The story of Irish modernism constitutes a remarkable chapter in the movement’s history. This volume serves as an incisive and accessible overview of that brilliant period in which Irish artists not only helped create a distinctive national literature but also changed the face of European and Anglophone culture. This Companion surveys developments in modernist poetry, drama, fiction, and the visual arts. Early innovators, such as Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Jack B. Yeats, and James Joyce, as well as late modernists, including Elizabeth Bowen, Samuel Beckett, Flann O’Brien, Máirtín Ó Cadhain, and Francis Bacon, all appear here. But this volume ranges beyond such iconic figures to open new ground with chapters on Irish women modernists, Irish American modernism, Irish-language modernism, and the critical reception of modernism in Ireland.

Joe Cleary is a Professor of English at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and a Visiting Professor of English at Yale University. He is the author of Literature, Partition and the Nation-State: Culture and Conflict in Ireland, Israel and Palestine (Cambridge University Press, 2002) and Outrageous Fortune: Capital and Culture in Modern Ireland (2007). He has also co-edited (with Claire Connolly) The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture (Cambridge University Press, 2005) and (with Michael de Nie) a special issue of Éire-Ireland on empire studies. He has previously served as director of the Notre Dame Irish Seminar in Dublin and was a visiting professor at Notre Dame in 2000. His articles have appeared in Textual Practice, South Atlantic Quarterly, Boundary 2, Modern Language Quarterly, Field Day Review, Éire-Ireland, and other journals. He is currently working on books on modernism, empire and world literature and on a study of twentieth-century Irish cultural criticism.

A complete list of books in the series is at the back of this book.
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
IRISH MODERNISM

EDITED BY
JOE CLEARY
National University of Ireland, Maynooth
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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

JOE CLEARY is Professor of English at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and Visiting Professor of English at Yale University. His previous publications include Literature, Partition and the Nation-State: Culture and Conflict in Ireland, Israel and Palestine (2002); The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture, co-edited with Claire Connolly (2005); and Outrageous Fortune: Capital and Culture in Modern Ireland (2007).

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LUKE GIBBONS is Professor of Irish Literary and Cultural Studies at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. His publications include Cinema and Ireland, co-authored with Kevin Rockett and John Hill (1988); Transformations in Irish Culture (1996); The Quiet Man (2002); Edmund Burke and Ireland: Aesthetics, Politics and the Colonial Sublime (2003); and Gaelic Gothic: Race, Colonialism and Irish Culture (2004).
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS


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MICHAEL VALDEZ MOSES is Associate Professor of English and an Affiliated Member of the faculty in the Literature Program at Duke University. He is the author of *The Novel and the Globalization of Culture* (1994), editor of *The Writings of J. M. Coetzee* (1993), and co-editor with Richard Begam of *Modernism and Colonialism: British and Irish Literature, 1899–1939* (2007). He is co-editor of the journal *Modernist Cultures*.

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JEAN-MICHEL RABATÉ is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania since 1992, a curator of the Slought Foundation, an editor of *the Journal of Modern Literature*, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has authored or edited more than thirty books on modernism, psychoanalysis, and philosophy.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My first thanks go to all of the contributors to this volume; I would like to acknowledge their hard work and scholarly care in bringing this Companion to completion. I want to express special gratitude to those who went an extra mile to offer comradely critical commentary on the chapters of fellow contributors working on cognate topics in the volume. I also greatly appreciate the support of Ray Ryan, Literature Editor at Cambridge University Press, who commissioned the study and who offered sound advice along the way. Thanks, too, to Louis Gulino and Caitlin Gallagher at the Press for their courteous assistance as the project developed. Cormac Deane was a fastidious copy editor who sharpened the work of all involved. Among the many colleagues or friends who offered timely encouragement or welcome second readings when they were most needed I would especially like to mention Jed Esty, Luke Gibbons, Kevin Honan, Colleen Lye, Breandán MacSuibhne, Catherine Morris, and Kevin Whelan. Emer Nolan in Maynooth and Barry McCrea, then at Yale, acted as sage counsellors or wry commentators at vexed moments. For ongoing stimulus and support more generally I must also thank my colleagues in the English departments at NUI Maynooth and Yale University. While preparing this volume, I was fortunate to be able to teach seminars on Irish and Anglophone modernisms to students at both of the aforementioned institutions. I learned a great deal in the process from all involved, but would like to thank Jordan Brower, Julia Chan, Niamh Cunningham, Margaret Deli, Bridget English, Paul Franz, Seo Hee Im, Edward King, Fidelma Mahon, Chris McGowan, Tess McNulty, Michelle Taylor, and Tomas Ungar for particularly memorable responses. Gemma Murphy and Conor Cleary were conscripts to this volume, but their steady encouragement and good humour were absolutely essential to its completion.

