

Aim: How did the Great Hunger effect Ireland?

I. Causes

1. Economy based on agriculture, people were farmers
2. Potato had become one of the main crops of Ireland
3. Other goods were exported to England by landowners
4. Commoners lived with their families in small one-room shacks
5. Rented their land, or paid a bed tax to work someone else's land
6. Large harvests used new strains which caused the disease

II. The Famine

1. Started in 1845
2. In 1846, the entire potato crop was lost
3. Starvation and disease were rampant among the lowest classes
4. English gov't sent over scientists to study the problem
5. Ireland continued to export goods
6. People could not pay their rent or rack tax and were evicted
7. Many starved on their own land and were buried in trenches.

III. England Attempts to Help

1. Gov't offered food at reduced prices; but people had no money
2. Immigration was paid for by landlords with the worst possible conditions
3. Many died during the voyages
4. English gov't demanded payment of taxes for relief efforts
5. The English gov't advanced a loan of ten million pounds
6. Men worked at half wages to build roads to nowhere and docks with no city or port
7. People could not plant food with this money earned
8. Troops were also sent in to collect taxes and rent
9. Troops confiscated the relief food and seed
10. 1848, the situation remained very bad
11. By 1849 and 1850, the famine was largely at an end
12. One third of the population of Ireland had died or been shipped away to foreign lands

IV. Aftereffects

1. The native language was almost completely eradicated
2. Irish now realized that they could never trust the English
3. The Irish Republican Brotherhoods led the revolution and the later freedom of Ireland.
4. This famine was due to a natural disaster worsened by English policies
5. These policies were responsible for the deaths of millions of people