

**Chapter 1 : Famine - Wikipedia**

*For famines that straddle two decades, the number of victims are assigned to decades proportionately to the number of years falling in each decade. Famines for which no estimate for the number of victims has been found, or those below deaths are excluded.*

Western Europe The Great Famine of 1315 to 1317 was the first crisis that would strike Europe in the 14th century, millions in northern Europe would die over an extended number of years, marking a clear end to the earlier period of growth and prosperity during the 11th and 12th centuries. Starting with bad weather in the spring of 1315, universal crop failures lasted until the summer of 1317, from which Europe did not fully recover until 1322. It was a period marked by extreme levels of criminal activity, disease and mass death, infanticide, and cannibalism. It had consequences for Church, State, European society and future calamities to follow in the 14th century. The seventeenth century was a period of change for the food producers of Europe. For centuries they had lived primarily as subsistence farmers in a feudal system. They had obligations to their lords, who had suzerainty over the land tilled by their peasants. The lord of a fief would take a portion of the crops and livestock produced during the year. Peasants generally tried to minimize the amount of work they had to put into agricultural food production. Their lords rarely pressured them to increase their food output, except when the population started to increase, at which time the peasants were likely to increase the production themselves. More land would be added to cultivation until there was no more available and the peasants were forced to take up more labour-intensive methods of production. Nonetheless, they generally tried to work as little as possible, valuing their time to do other things such as hunting, fishing or relaxing, as long as they had enough food to feed their families. It was not in their interest to produce more than they could eat or store themselves. During the seventeenth century, continuing the trend of previous centuries, there was an increase in market driven agriculture. Farmers, people who rented land in order to make a profit off of the product of the land, employing wage labour, became increasingly common, particularly in western Europe. It was in their interest to produce as much as possible on their land in order to sell it to areas that demanded that product. They produced guaranteed surpluses of their crop every year if they could. Farmers paid their labourers in money, increasing the commercialization of rural society. This commercialization had a profound impact on the behaviour of peasants. Farmers were interested in increasing labour input into their lands, not decreasing it as subsistence peasants were. Subsistence peasants were also increasingly forced to commercialize their activities because of increasing taxes. Taxes that had to be paid to central governments in money forced the peasants to produce crops to sell. Sometimes they produced industrial crops, but they would find ways to increase their production in order to meet both their subsistence requirements as well as their tax obligations. Peasants also used the new money to purchase manufactured goods. The 17th century saw the worst famines in centuries across all of Europe, except in certain areas, notably the Netherlands. Famine had been relatively rare during the sixteenth century. The economy and population had grown steadily as subsistence populations tend to when there is an extended period of relative peace most of the time. Subsistence peasant populations will almost always increase when possible since the peasants will try to spread the work to as many hands as possible. Although peasants in areas of high population density, such as northern Italy, had learned to increase the yields of their lands through techniques such as promiscuous culture, they were still quite vulnerable to famines, forcing them to work their land even more intensively. Famine is a very destabilizing and devastating occurrence. The prospect of starvation led people to take desperate measures. When scarcity of food became apparent to peasants, they would sacrifice long term prosperity for short term survival. They would kill their draught animals, leading to lowered production in subsequent years. Once those means had been exhausted, they would take to the road in search of food. They migrated to the cities where merchants from other areas would be more likely to sell their food, as cities had a stronger purchasing power than did rural areas. Cities also administered relief programs and bought grain for their populations so that they could keep order. With the confusion and desperation of the migrants, crime would often follow them. Many peasants resorted to banditry in order to acquire enough to eat. One famine would often lead to difficulties in following years because of

lack of seed stock or disruption of routine, or perhaps because of less available labour. They were seen as the removal, by God, of his gifts to the people of the Earth. The great famine of the 1300s began the period of famine and decline in the seventeenth century. The price of grain, all over Europe was high, as was the population. Various types of people were vulnerable to the succession of bad harvests that occurred throughout the 1300s in different regions. The increasing number of wage labourers in the countryside were vulnerable because they had no food of their own, and their meager living was not enough to purchase the expensive grain of a bad crop year. Town labourers were also at risk because their wages would be insufficient to cover the cost of grain, and to make matters worse, they often received less money in bad crop years since the disposable income of the wealthy was spent on grain. Often unemployment would be the result of the increase in grain prices, leading to ever increasing numbers of urban poor. All areas of Europe were badly affected by the famine in these periods, especially rural areas. The Netherlands were able to escape most of the damaging effects of the famine, though the 1300s were still difficult years there. Actual famine did not occur, for the Amsterdam grain trade [with the] guaranteed that there would always be something to eat in the Netherlands although hunger was prevalent. The Netherlands had the most commercialized agriculture in all of Europe at this time. They grew many industrial crops such as flax, hemp, and hops. Agriculture became increasingly specialized and efficient. As a result, productivity and wealth increased, allowing the Netherlands to maintain a steady food supply. By the 1700s the economy was even more developed, so the country was able to avoid the hardships of that period of famine with even greater impunity. The years around 1800 saw another period of famines sweep across Europe. These famines were generally less severe than the famines of twenty five years earlier, but they were nonetheless quite serious in many areas. Other areas of Europe have known famines much more recently. France saw famines as recently as the nineteenth century. Famine still occurred in eastern Europe during the 20th century. The frequency of famine can vary with climate changes. For example, during the little ice age of the 15thth centuries, European famines grew more frequent than they had been during previous centuries. Because of the frequency of famine in many societies it has long been a chief concern of governments and other authorities. In pre-industrial Europe, preventing famine, and ensuring timely food supplies was one of the chief concerns of many governments. They had various tools at their disposal to alleviate famines, including price controls, purchasing stockpiles of food from other areas, rationing, and regulation of production. Most governments were concerned by famine because it could lead to revolt and other forms of social disruption. Italy The harvest failures were devastating for the northern Italian economy. The economy of the area had recovered well from the previous famines, but the famines from 1600-1700 coincided because of a period of war in the area. The economy did not recover fully for centuries. There were serious famines in the late 1300s and less severe ones in the 1400s throughout northern Italy. England England also lagged behind the Netherlands, but by their agricultural industry was commercialized on a wide scale. The last peace-time famine in England was in 1846-1847. There were still periods of hunger, as in the Netherlands, but there were no more famines as such. Iceland In the volcano Laki in south-central Iceland erupted. In the following famine around ten thousand people died, one-fifth of the population of Iceland. Famines continued in the Soviet era, most famously the Holodomor in Ukraine The last major famine in the USSR happened in 1932-1933 due to the severe drought.

