

The ulster plantation

The plantations

- name given to the period of Irish history when Irish land was taken by the English Crown and colonised by English settlers.
- Between the 1550s-1650s, 4 Plantations took place in Ireland. Each being the result of a rebellion by the Irish who were trying to resist the extension of English control over Ireland.
- In the 1500s Ireland was home to three major groups of people:
 - 1. The Old English
 - 2. The Anglo- Irish
 - 3. The Gaelic Irish

1.The Old English

- In medieval times Dublin and its surrounding areas were known as the Pale.
- It was the base of English power in Ireland.
- English language, customs, dress, farming methods and laws were practised here.
- In early 1500s the people who lived in the Pale were mainly English merchants. They were known as the Old English, as they were people living in the Pale who were loyal to the king.
- The Reformation in England had a big impact on Ireland from the 1500s onwards leading to an increase in tension between the Gaelic Irish and the Old English who lived in the Pale.

2.The Anglo-Irish

- The Anglo-Irish were descendants of the Anglo-Normans who had invaded Ireland in the 12th century.
- They were known as the Gaelic Anglo-Norman because they adopted the Gaelic way of life and followed their traditions as well as English Traditions.
- By the 1500s they were independent of the English crown. Examples of powerful Anglo-Irish families were the Fitzgerald's of Kildare, the Butlers of Ormond/Kilkenny and the Fitzgerald's of Munster.

3.The Gaelic Irish

- The Gaelic Irish were the Gaelic chieftains who followed Irish/brehon law (Gaelic Irish laws)
- They didn't recognise the English king as ruler of Ireland.
- They feared that the Crown would try to expand its control over Ireland and therefore disliked and attacked English settlers.
- Examples of powerful Gaelic Irish families (clans) included the O' Neills of Tyrone and the O'Donnells of Donegal and the McCarthy's of Cork.

Brehon/Irish law	English common law
The chief/Taoiseach was elected from the derbhfine/royal family	The eldest became the new lord
The land was owned by the clan/tribe	The lord owned the land
Wealth measured by number of cattle owned	Wealth measured in monetary terms

The Tudors and Stuarts

- Henry VII came to power in England in 1485. This was the beginning of the Tudor reign.
- The descendants of Henry VII all had an interest in conquering Ireland – Henry VIII and his children
- By 1603 when Elizabeth died, the English crown had conquered Ireland. This marked the end of the Tudor era and the start of the Stuart Era as James I of Scotland became the new king.

Why did the Tudors want to conquer Ireland?

- To expand their territory – the crown only had full control over the Pale but they wanted to expand their control
- To spread English customs, culture and laws – These were seen as superior to those of the Gaelic Irish who were portrayed as barbaric and unable to look after themselves
- To spread their new religion – they believed they could enforce Protestantism in Ireland
- To prevent the Catholic Irish forming an alliance - Irish were Catholic - might side with Spain & France against England.
- To save money – Planting settlers in Ireland would be cheaper in the long term than paying soldiers to protect the English already in Ireland. They hoped it would ease the cost of running Ireland.

How did the Tudors conquer the Irish land?

- Policy first introduced by Henry 8th At first, they attempted to control Ireland by peaceful means through a policy called *Surrender and Regrant*.
 - Gaelic and Anglo Irish Lords were encouraged to give up their lands to the King
 - They must then swear loyalty to the King and also use English common law, language and customs
 - They would then have their land returned (regranted) to them by the King and were also given new English titles such as earl, baron and lord.
 - Land could now be passed directly from father to son in the English system known as succession. This led to increased wealth and power for certain families.

New Idea: Plantations

- Following the defeat of rebellious lords/chiefs, their land would be taken
- This land would be given over to people loyal to the King. They became known as planters
- These 'planters' would use English language, custom and laws.
- The planters would be responsible for their new land including its defence.
- Laois and Offaly were the first places to be planted in Ireland

Where were the first plantation policies tried?

1. Laois and Offaly - It was unsuccessful as they did not have enough planters and did not earn much money
2. Munster- new towns were established eg Youghal, Bandon, Lismore. New farming methods were introduced. But not enough planters came so the plantation was a failure

The first plantations failed. But Queen Elizabeth I still wanted to try to invade and colonise Ulster so she made some lords in Ulster 'Earls' so that they would remain loyal to the crown and so it might be easier to invade them. However Ulster did not want the English to rule their land they wanted it to remain Irish land, so they put up a fight.

