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978-0-521-84176-4 - British Democracy and Irish Nationalism 1876-1906

Eugenio F. Biagini

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British Democracy and Irish Nationalism 1876–1906

A major new study of the impact of Home Rule on liberalism and popular radicalism in Britain and Ireland. Eugenio Biagini argues that between 1876 and 1906 the crisis of public conscience caused by the Home Rule debate acted as the main catalyst in the remaking of popular radicalism. This was not only because of Ireland's intrinsic importance but also because the 'Irish cause' came to be identified with democracy, constitutional freedoms and humanitarianism. The related politics of emotionalism did not aid in finding a solution to either the Home Rule or the Ulster problem but it did create a popular culture of human rights based on the conviction that, ultimately, politics should be guided by non-negotiable moral imperatives. Adopting a comparative perspective, this book explores the common ground between Irish and British democracy and makes a significant contribution to the history of human rights, imperialism and Victorian political culture.

EUGENIO F. BIAGINI is Reader in Modern British and European History at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Robinson College, Cambridge. His publications include *Liberty, Retrenchment and Reform: Popular Liberalism in the Age of Gladstone, 1860–1880* (1992), *Gladstone* (2000) and, with Derek Beales, *The Risorgimento and the Unification of Italy* (2002).

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For Derek Beales and Peter Clarke

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521841764

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-84176-4 hardback

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Acknowledgements

In the preparation of this book I have accumulated many debts of gratitude, in particular to friends and colleagues. Colin Barr, Derek Beales, Paul Bew, Peter Clarke, Vincent Comerford, Almut Hintze, Martin Pugh, Alastair Reid, Deborah Thom and Ian Wilson have read drafts of various chapters and have generously offered their advice and criticism. Phiroza Marker and Danilo Raponi have provided valuable help, working as my research assistants. Moreover, my gratitude goes to my former colleagues in the Department of History of Princeton University, the Master and Fellows of Churchill College Cambridge for electing me to a By-Fellowship in 1995–6, the Pew Charitable Trust for the Evangelical Scholars Fellowship and the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB), each of which helped fund research leave at critical junctures, respectively in 1995–6 and 1999–2000; and especially to the Warden and Fellows of Robinson College Cambridge, whose collegiality, friendship and support I have greatly enjoyed since they elected me one of their number in 1996.

Moreover, I wish to record my thanks to the Library Managers of the Bishopsgate Institute, London, for permission, to quote from the G. Howell Papers; to the Librarian of the Tyne and Wear Archives, Newcastle upon Tyne, for allowing me to quote from the Joseph Cowen Papers; to the Sub-Librarian of the Birmingham University Library for letting me quote from the Joseph Chamberlain Papers; to the Archivist of the Churchill Archives, Cambridge for permission to quote from the C. Dilke and the W. T. Stead Papers; to Mr C. A. Gladstone and the Archivist of the Flintshire Record Office, Hawarden for permission to quote from the Gladstone Papers; to the Librarian of the Sheffield University Library for permission to quote from both the A. J. Mundella Papers and the H. J. Wilson Papers; to the Librarians of the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales and to the Public Archives of Canada. The material reproduced from collections of papers in the National Library of Ireland is the property of the Board of that Library and has been reproduced with their permission. Finally, my thanks are due to DACS on behalf of the Jack B. Yeats Estate, for permission to reproduce the illustration on the book cover.

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Note on capitalization

I have used capital initials for nouns and adjectives describing political opinions and movements (e.g. Liberal, Nationalist, Radical, Socialist, Labour, and related nouns) when they refer to membership of, or close association with, political parties or parliamentary groups bearing such name or inspired by related ideologies.

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Abbreviations

| | |
|-------|--|
| CW | J. S. Mill, <i>Collected Works</i> , ed. by A. P. Robson and A. J. M. Robson, 32 vols. (Toronto and London, 1963–96) |
| DN | <i>Daily News</i> |
| Ff | <i>Freeman's Journal</i> |
| GD | <i>The Gladstone Diaries</i> , ed. by M. R. D. Foot and H. C. G. Matthew, 14 vols. (Oxford, 1968–94) |
| ILP | Independent Labour Party |
| INF | Irish National Federation |
| INL | Irish National League |
| IRA | Irish Republican Army |
| JC | Joseph Chamberlain Papers, Birmingham University Library |
| LCA | Liberal Central Association |
| LRC | Labour Representation Committee |
| LW | <i>Lloyd's Weekly</i> |
| NA | National Archives, London |
| NC | <i>Newcastle Daily Chronicle</i> |
| NDL | National Democratic League |
| NLF | National Liberal Federation |
| NLFAR | National Liberal Federation Annual Reports |
| NLI | National Library of Ireland, Dublin |
| NLS | National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh |
| NLW | National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth |
| NW | <i>Newcastle Weekly Chronicle</i> |
| ODNB | <i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i> , ed. by H. C. G. Matthew and B. Harrison (Oxford, 1994) |
| PRONI | Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast |
| RN | <i>Reynolds's Newspaper</i> |
| SDF | Social Democratic Federation |
| SLA | Scottish Liberal Association |
| Ti | <i>The Times</i> |
| UIL | United Irish League |
| WLF | Women's Liberal Federation |
| WT&E | <i>Weekly Times & Echo</i> |