



Social Change in the Twentieth Century

History – Junior Cert

Quick Notes

Social Change in the Twentieth Century

Ireland underwent many changes during the twentieth century; however these changes took place at a different pace than in other countries, such as America. Life and work in Ireland changed considerably at this time due to the creation of the ESB in 1927. By the late decades of the twentieth century, television, central heating and modern appliances made rural life more comfortable. Old-style cottages were replaced by modern bungalows, and thatched cottages have almost disappeared. City corporations cleared tenements and re-housed inhabitants in newly built corporation housing estates in the suburbs. From the 1950s onwards, Ireland began to develop more industries, mainly in specially designed industrial estates. Leisure and entertainment also changed greatly in that music halls, radio and ballrooms were replaced by the television, discos, Irish traditional music, Irish filming and Irish writing. The early twentieth century saw the continuing rise of Gaelic games, and women's gaelic games, such as camogie, have become increasingly popular. Changes in transport involved motor cars and buses becoming more popular than walking, cycling, horse-drawn carriages and trams. Railways and canals declined in importance whilst vans and lorries became increasingly popular. Aer Lingus was established in 1936 and five years later, the Irish Shipping Company was set up. In 1944, Coras Iompair Eireann (CIE) was founded and in the 1980s, the DART was opened to ease traffic congestion in Dublin. In the late 1960s, Telefis Eireann merged with Radio Eireann to form Radio Telefis Eireann (RTE). In the 1920s and 1930s, very few women filled important positions in business or the public service. It was almost impossible for women to earn the same wages as men in the same jobs. The feminist movement of the 1970s reaped huge changes for women. Mary Robinson became Ireland's first female president in 1990, succeeded by Mary McAleese. Yet, Irish women still have a considerable way to go to gain full equality.

For more comprehensive Revision Notes Visit.... mocks.ie [Junior Cert History Notes](#)