**Chapter 2 : Killen, The Famine Decade – Contemporary accounts, - Woodpecker Books**

*This is a history of the Great Famine, using contemporary eyewitness accounts along with governmental and ecclesiastical statements, covering the years to It is illustrated with contemporary drawings and cartoons, as well as newspaper reports and editorials.*

Executive power lay in the hands of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Chief Secretary for Ireland, who were appointed by the British government. Ireland sent members of parliament to the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, and Irish representative peers elected 28 of their own number to sit for life in the House of Lords. Local food prices promptly dropped. There was no such export ban in the 18th century. The laws had largely been reformed by 1793, and the Roman Catholic Relief Act allowed Irish Catholics to again sit in parliament. Landlords and tenants[ edit ] During the 18th century, the "middleman system" for managing landed property was introduced. This assured the landlord of a regular income, and relieved them of direct responsibility, while leaving tenants open to exploitation by the middlemen. At the top of the "social pyramid" was the "ascendancy class", the English and Anglo-Irish families who owned most of the land, and held more or less unchecked power over their tenants. Many of these landlords lived in England and were known as absentee landlords. The rent revenue—collected from "impoverished tenants" who were paid minimal wages to raise crops and livestock for export [34]—was mostly sent to England. They established a Royal Commission, chaired by the Earl of Devon, to enquire into the laws regarding the occupation of land. It would be impossible adequately to describe the privations which they [the Irish labourer and his family] habitually and silently endure. There was no hereditary loyalty, feudal tie, or mitigating tradition of paternalism as existed in England. Ireland was a conquered country. The Earl of Clare observed of landlords that "confiscation is their common title". With the Irish "brooding over their discontent in sullen indignation" in the words of the Earl of Clare, the countryside was largely viewed by landlords as a hostile place in which to live, and absentee ownership was common; some landlords visited their property only once or twice in a lifetime, if ever. They would split a holding into smaller and smaller parcels so as to increase the amount of rent they could obtain. A cottier paid his rent by working for the landlord. Most tenants had no security of tenure on the land; as tenants "at will", they could be turned out whenever the landlord chose. The only exception to this arrangement was in Ulster where, under a practice known as "tenant right", a tenant was compensated for any improvement they made to their holding. According to Woodham-Smith, the commission stated that "the superior prosperity and tranquility of Ulster, compared with the rest of Ireland, were due to tenant right". Woodham-Smith writes that, in these circumstances, "industry and enterprise were extinguished and a peasantry created which was one of the most destitute in Europe". Holdings were so small that no crop other than potatoes would suffice to feed a family. Shortly before the famine the British government reported that poverty was so widespread that one-third of all Irish small holdings could not support their families after paying their rent, except by earnings of seasonal migrant labour in England and Scotland. Two-thirds of those depended on agriculture for their survival, but they rarely received a working wage. They had to work for their landlords in return for the patch of land they needed to grow enough food for their own families. This was the system which forced Ireland and its peasantry into monoculture, since only the potato could be grown in sufficient quantity. The rights to a plot of land in Ireland could mean the difference between life and death in the early 19th century. For economic reasons, the Irish peasantry had become dependent on potato crop. The potato was introduced to Ireland as a garden crop of the gentry. By the late 17th century, it had become widespread as a supplementary rather than a principal food because the main diet still revolved around butter, milk, and grain products. However, in the first two decades of the 18th century, it became a base food of the poor, especially in winter. For the labourer, it was essentially a potato wage that shaped the expanding agrarian economy. By 1800, there were over half a million peasant farmers, with 1. The principal beneficiary of this system was the English consumer. Ireland had been used to pasture cows for centuries. The British taste for beef had a devastating impact on the impoverished and disenfranchised people of Ireland. Eventually, cows took over much of Ireland, leaving the native population virtually dependent on the potato for survival. General crop failures, through disease or frost, were

