PROFESORES DE ENSEÑANZA SECUNDARIA · INGLÉS · JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA

TEMA

56

Historical Relations Between Ireland and Great Britain. Irish Authors: S. O'Casey and J. Joyce

Relaciones históricas entre Irlanda y Gran Bretaña. Autores irlandeses: S. O'Casey y J. Joyce.

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Material de elaboración propia a partir de las fuentes oficiales que se citan al final del tema. No es un temario oficial ni sustituye a la normativa publicada.

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1. INTRODUCTION

"History," says Stephen Dedalus in the second episode of Ulysses, "is a nightmare from which I am trying to awake." The sentence could stand as the motto of this topic. For eight centuries, the relationship between Ireland and Great Britain was a story of conquest, settlement, resistance, union and partition, and two of the greatest Irish writers of the twentieth century, Seán O'Casey and James Joyce, spent their careers looking that history in the face: one from the tenements of Dublin, the other from exile on the Continent.

I will begin with the historical relations between the two islands. First, I will examine the medieval and early modern origins of English domination, from the Anglo-Norman invasion to the Penal Laws. Secondly, I will study the Union of 1801, the Famine and Home Rule. Thirdly, I will analyse the revolutionary decade of 1913–23, partition and the path to the Good Friday Agreement. Fourthly, I will turn to Seán O'Casey and then to James Joyce. Finally, I will consider the pedagogical implications and end with a conclusion that returns to Stephen's nightmare.

As for sources, I have used R. F. Foster's Modern Ireland, 1600–1972 (Penguin); Richard Ellmann's James Joyce (Oxford University Press, revised edition 1982); Christopher Murray's Seán O'Casey: Writer at Work (Gill & Macmillan) and Ronald Ayling's Seán O'Casey, The Dublin Trilogy: A Casebook; the websites of the UK Parliament; and Joyce's texts in Project Gutenberg. As for the legal framework, this topic fits the curriculum established by Ley Orgánica 3/2020, of 29 December (LOMLOE), which modifies Ley Orgánica 2/2006, of Education; by Real Decreto 217/2022, of 29 March, for Compulsory Secondary Education; by Real Decreto 243/2022, of 5 April, for Bachillerato; and by their regional development in Extremadura, Decreto 110/2022 and Decreto 109/2022, both of 22 August, modified by Decreto 242/2023 and Decreto 243/2023, of 12 September.