A project such as this is ultimately made possible not only by the immediate contributors but also by the many generations of critics and writers
who have helped to crack at least some of the conundrums of Irish modernism. It would be pleasant to think that this study, completed on the one hundredth anniversaries of the publication of James Joyce’s *Dubliners* and W. B. Yeats’s *Responsibilities*, might be taken as a small salute to acknowledge that longer history of intrepid scholarship and sometimes brilliantly disputatious critical activity. The subjects and views represented in this collection are inevitably partial and cannot be representative of such a diversity of critical activity, but one’s sense of appreciation of all those who have written so well on Irish modernists or Irish modernism may nonetheless be recorded here.

My interest in Irish and European modernisms was first whetted by Fr. Peter Connolly’s trenchantly erudite lectures at what is now NUI Maynooth, and then later reanimated by Edward Said’s elegantly illuminating seminars at Columbia University. To these two exceptionally intelligent and impassioned teachers I would like to pay a personal tribute.
### DEVELOPMENTS IN IRISH MODERNISM – CHRONOLOGY, 1845–1969

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Irish Historical Events</th>
<th>Irish Modernist Works and Related Cultural Events</th>
<th>International Cultural and Intellectual Events</th>
<th>International Historical Events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>The Great Famine (–1852) commences; leaves 1 million people dead and compels 1 million to emigrate</td>
<td>Friedrich Engels, <em>The Condition of the Working Class in England</em>; Richard Wagner, <em>Tannhäuser</em></td>
<td>First British-Sikh War in India; Maori uprising in New Zealand; the United States annexes Texas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1848</td>
<td>Young Irelander rebellion</td>
<td>Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, <em>The Communist Manifesto</em>; J. S. Mill, <em>Principles of Political Economy</em>; Charles Dickens, <em>Dombey and Son</em></td>
<td>Revolutions across Europe; California Gold Rush; first settlers arrive at Dunedin, New Zealand</td>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Fenian Rising</td>
<td>British North American Act establishes the Dominion of Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland; Ladies National Association for the Repeal of the Contagious Disease Act formed in London (branches later opened in Ireland by 1871)</td>
<td>Leo Tolstoy, <em>War and Peace</em>; Gustave Flaubert, <em>A Sentimental Education</em></td>
<td>First Vatican Council (~1870); Mahatma Gandhi born (d. 1948)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Home Rule movement launched in Dublin; Gladstone's First Land Act; first public suffrage meeting in Dublin; Married Women’s Property Act</td>
<td>J. S. Mill, <em>Chapters and Speeches on the Irish Land Question</em>; Charles Dickens, <em>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</em>; <em>Revue Celtique</em> founded</td>
<td>Franco-Prussian War</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1876</td>
<td>Dublin Women’s Suffrage Association founded</td>
<td>Henrik Ibsen, <em>Peer Gynt</em> premieres in Christiania</td>
<td>Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India; Battle of the Little Bighorn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Irish National Land League founded in Mayo; campaign to extend Royal University Act to women</td>
<td>Henrik Ibsen, <em>A Doll’s House</em> premieres in Copenhagen; Henry James, <em>Daisy Miller</em></td>
<td>The British–Zulu War; <em>La Marseillaise</em> becomes French national anthem; First telephone exchanges established in London</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1884
Gaelic Athletic Association founded; Fenian dynamite campaign in Great Britain