recorded in , , , and In and , the potato crop failed in Munster and Connaught. In and , Mayo , Donegal , and Galway suffered likewise. In , , , and , dry rot and curl caused serious losses, and in the potato failed in Ulster. Widespread failures throughout Ireland occurred in , , , , and According to Woodham-Smith, "the unreliability of the potato was an accepted fact in Ireland". In , Irish newspapers carried reports concerning a disease which for two years had attacked the potato crops in America. By mid-August , it had reached much of northern and central Europe; Belgium, The Netherlands, northern France, and southern England had all been stricken. A week later, on 23 August, it reported that "A fearful malady has broken out among the potato crop In Belgium the fields are said to be completely desolated. There is hardly a sound sample in Covent Garden market As for cure for this distemper, there is none. Only when the crop was lifted in October did the scale of destruction become apparent. Little had been sown, so, despite average yields, hunger continued. Since over three million Irish people were totally dependent on potatoes for food, hunger and famine were inevitable. The Town Council of Belfast met and made similar suggestions, but neither body asked for charity, according to John Mitchel , one of the leading Repealers. One of the first things he suggested was the introduction of " Tenant-Right " as practised in Ulster, giving the landlord a fair rent for his land, but giving the tenant compensation for any money he might have laid out on the land in permanent improvements. He suggested that, if Ireland had a domestic Parliament, the ports would be thrown open and the abundant crops raised in Ireland would be kept for the people of Ireland. On 28 February, writing on the Coercion Bill which was then going through the House of Lords , he noted that this was the only kind of legislation that was sure to meet with no obstruction in the British House of Commons. In an article on "English Rule" on 7 March, Mitchel wrote that the Irish People were "expecting famine day by day", and that they attributed it collectively not to "the rule of heaven as to the greedy and cruel policy of England". He wrote that the people watched as their "food melting in rottenness off the face of the earth", all the while watching "heavy-laden ships, freighted with the yellow corn their own hands have sown and reaped, spreading all sail for England". It established the widespread view that the treatment of the famine by the British was a deliberate murder of the Irish, and it contained the famous phrase: An Drochshaol, though with the earlier spelling standard of the era , which was Gaelic script , it is found written as in Irish: Commenting on this at the time, Mitchel wrote: Lyons characterised the initial response of the British government to the early, less severe phase of the famine as "prompt and relatively successful". The government hoped that they would not "stifle private enterprise" and that their actions would not act as a disincentive to local relief efforts. Due to poor weather conditions, the first shipment did not arrive in Ireland until the beginning of February He resigned the premiership in December, but the opposition was unable to form a government and he was re-appointed. Peel was forced to resign as prime minister on 29 June, and the Whig leader, Lord John Russell , assumed the seals of office. To continue receiving relief, hundreds were instructed to travel many miles in bad weather. A large number died on the journey. The Public Works were "strictly ordered" to be unproductiveâ€”that is, they would create no fund to repay their own expenses. Many hundreds of thousands of "feeble and starving men", according to Mitchel, were kept digging holes and breaking up roads, which was doing no service. The costs of the Poor Law fell primarily on the local landlords, some of whom in turn attempted to reduce their liability by evicting their tenants, [] a practice that was facilitated by the "Cheap Ejectment Acts". The landed proprietors in Ireland were held in Britain to have created the conditions that led to the famine. It allowed proprietors to suck the very life-blood of that wretched race". Of this Law, Mitchel wrote that "it is the able-bodied idler only who is to be fedâ€”if he attempted to till but one rood of ground, he dies". This simple method of ejectment was called "passing paupers through the workhouse"â€”a man went in, a pauper came out. Estates with debts were then auctioned off at low prices. Wealthy British speculators purchased the lands and "took a harsh view" to the tenant farmers who continued renting. The rents were raised and tenants evicted to create large cattle grazing pastures. Between and , some 50, families were evicted. The Pictorial Times, Records show that Irish lands exported food even during the worst years of the Famine. When Ireland had experienced a famine in â€”83, ports were closed to keep Irish-grown food in Ireland to feed the Irish. Merchants lobbied against the export ban, but government in the s overrode their protests. In the magazine History Ireland , issue 5, pp. Almost 4, vessels carried food from Ireland to the ports of Bristol, Glasgow, Liverpool, and London during ,

when , Irish men, women, and children died of starvation and related diseases. She also writes that Irish exports of calves, livestock except pigs , bacon, and ham actually increased during the Famine. This food was shipped from the most famine-stricken parts of Ireland: A wide variety of commodities left Ireland during , including peas, beans, onions, rabbits, salmon, oysters, herring, lard, honey, tongues, animal skins, rags, shoes, soap, glue, and seed. One of the most shocking export figures concern butter. Butter was shipped in firkins, each one holding 9 imperial gallons; 41 litres. In the first nine months of , 56, firkins , imperial gallons; 2,, litres were exported from Ireland to Bristol, and 34, firkins , imperial gallons; 1,, litres were shipped to Liverpool, which correlates with , imperial gallons 3,, litres of butter exported to England from Ireland during nine months of the worst year of the Famine. Ireland "that no issue has provoked so much anger and embittered relations between England and Ireland "as the indisputable fact that huge quantities of food were exported from Ireland to England throughout the period when the people of Ireland were dying of starvation". Souperism Scene at the gate of the workhouse , c. He expressed the view that the resources of Ireland were still abundantly adequate to maintain the population, and that, until those resources had been utterly exhausted, he hoped that there was no one in "Ireland who will so degrade himself as to ask the aid of a subscription from England". He affirmed that in Ireland no one ever asked alms or favours of any kind from England or any other nation, but that it was England herself that begged for Ireland. The money was raised by Irish soldiers serving there and Irish people employed by the East India Company. The British Relief Association was one such group. It was an amazing gesture. The United States helped out the Irish during the famine immensely.

