



Excerpt from Lord Farnham's Map of Lackanduff, Co Cavan. National Library of Ireland

HIU12042 Famine, Land and People: Ireland 1830s-1880s

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Credits 5 ECTS

Semester Hilary Term

Assessment Tutorial-based coursework (40%), and a 2,000-word end-of-term essay (60%).

Description In the aftermath of the Act of Union with Great Britain, Irish society and its political system was transformed. Change was not immediate however, transformation came slowly. Beginning with Catholic Emancipation and the Ordnance Survey (both dating to 1829) and ending with the onset of the Plan of Campaign (1886) this module explores the relationship between the people and the land on which they lived and laboured, and the ways in which they were subject to, and interacted with, the British state. Rural unrest, the tithe war and periodic crises of famine and disease foreshadowed the catastrophe that took place during the Great Famine (1845-52) when the population of the country dropped by over a quarter, from c.8 million to c.6 million. Death and emigration became drivers of change that saw a rise in living standards in the two decades after the Famine ended. Despite this, conflict in the form of the 'Land War' (1879-81) erupted, and thus began the decline of landlordism in Ireland. These decades are crucial in understanding the development of Irish society and politics in the period up until independence in 1921.