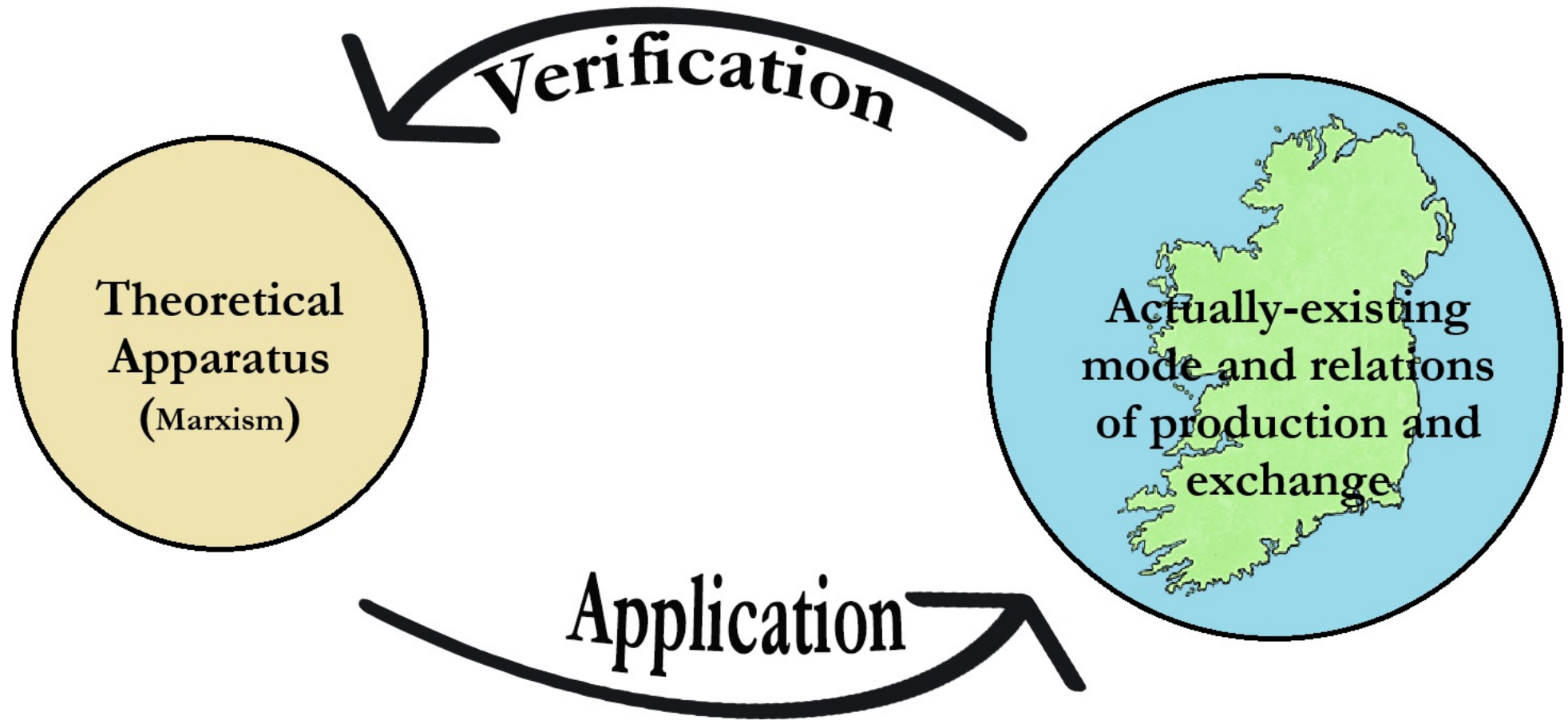


Irish Radical and Working-Class History: III

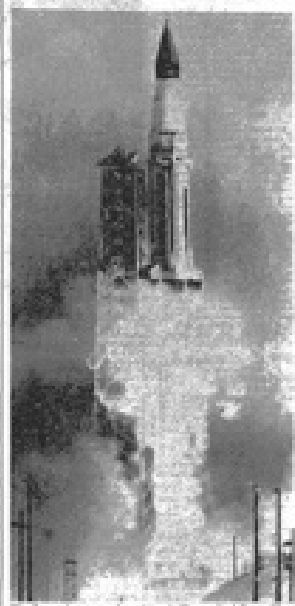
Working-Class Radicalism and Organisation

17 April 2025



NATO FORCE TO BE SENT TO CYPRUS
 Turkish troops will be included

LONDON (AP)—It was announced today that a NATO military unit will be sent to Cyprus to protect life and property there. Mr. Ernest Bevin, British Foreign Secretary, said after a Cabinet meeting in London yesterday. He said that Turkish troops would be included in the NATO peacekeeping force.