*This is a history of the Great Famine, using contemporary eyewitness accounts along with governmental and ecclesiastical statements, covering the years to*

How crop overdependence and poverty created the perfect conditions for disaster. Many farmers had long existed at virtually the subsistence level, given the small size of their allotments and the various hardships that the land presented for farming in some regions. The potato, which had become a staple crop in Ireland by the 18th century, was appealing in that it was a hardy, nutritious, and calorie-dense crop and relatively easy to grow in the Irish soil. By the early 19th century almost half the Irish population—but primarily the rural poor—had come to depend almost exclusively on the potato for their diet. The rest of the population also consumed it in large quantities. A heavy reliance on just one or two high-yielding types of potato greatly reduced the genetic variety that ordinarily prevents the decimation of an entire crop by disease, and thus the Irish became vulnerable to famine. In 1845 a strain of *Phytophthora* arrived accidentally from North America, and that same year Ireland had unusually cool moist weather, in which the blight thrived. Although Conservative Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel continued to allow the export of grain from Ireland to Great Britain, he did what he could to provide relief in 1846. He authorized the import of corn maize from the United States, which helped avert some starvation. Much of the financial burden of providing for the starving Irish peasantry was thrown upon the Irish landowners themselves through local poor relief and British absentee landowners. Because the peasantry was unable to pay its rents, however, the landlords soon ran out of funds with which to support them, and the result was that hundreds of thousands of Irish tenant farmers and labourers were evicted during the years of the crisis. British assistance was limited to loans, helping to fund soup kitchens, and providing employment on road building and other public works. The Irish disliked the imported cornmeal, and reliance on it led to nutritional deficiencies. Despite those shortcomings, by August 1847 as many as three million people were receiving rations at soup kitchens. The impoverished Irish peasantry, lacking the money to purchase the foods their farms produced, continued throughout the famine to export grain, meat, and other high-quality foods to Britain. Similarly damaging was the attitude among many British intellectuals that the crisis was a predictable and not-unwelcome corrective to high birth rates in the preceding decades and perceived flaws, in their opinion, in the Irish national character. The famine proved to be a watershed in the demographic history of Ireland. The number of agricultural labourers and smallholders in the western and southwestern counties underwent an especially drastic decline. A further aftereffect of the famine was thus the clearing of many smallholders from the land and the concentration of landownership in fewer hands. Thereafter, more land than before was used for grazing sheep and cattle, providing animal foods for export to Britain. The number of Irish who emigrated during the famine may have reached two million. By the time Ireland achieved independence in 1922, its population was barely half of what it had been in the early 19th century.

## Chapter 4 : Irish Potato Famine - HISTORY

*Great Famine, also called Irish Potato Famine, Great Irish Famine, or Famine of , famine that occurred in Ireland in when the potato crop failed in successive years. The crop failures were caused by late blight, a disease that destroys both the leaves and the edible roots, or tubers, of the potato plant.*

An ever-worsening crisis War: More than 10, people have been killed since the conflict erupted in when Shiite Houthi rebels launched a campaign to capture the capital, Sanaa. In March , a Saudi-led coalition launched a deadly campaign against the rebels, one that has been widely criticized by human rights groups for its high civilian death toll. UN chief Antonio Guterres has urged the Security Council to pressure warring parties to allow aid in. An ever-worsening crisis Displacement: Converging crises More than 2 million people have been displaced by conflict, including marginalized communities such as the "Muhammasheen," a minority tribe that originally migrated from Africa. Despite the civil war, many flee conflict in Somalia and head to Yemen, marking the convergence of two major migration crises in the Middle East nation. An ever-worsening crisis Cholera: A deadly epidemic In October, the number of suspected cholera cases exceeded more than , the WHO said. At least 2, people have died from the waterborne bacterial infection in Yemen this year. Although cholera can be easily treated, if left untreated, it can kill within hours. The International Committee of the Red Cross has warned that cholera cases could hit 1 million before the end of the year. It is considered a strategic front in the war on terrorism. The country serves as the operational base for al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, dubbed the "most dangerous" terrorist group before the rise of the "Islamic State. However, civilians have often been killed in the operations. Future marred by tragedy In a country paralyzed by conflict, children are one of the most at-risk groups in Yemen. More than 11 million children require humanitarian aid, according to the UN humanitarian coordination agency. An ever-worsening crisis Peace: An elusive future Despite several attempts at UN-backed peace talks, the conflict continues to rage on. On the other hand, Houthi rebels have demanded the formation of a unity government in order to move forward on a political solution. But neither side appears ready to compromise. Lewis Sanders IV Aid bodies stopped and turned away at the border Relief organizations reported this week that they had been barred from delivering aid into Yemen. Yemen is almost completely dependent on imports of food, fuel and medicine. The UN estimates that some 17 million Yemenis are in urgent need of food , 7 million of whom are facing famine. The outbreak and spread of cholera in the country has reportedly infected nearly , and cost some 2, lives.

**Chapter 5 : Review of Alex de Waal, 'Mass Starvation: The History and Future of Famine'**

*This map shows the catastrophic decline in the population of Ireland during the decade from to The census taken in recorded a population of 8,, while the census counted 6,, a drop of over million in 10 years. The decline was mostly as a result of The Great.*