1885
Joris-Karl Huysmans, A rebours; Mark Twain, Huckleberry Finn

1886
Berlin Conference on Africa

1889
Pigott forgeries attempting to damage Charles Stewart Parnell exposed

1890
Death of Parnell; John Redmond becomes leader of the Parnellites

1891
Franco-Russian Entente (continued)
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1892</td>
<td>Ulster Convention in Belfast; Belfast Labour Party (first Irish labour party) formed</td>
<td>Keir Hardie becomes first British Labour M.P.; Pan Slav conference held at Cracow</td>
<td>Peter Tchaikovsky, The Nutcracker Suite; Rudyard Kipling, Ballads (second part 1896)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Gladstone introduces Second Home Rule Bill; Disturbances in Belfast; Home Rule Bill passes in House of Commons; Trades Union Congress meets in Belfast</td>
<td>Conviction of Dreyfus for treason; Alfred Webb, M.P. for Watford West, elected president of Indian National Congress</td>
<td>George Egerton, Discords; Claude Debussy, Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune; Gustav Mahler, Resurrection Symphony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Gladstone introduces Home Rule Bill; Disraeli rules in Belfast; Home Rule Bill passes in House of Commons; Irish Agricultural Organisation Society's first Irish Trade Union Congress meeting in London</td>
<td>Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest and An Ideal Husband premières in London</td>
<td>Kate Chopin, Bayou Folk; H. G. Wells, The Time Machine; Gustav Mahler, Resurrection Symphony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Gladstone introduces Home Rule Bill; Disraeli rules in Belfast; Home Rule Bill passes in House of Commons; Irish Agricultural Organisation Society's first Irish Trade Union Congress meeting in London</td>
<td>Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest and An Ideal Husband premières in London</td>
<td>The Jameson Raid into the Transvaal Republic; Wilhelm Röntgen's discovery of X-rays; Natal granted responsible self-government; Swaziland annexed by the Transvaal</td>
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</table>

- 1893: George Egerton, Discords; Claude Debussy, Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune; Gustav Mahler, Resurrection Symphony.
- 1894: Kate Chopin, Bayou Folk; H. G. Wells, The Time Machine; Gustav Mahler, Resurrection Symphony.
- 1895: The Jameson Raid into the Transvaal Republic; Wilhelm Röntgen's discovery of X-rays; Natal granted responsible self-government; Swaziland annexed by the Transvaal.
1896  Irish Socialist Republican Party founded, secretary James Connolly

Oscar Wilde, *Salomé* premieres in Paris; Kuno Meyer founds *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie*

Anton Chekhov, *The Seagull* premieres in St. Petersburg; first commercial motion picture exhibition given in New York

1897  Establishment of the Irish Literary Theatre

Stéphane Mallarmé, *Divagations*; Rudyard Kipling, “Recessional”; Henry James, *What Maisie Knew*

1898  Local government vote granted to women

Oscar Wilde, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*; G. B. Shaw, *The Perfect Wagnerite* and *Mrs Warren’s Profession* published; John Eglinton, W. B. Yeats, et al., *Literary Ideals in Ireland*


1899  Michael Davitt withdraws from Westminster in protest at the Anglo-Boer War; John MacBride raises Irish Transvaal Brigade to aid the Boers

W. B. Yeats, *The Wind Among the Reeds*


Outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War (~1902)

Guglielmo Marconi files the world’s first patent application for a system of telegraphy using Hertzian waves; first modern Olympiad held in Athens

Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee; widespread famine in India; First Zionist Congress launches the Basel Programme to resettle Jewish people in Palestine

United States declares war on Spain over Cuba; the Fashoda Incident; Boxer uprising in China; the Curies discover radium and plutonium; first Zeppelin airship built

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<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Cumann na nGaedheal founded (later becomes Sinn Féin); first meeting of Inghinidhe na hÉireann; Queen Victoria visits Dublin</td>
<td>First number of D. P. Moran's <em>The Leader</em>; Alice Milligan, <em>The Last of the Fianna</em>; death of Oscar Wilde</td>
<td>Joseph Conrad, <em>Lord Jim</em>; Henrik Ibsen, <em>When We Dead Awaken</em> premiers in London; Sigmund Freud, <em>The Interpretation of Dreams</em>; Giacomo Puccini, <em>Tosca</em>; José Enrique Rodó, <em>Ariel</em></td>
<td>International Ladies’ Garment Workers Union formed; Boxer rebellion crushed in China; First Pan-African Conference in London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Queen Victoria succeeded by Edward II</td>
<td>Ulster Literary Theatre founded; Alice Milligan, <em>The Deliverance of Hugh O’Neill</em></td>
<td>Nobel Prize in Literature established; Anton Chekhov, <em>Three Sisters</em> premiers in Moscow; Thomas Mann, <em>Buddenbrooks</em>; Rudyard Kipling, <em>Kim</em></td>
<td>Australian Federation established; Nigeria becomes British Protectorate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1903  Wyndham Land Purchase Act passed in House of Commons; University of Dublin (Trinity College) announces that it is to award degrees to women