The tower in London, which is a monument to the memory of the fallen of the Second World War.

CORK AND KILDARE WRITS ISSUED
 Trial begins new session

A writ of habeas corpus was issued today for the release of a man who had been detained in the county of Cork. The writ was issued by the High Court.

AMBASSADOR TO INDIA APPOINTED

A writ of habeas corpus was issued today for the release of a man who had been detained in the county of Cork. The writ was issued by the High Court.

Report on Co-ops published

A report on the co-operative movement in Ireland has been published. The report is the work of a committee appointed by the Government.

CLASS WAR IS OVER—LEMASS
 Union co-operation needed to keep prices down

THE successful negotiation of a national wage agreement between the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Federated Union of Employers marked the passing of the old class-war conception of society and the emergence of a new and much more intelligent partnership idea, the Taoiseach, Mr. Lemass, said last night.

Saigon seized in rapid coup

SAIGON (AP)—The French colony of Indochina was seized today by a rapid coup. The new government has declared its independence.

OPENING POLL BY CORK

An opening poll was held in Cork today. The results of the poll are expected to be announced in the near future.

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CLASS WAR IS OVER—LEMASS

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Speaking at the annual dinner of the Association of Advertisers in Ireland, in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin, he also drew attention to some of the problems the 12% wage increase could cause, but pointed out how they could be avoided.

In to-day's issue

“The Irish are frequently plotting...”

Samuel Holme, builder, Liverpool (c.1835)¹

“... There were between 700 and 800 Irish employed as hod-carriers last April in Liverpool. They formed a trade union amongst themselves. They made unreasonable demands on us, in conjunction with the mechanics, and stopped nearly all the building in the town for twenty weeks. The result is that many buildings have been given up, and when they came to work there was not sufficient employment for all of them. They came back upon the same wages, and they have suffered most severely in consequence of their turn-out.² Many of them have sold all their furniture and clothing and they are now, at this inclement season, in a most deplorable condition. The Irish are frequently plotting and are always ready for a turn-out. They are more given to combination than the English. The late turn-out of mechanics and labourers has been almost entirely organized by Irish. They are all bound together by secret oaths, which were probably suggested by the Irish and, although the Irish were the poorest mechanics, they took the lead in this turn-out. The English submitted in the most singular manner to be led by the nose. An Irishman named Gavin, a poor mechanic, waited on me as their delegate.

Repeal of the Union

Freeman's Journal, 19 February 1833, p.2

A most numerous and respectable meeting of the friends of Ireland, in Liverpool, to petition for the repeal of the Union between Great Britain and Ireland, was held on Thursday evening in the Music Hall. A great number of the working classes were present, and evinced great interest in the business of the evening. A. Agar, Esq. was called to the chair.

The meeting was addressed by several gentlemen well known in the town, and the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to: -

"That the evils of Ireland, so far from having received any promise of redress from the present reformed parliament, and are likely to be aggravated by the attempt to coerce the expression of public opinion, it is now more than ever necessary to combine, by the most strict and constitutional means, the energies of the people of Liverpool, for the purpose of ensuring a redress of grievances.

"That the repeal of the legislative Union is a measure calculated to secure the internal union of both countries, on the lasting basis of free allegiance to the crown of England, and mutual regard amongst the subjects of both countries by fair and unrestricted competition in trade, agriculture, and commerce.

"That the legislative Union having been obtained by bribery and corruption, and the most unjust suppression of public opinion, it is the inalienable right of every Irishman to seek its repeal."

MEETING OF THE TAILORS OF DUBLIN TO PETITION FOR A REPEAL OF THE UNION.