Print this page The Irish catastrophe The Great Famine in Ireland began as a natural catastrophe of extraordinary magnitude, but its effects were severely worsened by the actions and inactions of the Whig government, headed by Lord John Russell in the crucial years from to The Irish famine was proportionally more destructive of human life than Altogether, about a million people in Ireland are reliably estimated to have died of starvation and epidemic disease between and , and some two million emigrated in a period of a little more than a decade Comparison with other modern and contemporary famines establishes beyond any doubt that the Irish famine of the late s, which killed nearly one-eighth of the entire population, was proportionally much more destructive of human life than the vast majority of famines in modern times. In most famines in the contemporary world, only a small fraction of the population of a given country or region is exposed to the dangers of death from starvation or infectious diseases, and then typically for only one or two seasons. But in the Irish famine of the late s, successive blasts of potato blight - or to give it its proper name, the fungus *Phytophthora infestans* - robbed more than one-third of the population of their usual means of subsistence for four or five years in a row. Top An artificial famine? The original gross deficiency of food was real. The food gap created by the loss of the potato in the late s was so enormous that it could not have been filled, even if all the Irish grain exported in those years had been retained in the country. In fact, far more grain entered Ireland from abroad in the late s than was exported-probably almost three times as much grain and meal came in as went out. Thus there was an artificial famine in Ireland for a good portion of the late s as grain imports steeply increased. There existed - after , at least - an absolute sufficiency of food that could have prevented mass starvation, if it had been properly distributed so as to reach the smallholders and labourers of the west and the south of Ireland. In many contemporary famines a variety of adverse conditions make it difficult or impossible to deliver adequate supplies of food to those in greatest need. Such conditions include warfare and brigandage, remoteness from centres of wealth and relief, poor communications, and weak or corrupt administrative structures. Ireland, however, was not generally afflicted with such adversities. Why, then, was it not better able to deal with the problems caused by the failure of its potato crop? In answering this question, it is instructive to contrast the role of ideology in the general response to famines today with the part played by ideology in response to the Great Famine in Ireland. Today, wealthier countries and international organisations provide disaster assistance though, alas, often not nearly enough as a matter of humanitarian conviction and perceived self-interest. First, the government might have prohibited the export of grain from Ireland, especially during the winter of and early in the following spring, when there was little food in the country and before large supplies of foreign grain began to arrive. Once there was sufficient food in the country imported Indian corn or maize , from perhaps the beginning of , the government could have taken steps to ensure that this imported food was distributed to those in greatest need. Second, the government could have continued its so-called soup-kitchen scheme for a much longer time. It was in effect for only about six months, from March to September As many as three million people were fed daily at the peak of this scheme in July The scheme was remarkably inexpensive and effective. It should not have been dismantled after only six months and in spite of the enormous harvest deficiency of Third, the wages that the government paid on its vast but short-lived public works in the winter of needed to be much higher if those toiling on the public works were going to be able to afford the greatly inflated price of food. Fourth, the poor-law system of providing relief, either within workhouses or outside them, a system that served as virtually the only form of public assistance from the autumn of onwards, needed to be much less restrictive. All sorts of obstacles were placed in the way, or allowed to stand in the way, of generous relief to those in need of food. This was done in a horribly misguided effort to keep expenses down and to promote greater self-reliance and self-exertion among the Irish poor. Fifth, the government might have done something to restrain the ruthless mass eviction

of families from their homes, as landlords sought to rid their estates of pauperized farmers and labourers. Altogether, perhaps as many as , people were evicted in the years from to . The government might also have provided free passages and other assistance in support of emigration to North America - for those whose personal means made this kind of escape impossible. Last, and above all, the British government should have been willing to treat the famine crisis in Ireland as an imperial responsibility and to bear the costs of relief after the summer of . The idea of feeding Laissez-faire, the reigning economic orthodoxy of the day, held that there should be as little government interference with the economy as possible. Under this doctrine, stopping the export of Irish grain was an unacceptable policy alternative, and it was therefore firmly rejected in London, though there were some British relief officials in Ireland who gave contrary advice. The influence of the doctrine of laissez-faire may also be seen in two other decisions. The first was the decision to terminate the soup-kitchen scheme in September after only six months of operation. The other decision was the refusal of the government to undertake any large scheme of assisted emigration. The Irish viceroy actually proposed in this fashion to sweep the western province of Connacht clean of as many as , pauper smallholders too poor to emigrate on their own. Top An act of Providence? There was a very widespread belief among members of the British upper and middle classes that the famine was a divine judgment-an act of Providence-against the kind of Irish agrarian regime that was believed to have given rise to the famine. The Irish system of agriculture was perceived in Britain to be riddled with inefficiency and abuse. According to British policy-makers at the time, the workings of divine Providence were disclosed in the unfettered operations of the market economy, and therefore it was positively evil to interfere with its proper functioning. A leading exponent of this providentialist perspective was Sir Charles Trevelyan, the British civil servant chiefly responsible for administering Irish relief policy throughout the famine years. God grant that the generation to which this great opportunity has been offered may rightly perform its part This amounted to a kind of racial or cultural stereotyping. The Irish had to be taught to stand on their own feet and to unlearn their dependence on government. Thus labourers on the public works were widely required to perform task labour, with their wages measured by the amount of their work, rather than being paid a fixed daily wage. Similarly, there was the requirement that in order to be eligible for public assistance, those in distress must be willing to enter a workhouse and to submit to its harsh disciplines-such as endless eight-hour days of breaking stones or performing some other equally disagreeable labour. Such work was motivated by the notion that the perceived Irish national characteristic of sloth could be eradicated or at least reduced. It seems doubtful that the British governing classes learned much from their Irish experience. The Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has rightly insisted that famine is almost always a preventable occurrence if only the government in question has the political will to prevent it. This dictum applies as much to Ireland in the late s as Sen meant it to apply to India a century later. Just as in the case of the Bengali victims of famine in the early s, so too with those of the Great Famine in Ireland, the mass death of enormous multitudes of people stemmed partly from their perceived status as the cultural and social inferiors of those who governed them. This status, imposed by British rulers on their colonial subjects, made their plight seem much less urgent in Britain and caused it to be misperceived. It seems doubtful that the British governing classes learned much from their Irish experience in the late s. In British India, during the years , famine claimed the lives of between six and ten million people. And between and , an almost certainly even higher toll from starvation and disease the estimates range from six to nineteen million was recorded there, just as the reign of Victoria, the Empress-Queen, came to its inglorious close.

