



Home Rule Movement

History – Leaving Cert

Quick Notes

Home Rule Movement

1.1 The Butt Years

- Isaac Butt (Barrister) puts forward Federal Solution i.e. Home Rule
- 1870-Founds **Home Government Association**
- 1870 Land Act passes-tenants not happy.
- Fenians use Association to achieve republic through violence
- Became more tenant/Catholic dominant-contested by-elections
- 1872 Secret Ballot Act-reduced landlord influence
- **1873-Butt forms Home Rule League** with branches around country.
- Butt set up Home Rule Confederation of Britain (Success)
- 1874 General election-Home Rulers win 59 out of 105 seats-Home Rule Party now formed with a policy of **independent opposition** to achieve Balance of Power
- Party Problems-No central organisation, only 20-30 committed MPS, P.M Disraeli not interested in Irish Affairs.
- **Butt weaknesses**-Weak leader as tried to use persuasion and bring in proposals which were defeated. Often absent from parliament as he had to work to pay off his debts.

1.2 The Early Parnell Years (Emerge as leader)

- **Obstructionism** begins in 1876 with Joseph Biggar as leader. Butt disapproves.
- Charles Stewart Parnell joins them. Son of Protestant landlord with anti-English feelings.
- **Parnell builds support** by helping Fenians defending Manchester Martyrs (Davitt) and the Catholic Church by getting Royal University Act and Intermediate Education Act.
- 1877-Parnell elected as leader of Home Rule Confederation.
- Demise of Butt and dies in 1879. William Shaw takes over. Party now split between Parnellites (20) and Whigs (40).
- *Butt's contributions-Put forward Home Rule, founded Home Rule party, developed independent opposition, laid foundation for Parnell.*

1.3 Parnell and Home Rule (Emerge as leader)

- Parnell realised he needed to appeal to farmers.
- Parnell now supports '**New Departure**' with Davitt and puts it to Supreme Council.
- Parnell involved in **Land League** with Davitt. He demands 'fair rent' and was elected as president.
- Parnell goes to America and gets support of Fenians there.
- 1880 General Election-Parnellites win more seats. **Parnell elected as leader of Home Rule Party**. Gladstone and the Liberals in power in Britain.
- Parnell has split party. Land League spreads again and Bessborough Commission set up to look at 1870 Land Act.
- Agrarian Problems-Captain Moonlight. Parnell organises meetings and says to use moral force.

- 1881 Land Act-This put forward which tried to give 3 F's but failed to help those in arrears.

1.4 1880-1885 (3rd Force)

- Parnell speaks out against coercion and 1881 Land Act and is put in Kilmainham Jail. Parnell signs the 'No Rent Manifesto' and the Land League is banned.
- The **Kilmainham Treaty** is signed in April 1882-Chamberlain and O'Shea with the 1881 Land Act amended.
- Parnell felt Land Question was solved and changed aims to Home Rule.
- **Phoenix Park Murders on 6th May** by Invincibles. Chief Secretary and Under Secretary (Burke and Cavendish) murdered. This put Fenians out of the picture, brought in a stronger coercion act both of which helped Parnell. Davitt's land nationalisation plan put him out of picture also.
- Parnell now sets up the **Irish National League** with aims of establishing Home Rule and work for land purchase.
- **The Great Lull 1882-1885** took place where Parnell built up the Irish Parliamentary Party. It had over 1200 branches and was national with lieutenants (Harrington and O'Brien)
- Members to oath 'to sit, act vote'. 1884 Reform Act helps Parnell. Branches collected money, organise elections etc.
- Parnell and Liberals relationship worsens due to coercion and Chamberlain's Central Board Plan.
- Parnell and Conservatives relationship improves with much in common on education and land.
- **June 1885-Government defeated by Conservatives and Home Rulers.** Caretaker Government set up by Salisbury-No coercion/Lord Carnarvon as Lord Lieutenant/Ashbourne Land Act

1.5 1885-1886 Elections (Case Study) (1885-1886 Elections)