We regret that press of matter prevented us from giving a report of this meeting, which was held on Tuesday last, at the Arena. The chair was taken by

MR. JAMES COSTELLO,

who explained the objects for which the meeting had assembled, and strongly impressed upon his auditors the necessity of every man, having the slightest feeling for his unfortunate country, to come forward and constitutionally exert himself in her behalf, at such a juncture as the present.

Mr. Thomas Leech was appointed secretary, and moved the first motion.

Mr. John Donoghoe seconded the resolution, and addressed the meeting on the present unhappy state of Ireland. He denied that the late manifesto was calculated to impart calm to this country, but would, he feared, have a very different effect. He pledged himself, on his own part, and on that of the trade, never to cease constitutionally exerting themselves for the redemption of their country (applause).

The motion having been agreed to,

Mr. Michael Evans proposed the succeeding one, attributing the depression of trade to the act of legislative union between England and Ireland. The mover expressed his determination to never cease constitutionally agitating till they rescued Ireland from her state of a pitiful province, and place her in the rank she ought to hold amongst the nations of the earth (cheers).

Mr. Thomas Whehan seconded the resolution, and contended in the spirit of the resolution, that no measure whatever but the unqualified repeal of the union could eradicate the evils under which Ireland at present suffered (hear).

The question having been seconded, was agreed to.

Mr. John Walsh proposed the succeeding resolution, and reiterated their decided determination never to cease agitating till they obtained a repeal of the Union, which was carried. A petition having been agreed on, and thanks voted to the chairman, the meeting broke up.

Meeting of the Tailors of Dublin to Petition for a Repeal of the Union

Freeman's Journal, 22 February 1833, p.1

George Cornwall Lewis, *On Local Disturbances in Ireland* (1836)

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to afford this security that the Whiteboy combinations are formed. The Whiteboy association may be considered as a vast trades' union for the protection of the Irish peasantry: the object being, not to regulate the rate of wages, or the hours of work, but to keep the actual occupant in possession of his land, and in general to regulate the relation of landlord and tenant for the benefit of the latter. Certain other objects are occasionally added, the chief of which is to prevent the employment of a stranger, the quantity of work being, in the opinion of the labourers, already insufficient for the natives: at times, moreover, the Whiteboys (as we have already seen) have sought to reduce the rate of tithe, or to prevent its collection, or to lower the priests' dues. These combinations being constantly in existence, and working with weapons which may be turned to any purpose, the objects have perhaps somewhat varied: but in general they have been restricted simply to the occupation of land and the several payments immediately connected with it.

"But that is a mistaken notion; if the money were left in the pockets of the people they would spend it in comforts for themselves, and thereby make better for trade than if it were spent in luxury by idle and useless placemen and unworthy pensioners."
 Mr. D. Well, your objects seem more reasonable than I expected, so I wish you success, and it is very likely that I shall not only join your ranks myself, but get others to do so too. Good morning.

**OBJECTS OF THE
IRISH UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE SOCIETY.**

I.—To create a better feeling and a more kindly interchange of good actions between landlord and tenant, between the farmer and labourer, and between the employer and his working men, in every state and grade of society, by seeking by every lawful and constitutional means for UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE; that is to say, for every male inhabitant of Great Britain and Ireland, of twenty-one years of age and upwards, of sane mind, and not convicted by a jury of any felonious offence, to have the right to vote at the election of a candidate for a seat in parliament; the obvious effect of which will be, to cause the upper classes of society to set a higher value upon the labourer and artisan than they have hitherto done; and to consider the happiness and comfort of the working classes as an object of the landlord and the farmer.

II.—For VOTE BY BALLOT.

III.—For ANNUAL PARLIAMENTS.

IV.—For EQUAL REPRESENTATION; that is to say, that Great Britain and Ireland shall be divided into electoral districts, each district to contain an equal number of voters, and each to send an equal number of members to parliament.

V.—For the ABOLITION OF THE PROPERTY QUALIFICATION for members of parliament, which will have the effect of putting a stop out of a real estate of £300 or £200 a year, as the case may be, before they can sit in parliament; although a few persons are known to have neither right, title, nor interest of any nature or kind whatsoever in the property out of which they have qualified.

VI.—For each constituency to have the right to pay their representatives for their time and services, if they deem it necessary so to do.