**Chapter 6 : The Famine Decade: Contemporary Accounts, - Google Books**

*Indian Corn in Cork Illustrated London News 58 The Famine War Commenced The Vindicator 59 Famine in Ulster The Vindicator 60 Imperial Parliament Coleraine Chronicle*

Although the famine itself probably resulted in about 1 million deaths, the resultant emigration caused the population to drop by a further 3 million. About 1 million of these are estimated to have emigrated in the immediate famine period, with the depression that followed continuing the decline until the second half of the 20th century. These migrants largely ended up in North America, with some in Australia and in Britain. Between and , 1. In , emigration was at the pre-famine rate of 50, per year. In , left. It peaked in , when , left. Over the next 5 years it averaged , per year, before the numbers fell off. By , the rate was down to 70, per year [6]. This graph does not include those who emigrated to England, Scotland and Wales. In the period over the famine decade , 1. There were two ways one could travel; either in a standard class or steerage. Standard passengers had berths and could walk on the deck. Steerage passengers were crowded together below decks and often could not use the deck. For many emigrants, steerage was the most they could afford. The picture below shows emigrants waiting on a quayside looking for passage to America. The signs are advertising services to Boston, New York and Quebec. Some were cheated out of the little money they had brought, to pay their fares, by "fast-talking rogues". In many cases, getting passage on a ship seems to have been a matter of waiting for an opportunity rather than booking tickets in advance. With many of the emigrants suffering from fever, coupled with the cramped and insanitary conditions on board what became known as the "coffin ships", disease was rampant. Although they were regulated, many of the ships were privately owned, and some captains grossly overcrowded them in order to get more fares. Only the slave ships of the previous century would have had worse conditions. One witness commented on a voyage "This vessel left with passengers, of whom died before arrival, including the Master, mate and nine of the crew The picture below shows the conditions in the steerage area of a "coffin ship". Another witness, Stephen de Vere, sailed to America in steerage in ; the year that saw the greatest emigrations of the immediate famine period. The food is generally ill-selected and seldom sufficiently cooked in consequences of the insufficiency and bad construction of the cooking places. The supply of water, hardly enough for cooking and drinking, does not allow for washing. No moral restraint is attempted; the voice of prayer is never heard; drunkenness, with all its consequent train of ruffianly debasement, is not discouraged because it is found profitable by the captain who traffics in grog [watered-down Rum] [2]". The authorities in America soon realised how disease-ridden the emigrants were, so they set up quarantine centres which held the emigrants until they were deemed fit to continue. Some settled the new territories of the west which were being colonised at the time, but most stayed in the cities of the east coast where they took some of the poorest jobs. Only over a matter of years did some manage to rise up to prominence. Emigration continued to the USA for almost a century. However, after the First World War, America was much more closed and so overseas emigrants increasingly went to Canada or Australia. Many of the American emigrants brought with them a deep hatred of the government back in the UK, which they blamed for the famine and for their suffering. Of course, Irish emigrants did not all go overseas. Although not as many as went to America, hundreds of thousands of Irish emigrated to Britain. Some went on from Britain to America, but many settled there. Because Ireland and Britain were then part of the same country, no migration figures were recorded on Irish Sea traffic. However, the census in Britain shows around , Irish-born living in Britain [5]. The map shows where these emigrants were concentrated. Even today, people in Liverpool and Glasgow have a higher-than-average interest in Irish affairs. At first local officials did what they could to help the mass of fever-ridden and hungry Irish who were disembarking. Soon, however, the famine fever spread to the local residents of the English and Scottish ports and the authorities began to panic. Eventually, the government passed a law saying that any emigrants who arrived without means for support would be returned to the authorities in Ireland. Nevertheless, as the map shows, many stayed and even today a large proportion of the population of Britain has some connection to Ireland. The next section looks at the effects of emigration on the land that was left behind.

*The UN's humanitarian chief has sent a chilling warning that Yemen is facing the world's worst famine in decades in which millions could die, if Saudi Arabia continues to block aid flowing into.*

