
Index.....	391