VII.—For a REPEAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE UNION between Great Britain and Ireland, which cannot be achieved without the aid and co-operation of the English Chartists, by bringing their moral power to bear upon the five hundred and fifty-three British members of parliament, in favour of that measure, and which would be of no benefit to Ireland, unless preceded by universal suffrages, property qualifications, and because the engines of justice liberty would have a preponderating majority in both houses of an Irish parliament, with the present constituency of Ireland.

FREDERICK O'HIGGINS, Chairman,
 P. M. BRONN, Secretary.

W. H. Dwyer, Printer,
 109 Thomas-street, & 2, Grand Canal Place,
 DUBLIN.



mated into certain and irrevocable rent.
 It was on these grounds—seeing that though the gentry and middle classes had, in some measure, achieved theirs, the emancipation of the people was yet to come—that we formed the Irish Universal Suffrage Association, in order to induce the working classes to take their own affairs into their own hands, and having once satisfied themselves of what they were justly entitled to, to struggle unitedly, energetically, and unceasingly, until they had obtained the rights essential to their own happiness and to the safety of the commonwealth. With your association we believe that justice and common sense demand that every male inhabitant of this empire, of twenty-one years of age and upwards, of sane mind, and not convicted of any felonious offence, should have a voice in the selection of representatives—we believe that annual parliaments are the best security for the honesty of members of parliament—that the protection of the ballot is indispensable; where men are not socially incedependent—that the existing property qualification for members is impolitic, unjust, and a fruitful source of falsehood and perjury—that men may, in many cases, be fittingly sent to parliament, who should be adequately maintained there by their constituents; and that there can be no equal representation till the number of representatives be proportionate to the number of electors. Further, we are of opinion that Ireland is entitled to home legislation—that her internal resources may be developed, and her domestic wants looked after by those who will possess an adequate knowledge of, and interest in, affairs essentially Irish. These principles we have published, and laid before the people of Ireland. This display of independent thought and action on our part has, however, not only brought upon us the natural hostility of the monopolist factions, but numbers of our own



Full text of the Petition for the Charter, 1842

👤 Chartist Ancestors 📄 petitions

Thomas Slingsby Duncombe, the radical MP for Finsbury, introduced the Chartist Petition of 1842 'signed by 3,315,752 of the industrious classes' into the House of Commons on 2 May 1842. His speech and the full text of the petition are taken from Hansard:

That your petitioners complain that seats in your honourable House are sought for at a most extravagant rate of expense; which proves an enormous degree of fraud and corruption.

That your petitioners, therefore, contend, that to put an end to secret political traffic, all representatives should be paid a limited amount for their services.

That your petitioners complain of the many grievances borne by the people of Ireland, and contend that they are fully entitled to a repeal of the legislative union.

That your petitioners have viewed with great indignation the partiality shown to the aristocracy in the courts of justice, and the cruelty of that system of law which deprived Frost, Williams, and Jones, of the benefit of their objection offered by Sir Frederick Pollock during the trial at Monmouth, and which was approved of by a large majority of the judges.

Wolfe Tone - An Address to the People of Ireland (1796)

The aristocracy of Ireland, which exists only by our slavery, and is maintained in its pomp and splendour by the sale of our lives, liberties, and properties will tumble in the dust;

the People will be no longer mocked with the vain appearance of a Parliament, over which they have neither influence or control.

Instead of a King, representing himself, a House of Lords representing themselves, and a House of Commons representing themselves, we shall have a wise and honest Legislature, chosen by the People, whom they will indeed represent, and whose interest, even for their own sakes, they will most strenuously support.

Our commerce will be free, our arts encouraged, our manufactures protected—for our enemies will no longer be our lawmakers.”

Rev. Daniel Hearne, Manchester (c.1835)³

“I have observed that the Irish are more prone to take part in trades' unions, combinations, and secret societies, than the English. I attribute this to the habit which they have acquired in Ireland, engendered by the administration of bad laws. I use all my influence as a catholic priest to discountenance such societies and to dissuade members of my flock from joining them, and to persuade them to cease to belong to them. I have reason to know that the influence of the catholic clergy in this town has been successful in this respect to a great extent.”