Early history In the midnd century BC, a sudden and short-lived climatic change that caused reduced rainfall resulted in several decades of drought in Upper Egypt. The resulting famine and civil strife is believed to have been a major cause of the collapse of the Old Kingdom. An account from the First Intermediate Period states, "All of Upper Egypt was dying of hunger and people were eating their children. The only records obtained are of violence between Portuguese and Africans during the Battle of Mbilwa in In these documents the Portuguese wrote of African raids on Portuguese merchants solely for food, giving clear signs of famine. Additionally, instances of cannibalism by the African Jaga were also more prevalent during this time frame, indicating an extreme deprivation of a primary food source. A notable period of famine occurred around the turn of the 20th century in the Congo Free State. In forming this state, Leopold used mass labor camps to finance his empire. The introduction of cash crops such as cotton , and forcible measures to impel farmers to grow these crops, sometimes impoverished the peasantry in many areas, such as northern Nigeria, contributing to greater vulnerability to famine when severe drought struck in In Ethiopia it was estimated that as much as 90 percent of the national herd died, rendering rich farmers and herders destitute overnight. This coincided with drought associated with an el Nino oscillation, human epidemics of smallpox , and in several countries, intense war. The Ethiopian Great famine that afflicted Ethiopia from to cost it roughly one-third of its population. Records compiled for the Himba recall two droughts from to They were recorded by the Himba through a method of oral tradition. From to the Himba described the drought as "drought of the omutati seed" also called omangowi, which means the fruit of an unidentified vine that people ate during the time period. From to , 87 per cent of deaths from famine occurred in Asia and Eastern Europe, with only 9. Although the drought was brief the main cause of death in Rwanda was due to Belgian prerogatives to acquisition grain from their colony Rwanda. The increased grain acquisition was related to WW2. This and the drought caused , Rwandans to perish. It is estimated that 1. Additionally, drought and other government interference with the food supply caused thousand Africans to perish in Central and West Africa. The Ethiopian famine of that time was closely linked to the crisis of feudalism in that country, and in due course helped to bring about the downfall of the Emperor Haile Selassie. The Sahelian famine was associated with the slowly growing crisis of pastoralism in Africa, which has seen livestock herding decline as a viable way of life over the last two generations. A girl during the Nigerian Civil War of the late s. Pictures of the famine caused by Nigerian blockade garnered sympathy for the Biafrans worldwide. Famines occurred in Sudan in the lates and again in and The famine in Karamoja , Uganda was, in terms of mortality rates, one of the worst in history. This caused famine because even though the Sudanese Government believed there was a surplus of grain, there were local deficits across the region. A primary cause of the famine one of the largest seen in the country is that Ethiopia and the surrounding Horn was still recovering from the droughts which occurred in the mid-late s. Ultimately, over 1 million Ethiopians died and over 22 million people suffered due to the prolonged drought, which lasted roughly 2 years. This coincided with a massive drought, causing over , Somalis to perish. That said, many African countries are not self-sufficient in food production, relying on income from cash crops to import food. Agriculture in Africa is susceptible to climatic fluctuations, especially droughts which can reduce the amount of food produced locally. Other agricultural problems include soil infertility , land degradaton and erosion , swarms of desert locusts , which can destroy whole crops, and livestock diseases. Desertification is increasingly problematic: In Sudan at the same date, drought and economic crisis combined with denials of any food shortage by the then-government of President Gaafar Nimeiry , to create a crisis that killed perhaps , peopleâ€”and helped bring about a popular uprising that overthrew Nimeiry. Numerous factors make the food security situation in Africa tenuous, including political instability, armed conflict and civil war , corruption and mismanagement in handling food supplies, and trade policies that harm African agriculture. An example of a famine created by human rights abuses is the Sudan famine. AIDS is also

having long-term economic effects on agriculture by reducing the available workforce, and is creating new vulnerabilities to famine by overburdening poor households. On the other hand, in the modern history of Africa on quite a few occasions famines acted as a major source of acute political instability. Recent famines in Africa include the 2006 Niger food crisis, the Sahel famine and the East Africa drought, where two consecutive missed rainy seasons precipitated the worst drought in East Africa in 60 years. The famine in Ethiopia in the 1980s had an immense death toll, although Asian famines of the 20th century have also produced extensive death tolls. Modern African famines are characterized by widespread destitution and malnutrition, with heightened mortality confined to young children. Current initiatives Against a backdrop of conventional interventions through the state or markets, alternative initiatives have been pioneered to address the problem of food security. One pan-African example is the Great Green Wall. CABDA proceeds through specific areas of intervention such as the introduction of drought-resistant crops and new methods of food production such as agro-forestry. This enables farmers to influence and drive their own development through community-run institutions, bringing food security to their household and region. The organization has succeeded in this area but the economic field and development has not succeeded in these fields. African leaders have agreed to waive the role of their organization in the development to the United Nations through the Economic Commission for Africa "ECA". The four famines of 1942-43, 1949-50, 1959-60, and 1973-74 are said to have killed no fewer than 45 million people. When a stressed monarchy shifted from state management and direct shipments of grain to monetary charity in the mid-19th century, the system broke down. Thus the 1876-78 famine under the Tongzhi Restoration was successfully relieved but the Great North China Famine of 1959-61, caused by drought across northern China, was a catastrophe. The province of Shanxi was substantially depopulated as grains ran out, and desperately starving people stripped forests, fields, and their very houses for food. Estimated mortality is 9. Communist Party cadres across China insisted that peasants abandon their farms for collective farms, and begin to produce steel in small foundries, often melting down their farm instruments in the process. Collectivisation undermined incentives for the investment of labor and resources in agriculture; unrealistic plans for decentralized metal production sapped needed labor; unfavorable weather conditions; and communal dining halls encouraged overconsumption of available food. When the leadership did become aware of the scale of the famine, it did little to respond, and continued to ban any discussion of the cataclysm. This blanket suppression of news was so effective that very few Chinese citizens were aware of the scale of the famine, and the greatest peacetime demographic disaster of the 20th century only became widely known twenty years later, when the veil of censorship began to lift. The exact number of famine deaths during 1959-61 is difficult to determine, and estimates range from 18 million [57] to at least 42 million [58] people, with a further 30 million cancelled or delayed births. China has not experienced a famine of the proportions of the Great Leap Forward since. The new government was led by Pol Pot, who desired to turn Cambodia into a communist, agrarian utopia. In less than four years, the Khmer Rouge had executed nearly 1.5 million. As many as one million more died from starvation, disease, and exhaustion resulting from these policies. North Korean famine in the 1990s Famine struck North Korea in the mid-1990s, set off by unprecedented floods. The vulnerable agricultural sector experienced a massive failure in 1996, expanding to full-fledged famine by 1997. Estimates based on the North Korean census suggest that 2.5 million to 3 million people died as a result of the famine and that there were 10 million to 12 million unnatural deaths in North Korea from 1994 to 1998. While Woo-Cumings have focused on the FAD side of the famine, Moon argues that FAD shifted the incentive structure of the authoritarian regime to react in a way that forced millions of disenfranchised people to starve to death Moon,

