

Ireland's class history: Online publication is tribute to Rayner Lysaght and the Irish struggle

Our friends at [Red Mole Rising](#) have done a great service by republishing online Rayner Lysaght's history: ***"The Republic of Ireland"***.

Originally published in 1970, this is a dense and detailed account of Irish history up to that period from a revolutionary marxist standpoint. Rayner Lysaght recently died at the age of 80, and for most of his life was a revolutionary activist and member of the [Fourth International](#). Born in Wales and descended from a long line going back to Welsh Chartist radicals, Rayner moved to Ireland in his early years to study and stayed there for the rest of his life helping to found the Irish Fourth International group in the 1970s while researching and writing about Irish history. He is particularly well known for his detailed account of the almost-forgotten [Limerick Soviet of 1919](#). ***"The Republic of Ireland"*** is a detailed history of the island, written from the standpoint and understanding of the centrality of the class struggle rather than a traditional academic focus on governmental and ruling class institutions. As such, it is not as well known or widely read as it should be, so it is a fitting tribute to Rayner's life to have it republished online and made more widely available. For those grappling with the challenges of Scottish independence from the UK state, an understanding of Irish history from a working class marxist standpoint is immensely rewarding.

The book is available as a large PDF and contains a new introduction written in 2021 by Irish revolutionary socialist

John McAnulty of [Socialist Democracy](#).

The full book is [here](#).

It is also available broken down by chapters [here](#).

Obituaries of Rayner Lysaght and tributes to his life can be read here:

<https://internationalviewpoint.org/spip.php?article7210>

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“The Republic of Ireland” Contents pages

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHAPTER ONE: THE DESTRUCTION OF IRISH SOCIETY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF IRISH NATIONALISM 400 A.D.-1847

I <i>Original Sin</i>	9
II <i>Grattan's Parliament and Tone's Republic</i>	13
III <i>The Union Settlement</i>	15
IV <i>King Dan and his Subjects</i>	18

CHAPTER TWO: AN ENGLISH COLONY 1847-1910

I <i>Physical Force and Parliamentary Party</i>	23
II <i>The Fall and Rise of the Irish Peasant</i>	29
III <i>The Emergence of Irish Labour</i>	33
IV <i>The Bourgeois Revolution.</i>	39
V <i>The Bureaucracy</i>	43
VI <i>The Catholic Church (and Education)</i>	45
VII <i>The North-East</i>	48

INTERMISSION: CELTIC TWILIGHT OR IRISH DAWN? .	50
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CHAPTER THREE: THE REVOLUTION SUBVERTED 1910-1923 54

CHAPTER FOUR: 'COME IN A GALE; GO IN A STORM' 1923- 1932

I <i>Politics—Home and Abroad</i>	72
II <i>The Divisions of the Peasantry.</i>	83
III <i>The Workers and their Movements.</i>	87
IV <i>Bourgeoisie and Gentry</i>	91
V <i>The Bureaucracy</i>	96
VI <i>The Catholic Church</i>	97

CHAPTER FIVE: WAR AND EMERGENCY 1932-1943

I	<i>De Valera and Irish Jacobinism</i>	101
II	<i>The Emancipated Peasantry</i>	113
III	<i>The Workers and their Organisations</i>	118
IV	<i>Gentry, Bourgeoisie and Blueshirts</i>	123
V	<i>The Bureaucracy</i>	131
VI	<i>The Catholic Church and Distributism</i>	133

CHAPTER SIX: THE RUPTURED REVOLT 1943-1957

I	<i>Respublica ex Machina</i>	138
II	<i>The Farm-Owning Classes</i>	151
III	<i>Labour in Confusion</i>	158
IV	<i>The Predicament of the Petty Bourgeois</i>	168
V	<i>Big Business</i>	169
VI	<i>The Survival of the Civil Service</i>	172
VII	<i>The Expansion and Contraction of Irish Catholic Power</i>	175

INTERMISSION: THE FRUSTRATION OF THE LITERATI . . . 179

CHAPTER SEVEN: THE NEW DEAL OF SEAN LEMASS, 1957-1967

I	<i>Bourgeois and Bureaucrat</i>	183
II	<i>The Catholic Church</i>	194
III	<i>The Petty Bourgeoisie</i>	198
IV	<i>The Farmers</i>	199
V	<i>Labour</i>	207

CHAPTER EIGHT: DO THE IRISH WANT INDEPENDENCE? . . . 217

EPILOGUE	222
APPENDIX	227
BIBLIOGRAPHY	235
INDEX	256