Background/Causes of the Ulster Plantation

- In 1594 a rebellion broke out against English rule in Ireland.
- The rebellion turned into the Nine Years War and was led by the Earl of Tyrone, Hugh O' Neill.
- The O' Neills and their allies –The O' Donnells and the Maguires- were the last of the powerful Gaelic families.
- They were determined to maintain their independence in Ulster and would not allow the English to take over control
- O' Neill and his allies turned to Spain for help.
- A Spanish army arrived at Kinsale, Co. Cork, hundreds of miles from Ulster. O Neill and his army marched down to meet them however an English army arrived in Kinsale first and killed the Spanish.
- O Neill and most of the other Irish earls fled to France and Italy. This is known as The Flight of the Earls

The Battle of Kinsale

- Marks the final defeat for the powerful Gaelic families in Ireland.
- Without the Earls, there was no one to fight back against the English. Queen Elizabeth I died during this time. King James I became King and he organised the successful Ulster plantations.

How the Ulster Plantation was organised

- Its area covered six counties: Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Armagh, Fermanagh and Cavan.
- The land was divided into smaller estates. No estate was bigger than 2000 acres.
- The rules for the planters were more strict than on any of the other plantations.
- There were three types of planter
 - 1- Undertakers
 - 2- Servitors
 - 3- Loyal Irish

Conditions of the Ulster plantations

Planters	Who Were They?	Conditions
Undertakers	English and Scottish planters	Not allowed to have Gaelic tenants Rent: £5.33 (€5.97) per 1,000 acres
Servitors	English soldiers + officials who were owed money after the Nine Years War and later	Could take some Gaelic tenants Rent: £8 (€8.96) per 1,000 acres
Loyal Irish	Irish of 'good merit': Gaelic Irish who had not taken part in the rebellion	Could take Gaelic tenants Rent: £10.46 (€11.71) per 1,000 acres

How the Ulster plantation influences identity

- **New Population** -
 - Planters from Scotland and England who were mostly Presbyterians and Anglicans. 1641 – 40,000 planters (settlers)
 - 1690–98 – 80,000 more Scottish emigrants
- **New towns** -
 - First towns in Ulster
 - 20 new planned towns
 - Straight, wide streets
 - Central square or diamond
 - Stone walls
 - Centres of local government and business
 - e.g. Derry/Londonderry, Coleraine, Dungannon
- **Londonderry/derry** -
 - King James reserved the entire county of Derry for London craft guilds. It was renamed Londonderry and each section of land was given to a guild eg tailors, goldsmiths, fishmongers.
 - They held a lottery to see which company got which piece of land.
 - Derry was the biggest town in the Ulster Plantation. Walls were built around the town to keep Irish out and to prevent them from attacking the settlement. Canons were placed at the top of the walls and all residents were given cannonballs to use if ever needed.
- **The Economy and Farming** -
 - New farming methods
 - More crops, rather than cattle
 - Developed field system, rather than open grazing
 - Woods cut down
 - Timber exported
 - Roads, inns and mills
 - Trade prospered
- **Land ownership**
 - Almost all Irish landowners lost their land. The Planters became the new landowning class. They became very wealthy and enforced the law as Judges. They helped the British control Ulster until the 20 Century.
- **Religion**
 - brought about major changes in religion.
 - When the settlers arrived in Ulster they built Protestant churches in all the new towns and villages that they had created
 - Planters from Scotland and England who were mostly Presbyterians and Anglicans. This created a Protestant majority and high religious tension with the Catholics, which continues to this day
 - The Penal laws were later introduced, which discriminated against Catholics and this led to further problems.
- **Political control**
 - Political control changed as a result of the Ulster Plantation.
 - The old Gaelic Irish families lost control and political control fell into the hands of the new settlers from England and Scotland.
 - The English monarchs looked upon the new settlers in Ulster as being more politically dependable because they were looked upon as being loyal to the crown.
 - As a result, huge political divisions began between the Gaelic Irish and the new Planters who had all the power and control.
 - Catholics were looked upon as being disloyal and were denied any political or economic control.
 - The political divisions have lasted for centuries with the division of people into Unionists and Nationalists.

• Culture and Customs

- brought about changes in language and customs.
- The Gaelic Irish had their own language and their own distinctive games, music and dances. The Gaelic Irish also had their very own unique system of laws.
- The Gaelic language was replaced. English became widely spoken in Ulster
- The new settlers who came to Ulster brought with them the English language, their own music and pastimes, the English law system, new courthouses (built all over Ulster in the new towns), new type of house building as well as new farming methods (crop-growing replaced Cattle & sheep farming, fields were enclosed by hedges), which were all very different from those of the Gaelic Irish.
- Culture and language of Gaelic Ireland began to decline as the new planters became more powerful and influential.
- English language became the language of trade, business, politics and the wealthy.
- The Irish language began to see a decline.
- Brehon Law was replaced by English common law.