**Chapter 8 : U.N. chief appeals for end to Yemen war, outlines next steps | Reuters**

*A famine is a widespread scarcity of food, caused by several factors including war, inflation, crop failure, population imbalance, or government calendrierdelascience.com phenomenon is usually accompanied or followed by regional malnutrition, starvation, epidemic, and increased mortality.*

The primary causes include drought, military conflict, and lack of ability of nations to access food on the international market. And drought and conflict stricken Africa is the primary hot-spot for global hunger. Climate change has likely worsened this situation by adding to the intensity of droughts and heatwaves now affecting the region. In addition, past year droughts in places like Yemen and Nigeria helped to inflame present conflict and instability. Famine Early Warning Network. Additionally, conflict combined with the after effect of a drought has disrupted food and water access in Yemen. These synergistic factors have forced plummeting food production and food security throughout Africa and nearby Middle Eastern countries. This cyclical African weather pattern is primarily produced by a pooling of warm water in the West Pacific that, in turn, alters atmospheric circulation patterns the world over. Very warm sea surface temperatures helped to produce a severe drought in East Africa. Somalia, which was particularly hard-hit, is now facing famine. During , the La Nina was comparatively weak. However, sea surface temperature anomalies in the Western Pacific hit rather high readings over large ocean regions. The net effect to East Africa appeared similar to what would typically be experienced during a stronger La Nina event. This cyclical climate event also occurred during a year when overall global temperatures were around 1. For , overall temperatures in the drought impacted regions averaged between 0. And this added heat would have amplified any droughts that did form by increasing the rate at which moisture was evaporated out of soils and rivers. As a result of these prevalent warmer conditions, impacts related to human-caused climate change cannot be entirely ignored as part of the overall drought and food-stress signal. Somalia Hit Hard Among the four countries now facing famine alerts, the various climate and climate change related impacts appear most acute for Somalia. Back in , another La Nina and associated warm western Pacific surface waters helped to produce a famine that killed , people. Now, just six years later, a record warm world and La Nina are serving up these severe conditions again. Two rainy seasons failed back to back in the water stressed nation during and And from October through December of , large parts of Somalia received less than 30 percent of the typical rainfall for the period. Now a national disaster has been declared as 6. I appeal to all donors to provide the necessary fund for immediate and emergency assistance. And the various famine alerts that are presently ongoing all occur in states that have suffered from drought and water stress in the past five years. Instability and conflict are often identified as the cause of food stress. But drought is a trigger condition under which multi-year instability and conflict can emerge as we have so vividly and tragically seen in Syria. In this way, drought and conflict interact in a chicken and egg relationship to produce reduced food security. Unfortunately, with global temperatures likely to increase by another 0. More intense drought, shifting climate zones, and changing precipitation patterns all help to increase that risk. And, at this point, the various food crises the world is presently experiencing are difficult to divorce from it.

**Chapter 9 : Saudi blockade pushing Yemen toward 'worst famine in decades' - CNN**

*The Great Famine (Irish: an Gorta Mór, [anˠ ɡˠoˠrˠa mˠoˠr]) or the Great Hunger was a period of mass starvation, disease, and emigration in Ireland between and*

AIHS For over a century and a half shame and silence were the most common Irish responses to the calamity of the Great Hunger A million dead, a million fled was the old saying, but concern over igniting further strife in the present a particular concern during the Troubles kept a lid on most discussions of it. But now a new roadshow coming to the USA and Canada plans to give voice to the descendants of famine era Irish immigrants, many for the first time. Left glaringly unaddressed in many quarters, the wound stayed raw for decades after the disaster “ which was the worst episode of mass starvation in 19 century Europe “ traumatized all who lived through it. There are many reasons for the eerie silence that fell across Ireland after the famine. Some, it may be safely deduced, suffered from what psychologists call survivors guilt, and some feared the potentially radicalizing effect its legacy could have on a new generation this was particularly true during the intense periods of civil conflict. But now The Great Famine Voices Roadshow wants to clear the air on a subject that for far too long was feared where it was not ignored. In an exciting new initiative from the both the National Famine Museum in Strokestown Park and The Irish Heritage Trust, a series of free open house events will be held in the USA and Canada where descendants of Irish emigrants and the general public are welcome to come together and share their family memories and stories of coming to America, especially during the period of the Great Hunger, which was to The roadshow is being funded by the Emigrant Support Program of the Irish government. Many families in North America will have the stories that have been handed down but never officially compiled recorded. They will be a target audience for the new initiative. There were hundreds of thousands of them who started whole communities here in the U. Then there are the second kind, the more recent immigrants here who have our own famine stories from Ireland itself. Both can span generations and locations. Why are we grappling with the legacy of the famine the way we are now? There was a refusal to discuss the trauma. It was the first time the Irish government felt empowered and confident enough “ because of the Peace Process in Northern Ireland - to even talk about the Great Hunger. There was a lot of finger pointing at Britain. So that gesture set the stage and a healing began. Jason King of the Irish Heritage Trust. The entire history of the Anglo Irish conflict, from the conflict between big house to the tenant farmers, bound up in one location. Interest in telling the stories of the famine nationwide is off the charts, McConnell says. The good news is that with the internet you can go online and participate. But people still want the experience of coming to the roadshow to hear and share their stories. We need to hear these stories.