

HYM9120 Ireland and the 1798 Rebellion

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This seminar series has been designed to allow students to study in some depth the history, the impact and the historiographical controversy surrounding the Irish rebellion of 1798. Following the French Revolution, and failed campaigns for parliamentary reform and Catholic relief, Ireland witnessed a wave of popular politicisation, which, in combination with an upsurge in sectarianism, resulted in a rebellion by the United Irishmen and their Catholic Defender allies. Formerly the focal point of the rebellion, in county Wexford, has been portrayed as a spontaneous, disorganised and savage outbreak of sectarianism led by priests. Recent work by historians, however, has done much to revise this picture. This course will examine the progress towards rebellion looking at radical and loyalist groups before focusing upon the nature of the Wexford rebellion, and the uprisings in other areas of Ireland. Attention will also be paid to the response by the British government, which initially took the form of brutal military action, and later in a legislative union.

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