³ UK Parliamentary Papers, *Appendix to Report into the State of the Irish Poor in Great Britain, No. III: State of the Irish Poor in Manchester and Other Towns of Lancashire and Cheshire* (1836), 62. “Rev. Daniel Hearne, resident priest of St. Patrick’s Church, George’s Fields, a native of the county of Tipperary in Ireland, was educated at Maynooth and has been in Manchester about eight years and a half.” Ibid, 62.

HIBERNIAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

The above society held their usual meeting in the Royal Exchange, on Wednesday evening last, and, as usual, it was attended by a considerable number of the working classes, who paid deep attention to the speakers. The proceedings of this benévolent association almost necessarily assume an appearance of sameness from their frequent reiteration of the same sentiments, yet the speakers do contrive to create new interest in the questions they bring before their audiences from week to week, from the mere force of earnestness, for they make no pretensions to the use of that oratory which usually captivates large assemblies. The people, however, attend these Wednesday evening meetings, and we doubt not they derive much useful information as well as pleasure from doing so.

Mr. James Haughton took the chair. He said that slavery was a crying iniquity, and not to be measured by the amount of cruelty or kindness exercised towards the slave by his task-master. That it was a crime which humanity revolts at more than any other that could be named. He read some sickening details of almost incredible, yet well authenticated, instances of cruelty arising out of the infernal system, and he commented at length on an admirable article in the *Nation* on the subject of the use of tobacco. In addition to the unanswerable arguments for its disuse urged in that article, Mr. Haughton urged his audience to abandon it altogether, and at once, because it is the produce of slave labour.

Freeman's Journal -
Tuesday 06 May 1845 p. 4

SPECIAL MEETING
OF
THE IRISH CONFEDERATION
TO PROTEST AGAINST THE JURY PACKING
SYSTEM.

The March.

On Sunday the streets of Dublin presented a scene— not of excitement—but rather of popular feeling, restrained within proper and prudent bounds. The right of the citizens of Dublin to pass peaceably through the streets of their own city had been questioned. The authorities had thought proper to blockade a populous thoroughfare with police; and in the event (the expected event) of resistance, on the part of the citizens, to such a gross outrage, a regiment of military was placed near at hand to support this most unconstitutional aggression on the privileges of subjects and citizens, and to make the streets of Dublin a scene of blood, and leave many a hearth desolate; and all for what purpose? To justify the course which it has seemed fit to our rulers to adopt in following up their determination to subdue the free spirit of the people, and to crush the manifestation, both by word and act, of popular opinion.



The meeting was, in truth, a splendid demonstration. **The clubs *did* walk in procession to the place of meeting, which was at Bellevue,** where Mr. Ennis had given the fine area within his premises for the purpose. Fifteen Confederate Clubs, headed by their presidents, marched uninterrupted from their several club-rooms to the place of meeting (Dublin Weekly Nation, 27 May 1848)

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" A PROCLAMATION.

" TO ALL IGNORANT AND DELUDED POLICEMEN.

" Whereas the Captains of the *Irish National Guard* have received several despatches from their country depots, relative to the conduct of certain Police, in tearing down their *Bulletins*, announcing the strength of each week's columns; and, also, endeavouring to prevent respectable non-commissioned officers from billeting 'The Irish National Guard,' Now hereby give notice, that they will prosecute all such parties so offending; and the Captains further inform all such detective Jackalls, that 'The Irish National Guard' is regularly marched, once a week, for inspection, to her Majesty's Stamp office, having been previously drilled and inspected by the said Captains and the Printer to the service, who is duly licensed. The Captains of 'The Irish National Guard' therefore command all their Agents and non-commissioned officers in the outposts, to notify to them any rash attempts that may hereafter be made to surprise their depots, to cut off detachments, or prevent 'The Irish National Guard' from marching through the length and breadth of Ireland, England, Scotland, and our ancient possession, the Isle of Man.

" Signed by order of the Captains, at their Castle, 16, Christ-Church Place, Dublin, this 1st day of June, 1848.

" JAMES M'CORMICK, Licensed Printer."

Proof was given of the circumstances attending the taking down the placards; the charge was undenied by the defendants, but the Inspector and Mr. Superintendant Walsh justified the act. on the plea of orders to that

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