Irish National Theatre Society founded; An Túr Gloine founded; W. B. Yeats, In the Seven Woods; J. M. Synge, In the Shadow of the Glen premieres in Dublin; George Moore, The Untilled Field; Jack B. Yeats, The County of Mayo


Emily Pankhurst founds the Women’s Social and Political Union; first airborne flight by the Wright Brothers; British complete conquest of Northern Nigeria

1904  Construction of Government Buildings in Merrion Square, Dublin starts (~1922); Limerick pogrom against Jews

Abbey Theatre opens; W. B. Yeats, In the Seven Woods; W. B. Yeats, On Baile’s Strand premieres in Dublin; J. M. Synge, Riders to the Sea opens in Dublin; G. B. Shaw, John Bull’s Other Island premieres in London; Mary Swanzy, The Infant; Michael Davitt, The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland; Arthur Griffith, The Resurrection of Hungary: A Parallel for Ireland

Joseph Conrad, Nostromo; Anton Chekhov, The Cherry Orchard premieres in Moscow; Giacomo Puccini, Madame Butterfly; Henry James, The Golden Bowl

Beginning of Russo-Japanese War; second wave of Jewish immigration to Palestine; Panama Canal opens

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<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Irish Transport and General Workers’ Union established; Irish Women’s Franchise League founded</td>
<td>Cuala Press founded by Elizabeth Yeats; Dublin Municipal Gallery of Modern Art founded by Hugh Lane; Katherine</td>
<td>Bela Bartok, <em>String Quartet No. 1</em>; Gertrude Stein, <em>Three Lives</em>; Rabindranath Tagore, <em>Home and the World</em>; Georges Sorel, <em>Reflections</em></td>
<td>Young Turks revolution in Istanbul; Henry Ford produces Model T Ford; King Leopold transfers Congo from his private possession to Belgium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1909
Royal University of Ireland dissolved

1910
Death of Edward II and accession of George V

1911
Home Rule Bill introduced in Westminster; Anti-Home Rule agitation in northern Ireland; Irish Volunteers form; Statue of Charles Stewart Parnell by Augustus St. Gaudens unveiled in Dublin

1910–19
Mexican Revolution begins

1912
Igor Stravinsky, The Firebird

1913
E. M. Forster, Howards End

1914
Post-Impressionist Exhibition organized by Roger Fry in London; Georges Braque, Violin and Candlestick; Rabindranath Tagore, Gitanjali (English, 1912)

1915
Revolution ends imperial regime in China and establishes provisional republic; first flight across the United States; international crisis at Agadir

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<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Great Lockout of unionized workers in Dublin; Irish Volunteers founded; Irish Citizen Army founded</td>
<td>G. B. Shaw, <em>Pygmalion</em> premieres in Vienna</td>
<td>Marcel Proust, <em>À la Recherche du temps perdu</em> (–1927); D. H. Lawrence, <em>Sons and Lovers</em>; Igor Stravinsky, <em>The Rite of Spring</em> (ballet); Alban Berg, <em>Three Orchestral Pieces</em>; Edmund Husserl, <em>Phenomenology</em>; Rabindranath Tagore wins Nobel Prize for Literature; International Exhibition of Modern Art (Armory Show) opened by John Quinn in New York; Russian Futurist Manifesto published</td>
<td>Violent Suffragette demonstrations in Britain; War in the Balkans; South Africa Native Lands Acts passed to deprive Africans of right to own land</td>
</tr>
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</table>
1914 Third Home Rule Bill suspended at outbreak of Great War; Cumann na mBan founded; “The Curragh Incident”

James Joyce, *Dubliners*; W. B. Yeats, *Responsibilities*

Founding of *Blast*; Gertrude Stein, *Tender Buttons*; Robert Frost, *North of Boston*; Margaret Anderson founds *Little Review*; Harriet Shaw Weaver becomes editor of *The Egoist* (originally *The Freewoman*).

