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Introduction 1

Sets the literary ferment of the Revival period in the context of social change and political upheaval in Ireland and across Europe. Anticipates the key formal and aesthetic modes, social concerns and representational challenges of Irish literature in the twentieth century. Traces the influence of Matthew Arnold on Yeats's theories of Celtic literature.

CHAPTER ONE 9

Irish Literature and Criticism in the Revival

Examines Yeats and the Revival in the terms of his own literary and cultural criticism, as well as discussing the influence of Thomas Davis, Douglas Hyde, Standish O'Grady. Details the potentials and problems of the Ireland Yeats wished to see revived in relation to art and society. Examines other Anglo-Irish writers including Lady Gregory, Synge and Shaw. Contrasts Yeats with the Irish Ireland philosophy of D. P. Moran and Catholic Nationalism. Contrasts Joyce's views with Yeats's on the relationship between art and society, on definitions of Irishness and nationality, and the reasons for Ireland's plight. Also sets Joyce in opposition to Moran, and discusses the language politics of Thomas MacDonagh's 'Irish Mode' in addition to covering Pearse's views on national literature.

CHAPTER TWO 33

Irish Literature and Criticism after Partition

Deals with the impact of partition on literature and criticism of the period, especially the ideological make-up of the Irish Free State and the Northern Irish State. Concentrates on Daniel Corkery's literary and nationalist theory in relation to the state and traces an emergent dissent in criticism with reference to Kavanagh, Clarke, O'Connor, O'Fáolain and others in the Free State. Discusses the work of Hewitt,

Hanna Bell, MacNeice in relation to Northern Ireland. Concludes with an account of the increasing interest of international critics in Irish writing in the second half of the twentieth century up to the more institutional development of Irish Studies. Explains the impact of New Criticism in this movement and analyses the work of scholars such as Denis Donoghue, Donald Davie, Vivian Mercier, Richard Ellmann and Hugh Kenner. Observes that Irish Studies was slowly being brought into being as an academic discipline.

CHAPTER THREE

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The Development of Irish Studies: Contesting the Revival

Traces the institutional development of Irish Studies in the academy and outlines the key debates and competing interpretative schools of Revisionism and Postcolonialism, together with an account of the Field Day project. Addresses the differing interpretative lenses used to interpret the literature of the Revival, especially in relation to Modernism and to the contested legacies of the Revival with Ireland's relation to empire. Uses the differing accounts of the Revival in Irish Studies to tease out the motivations behind current critical approaches. Relates debates within current literary studies to social change and upheaval in both the Republic and the North of Ireland. Critics discussed include Declan Kiberd, Seamus Deane, David Lloyd, Edna Longley, Roy Foster, Fredric Jameson and Edward Said.

CHAPTER FOUR

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Irish Studies Paradigms and Literature after Partition

Continues the assessment of contemporary Irish Studies paradigms and examines specifically their attitudes to the Northern Irish and Irish Republic States. Focusing on the critiques offered to the direction of each state with reference to the writing of O'Casey, Kavanagh, Beckett, Flann O'Brien, Hewitt, W. R. Rodgers and others. Critics assessed include Kiberd, Deane, Lloyd, Longley and Nicholas Grene. In particular, discusses Lloyd's theories of a 'republic of difference' in opposition to state nationalism with regard to Beckett, and Deane's account of Flann O'Brien in similar terms. Also evaluates Revisionist accounts of the poetry of MacNeice, Hewitt and Northern writing by Longley, John Wilson Foster and Peter McDonald.

Gender, Sexuality and Feminism in Irish Literature

Explores how the politics of gender were deeply implicated not only in the controversies surrounding Synge's and O'Casey's work but also more widely in the imaginative construction of the nation. Discerns how Ireland is often personified as female yet women remain merely ciphers or symbolic objects through which male writers construct their personal and national identities. Nicholas Grene's reading of the word 'shift' in *Playboy* leads into a broader discussion of the gender politics of the Revival. Critics covered include Gerardine Meaney, Carol Coulter, Marilyn Reizbaum, Anne Owens Weekes, Ailbhe Smyth, Adrian Frazier, Éibhear Walshe, Elizabeth Butler Cullingford, Richard Brown and Kate Soper. Explores also the work of the theorist Ashis Nandy and his deployment in Irish Studies. Examines the politics of literary form with regard to feminism and discusses B. G. MacCarthy, Nuala O'Faolain, Clair Wills and Eavan Boland. Offers feminist, formal accounts of the work of Mary Lavin, Kate O'Brien and Elizabeth Bowen. Concludes with troubled masculinities in McGahen's fiction.

CHAPTER SIX

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Contemporary Literature in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland

Assesses the nature of contemporary literature and critical responses to it. With reference to the Republic, employs Fintan O'Toole's diagnosis of official Nationalism doctrine in the 1980s to consider the dark perspectives of McCabe's and Tóibín's fiction. Considers the extent to which literature may be seen actively to fit Revisionist aims in Banville's fiction, Tom Murphy's drama, and the poetry of Boland, Kennelly and Durcan. Elaborates the politics of urban space and Dublin writing, especially with regard to social class in the fiction of Bolger and Doyle. Discusses contemporary writing in the Republic in relation to gender and sexuality. With regard to the North, deliberates the challenges facing literature and culture with the renewed political conflict. Accounts for Heaney's effort to deal with the conflict through his poetry and his search for historical, mythic and imaginative modes for doing so. Unfolds differing poetic strategies to Heaney's in regard to Muldoon, McGuckian, Mahon and Carson. Investigates Friel's *Translations* in terms of the Field Day project in the context of identity politics, language and place. Pursues different perspectives in the drama of Parker and McGuinness. Relates contemporary writing to debates about the city, pluralism and postmodernism.

Irish Studies Today

Discusses the new global dispensation and debates about pluralism and multiculturalism in companion pieces by Longley and Kiberd, both of whom also point out a rise in racism in Ireland, a troubling dimension taken up by Suzanna Chan's work. Both Francis Mulhern and Terry Eagleton challenge the postmodern condition and its cultural relativism which they believe disables judgement and critique. Finally, David Lloyd and Colin Graham address the impact of a globalized world on Irish culture.

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