

Tony King

Home Rule from a Transnational Perspective

The Irish Parliamentary Party and the United Irish League of America, 1901-1918

SERIES IN WORLD HISTORY

About the author

Tony King is a graduate of the National University of Ireland and was awarded a Ph.D. in History in 2019. A military veteran with extensive overseas experience, he has served multiple tours of duty in Lebanon and Bosnia with the United Nations and NATO. Happy to combine the national with the global Tony's research interests are wide and varied as he seeks to situate pre-independent Ireland on the world stage. 'Home Rule from a Transnational Perspective: The Irish Parliamentary Party and the United Irish League of America, 1901-1918' is his first such venture, and he is currently working on a new project identifying Irish American influence on US foreign policy.

Summary

When John Redmond declared 'No Irishman in America living 3,000 miles away from the homeland ought to think he has a right to dictate to Ireland' the Irish leader unwittingly made a rod for his own back. In denying the newly-established United Irish League of America any input into party policy formulation, Redmond risked alienating the nation's largest diaspora should a home rule crisis ever occur. That such a situation developed in 1914 is an established fact. That it was the product of Redmond's own naivety is open to conjecture. 'Home Rule from a Transnational Perspective: The Irish Parliamentary Party and the United Irish League of America, 1901-1918' explores the Irish Party's subordination of its American affiliate in light of the ultimate demise of constitutional nationalism in Ireland.

This book fills a void in Irish American studies. To date, research in this field has been dominated by Clan na Gael and the Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood, particularly the transatlantic links that underpinned the Easter Rising in 1916. Little attention has been paid to the Irish party's efforts to manage the diaspora in the years preceding the insurrection or to the individuals and organisations that proffered a more moderate solution to the age-old Irish Question. Breaking new ground, it offers a fresh and interesting perspective on the fall of the Home Rule Party and helps to explain the seismic shift towards a more radical approach to gaining independence.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in Irish America, diaspora studies, Irish independence, and/or home rule. It complements the existing historiography and enhances our knowledge of a largely understudied aspect of Irish nationalism.

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VERNON PRESS
SERIES IN WORLD HISTORY

October 2020 | Hardback 236x160mm | 274 Pages | ISBN: 978-1-64889-100-7

SUBJECTS Political History, Cultural Studies, Political Theory

VIEW/ORDER ONLINE AT vernonpress.com/book/1121

\$ 64

€ 54

£ 48

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