World War I (–1918) commences

1915 25,000 National Volunteers assemble in Phoenix Park; RMS *Lusitania* torpedoed by German submarine off coast of Kinsale

Hugh Lane, art collector, dies in sinking of the RMS *Lusitania*; Thomas MacDonagh’s *Pagans* opens in Dublin; Jack B. Yeats, *The Lying-in-State of O’Donovan Rossa*


Amenian genocide begins (–1916); British conquest of Mesopotamia; U.S. troops occupy Haiti (–1934)

1916 Easter Rising


Battle of the Somme; Great migration of African Americans from the southern U.S. begins

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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>First enrolments of “Black and Tans” to suppress IRA; “Bloody Sunday”; Government of Ireland Act passed to provide Northern and Southern Ireland with separate parliaments; anti-Catholic riots in Belfast</td>
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<td>1921</td>
<td>Anglo-Irish Treaty; Northern Ireland Parliament opened by George V</td>
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**1920**
- G. B. Shaw, *Heartbreak House* premiers in New York
- J. M. Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*
- Sigmund Freud, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*
- Georg Lukács, *Theory of the Novel*
- D. H. Lawrence, *Women in Love*
- Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*
- Katherine Mansfield, *Bliss and Other Stories*
- Paul Klee, *Angelus Novus*
- Women in the United States achieve the vote; Britain given Mandate over Iraq, Transjordan, Palestine; Chinese Communist Party founded; Kemal Atatürk abolishes Ottoman sultanate

**1921**
- W. B. Yeats, *Michael Robartes and the Dancer and Four Plays for Dancers* published; George Moore, *Heloise and Abelard*; Mainie Jellett, *Girl in Blue* and *The Three Graces*
- Non-Cooperation Movement begins in India led by Gandhi (–1922); New Economic Policy in the USSR
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*Note: The table above represents a summary of Irish and international events from 1922 and 1923.*
<table>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Fianna Fáil party founded by Éamon de Valera; Radio Éireann begins broadcasting</td>
<td>Séan O’Casey, <em>The Plough and the Stars</em> premiers in Dublin, riots ensue in Abbey Theatre; H. D., <em>Palimpsest</em>; D. H. Lawrence, <em>The Plumed Serpent</em>; Ernest Hemingway, <em>The Sun Also Rises</em>; Lewis Mumford, <em>The Golden Day</em>; T. E. Lawrence, <em>Seven Pillars of Wisdom</em>; Ho Chi Minh, <em>Colonization on Trial</em>; Imperial Conference defines Dominion status and allows Dominions to opt out of treaties signed by the United Kingdom</td>
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1929
Censorship of Publications Act passed in the Irish Free State; Proportional representation abolished for parliamentary elections in Northern Ireland; Shannon Hydro-Electric scheme begins


O'Neill wins Pulitzer Prize for *Strange Interlude* (premieres in New York)

Wall Street Crash heralds start of world economic crisis and the Great Depression

1930
Irish Free State elected to the Council of the League of Nations; First Free State censorship board appointed

Samuel Beckett, *Whoroscope*; W. B. Yeats, *Words upon the Window Pane* premieres in Dublin; Brian Coffey and Denis Devlin, *Poems*; Jack B. Yeats, *Power Station*; Gate Theatre moves to buildings at Rotunda Hospital; Irish Folklore Institute founded


Launch of Negritude movement in Paris by Francophone intellectuals; Amy Johnson flies from London to Australia

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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Ten years of Cumann na nGaedheal government ends and first Fianna Fáil government under Eamon de Valera formed; International Eucharistic Congress; Army Comrades Association (Blueshirts) founded; Northern Ireland parliament buildings at Stormont formally open</td>
<td>G. B. Shaw and W. B. Yeats with other writers found Academy of Irish Letters; Elizabeth Bowen, <em>To the North</em>; Death of Augusta Gregory</td>
<td>Joseph Roth, <em>The Radetzky March</em>; Aldous Huxley, <em>Brave New World</em>; Bertolt Brecht, <em>The Mother</em> premieres in Berlin; William Faulkner, <em>Light in August</em>; Louis-Ferdinand Céline, <em>Journey to the End of the Night</em></td>
<td>Indian National Congress declared illegal and Gandhi arrested; Iraq becomes independent; the atom is split at Cambridge University</td>
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1933  Vote to remove the Oath of Allegiance to the British Crown passed in Dáil Éireann


Hitler becomes Chancellor of Germany

1934  Anglo-Irish “cattle and coal” agreement


Hitler becomes “Führer”; Chinese Communists’ “Long March” begins

1935  The Dance Halls Act, designed to regulate Irish dance by clergy, police and judiciary


Italian invasion of Abyssinia; Nuremberg Laws passed in Germany

(continued)
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