- Parnell hoped for Home Rule before 1885 Election and torn between the parties as he wanted Balance of Power
- Supported Conservatives in Election. **Liberals-335. Conservatives-249. Home Rule-86.**
- Parnell didn't have Balance of Power but Liberals and Gladstone needed them.
- **Hawarden Kite** takes place in 1885.
- Creates a lot of Unionist Opposition. **Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union** formed in South. **Orange Order** revived in Ulster and the **Anti-Repeal Union** was formed. **Unionist party** formed with Edward Saunderson as leader.
- When parliament met Salisbury rejected Home Rule and said he would bring back coercion. Parnell now sides with liberals and Gladstone is in as Prime minister.
- **Conservatives become the Conservative and Unionist Party.** Lord Randolph Churchill proposes to play the 'Orange Card'. Liberal Unionists also set up led by Chamberlain.

- **April 1886-1st Home Rule Bill**-Parliament in Dublin, Westminster deals with external affairs. No MPs in Westminster, Ireland was to pay one fifteenth of the Imperial Budget. Contained Land purchase bill-Gladstone misunderstood the opposition.
- **June 1886-Commons Vote and Bill defeated 341:311.** Gladstone calls election.
- **1886 Election-Conservatives win and reject Home Rule.** Gladstone Resigns. Salisbury Committed against Home Rule.
- **Results**-Shadow of Partition, Liberal Party Split, No room for Parnell to manoeuvre, led to formation of Irish Unionist Party, 20 years of Conservatives in Power with no chance of Home Rule.

1.6 Home Rule Party 1886-1890

- Parnell doesn't support **Plan of Campaign** to help evicted tenants as fear he would lose Liberal Alliance.
- London Times publishes articles claiming Parnell knew and supported the Phoenix Park Murders, which endangered Liberal alliance.
- Commission investigate it and find the **Piggott forgeries**-Richard Piggott forged the letters used in report. He fled to Madrid and killed himself.
- **Triumph for Parnell** as he got standing ovations in Commons, met Gladstone to discuss Home Rule and was called the 'Uncrowned King of Ireland'.

1.7 O'Shea Divorce and Parnell Downfall

- 1889 William O'Shea filed for divorce against Katherine. **Parnell's affair since 1880 brought out.**
- Irish at first support him and believe it's another plot.
- Parnell didn't contest court case which looked bad on him and divorce was granted.
- Davitt suggest retirement for Parnell.
- **Liberals feared losing votes** and Gladstone warned Justice McCarthy, chairman of Irish Party and they would not support Home Rule with Parnell as leader.
- Parnell re-elected as leader.
- Gladstone publishes letter giving Irish MPs two choices-abandon Parnell or lose alliance. Parnell agrees to a party meeting.
- **Parnell issues proclamation 'to the people of Ireland' and attacks Gladstone, which lost Liberal alliance.**
- **Committee Room 15-73 Irish MPs** met-6 days of debate. Parnell refused to resign and 45 MPs led by McCarthy walked out with 27 still supporting Parnell. Catholic bishops condemn Parnell
- By-elections held and Anti-Parnellites win.
- **Parnell catches pneumonia and died in England.** Funeral attended by 200,000.
- Parnellites elected John Redmond as leader. But won only 9 seats in the 1892 General Election
- Anti-Parnellites led by McCarthy but were split.
- **Parnell Achievements**-Became leader of Home Rule Party, united extremists and moderates and Church, created Home Rule Party with 1200 branches and persuaded the Liberals to support Home Rule.

1.8 Redmond and Home Rule

- Leadership struggle between Dillon and Healy for leadership which Dillon won.
- **Gladstone brings in 2nd Home Rule bill**-1893 which passed Commons but was defeated in Lords.
- Conservatives now returned to power.
- **William O'Brien sets up United Irish League** to take support from Parnellites and Anti-Parnellites.
- **1900-Irish Party was reunited** with John Redmond as leader but party was still weak because Redmond wasn't popular, conservatives were in power until 1906 and Liberals had large majority after 1906 and didn't need Irish support.
- Liberals introduce **Irish Council Bill** in 1907-Redmond rejects.
- After 1910 election Liberals needed Irish support. Lords kept vetoing bills.
- Liberals pass **Parliament Act, 1912**, which limited veto power of Lords and they could on delay bills for 2 years.
- **3rd Home Rule Bill 1912** introduced but met with Unionist opposition.

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