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TITLE: Dublin

#### (A) ORIENTATION

Dublin is the capital city of Ireland, and is not only the largest in both population and size, but it is also the center for administrative, political, economic, and cultural activities in Ireland. It is also the main transportation link between Ireland and the rest of the world, with direct flights to numerous United States, British, and continental European cities. It is also linked, via ferries, with Great Britain, but remains the only member of the European Union without a direct rail or automobile link with other member states.

#### (B) Name of City

Legend holds that the death of Cú Chulainn in County Louth was avenged by his Ulster kinsman, Conall Carnach. Carnach sent the poet, Atharne, to Dublin where he demanded a payment of "one hundred and fifty ladies plus seven hundred white cows with red ears". A bridge of hurdles was thrown across the River Liffey to allow this herd to cross, and so Dublin later received its Gaelic name 'Áth Cliath' meaning 'the Ford of the Hurdles'.

The English version of the name is associated with the settlement of Dyflin by Norsemen from Scandinavia in 841 near the confluence of the rivers Poddle and Liffey. This formed a dark pool or Dubh Linn (the 'bh' is pronounced as 'v'), which provided a safe harbor for Viking longships on the south side of the river.

#### (B) Location

Dublin is located on the east coast of Ireland, adjacent to Dublin Bay, the city covers a land area of 44.4sq. miles.

#### (B) Population

The population of Dublin was 952,692 in 1996, with nearly fifty percent of the population under the age of twenty-five. By European standards, the Irish birthrate has been relatively high (it was nearly twice the European average in the 1970's and 80's, although it is now converging the the European norm), and the Dublin birth rate is higher than the average Irish rate. This, combined with a decrease in previously high emigration rates, led to a rapid increase in the Dublin population over the last twenty years, with intervals of significant housing shortages and shortfalls in the provision of services.

#### (B) Distinctive and Unique Features

Divided in the center by the Liffey river, running from west to east. Dublin and Wicklow mountains to the south of the city. Known for its Georgian buildings erected in the 18th Century, many of which still remain. These include both public buildings and private

houses. The private houses were built around small squares of park land (for instance, Merrion Square and Fitzwilliam Square). Phoenix Park is the largest enclosed urban park in Europe (1,760 acres).

#### (B) Attractions of the City

Dublin has been shaped not by its history as first trading center, then colonial administrative center, and now political and economic center, but the strongest influence remains the Georgian period of growth. This was a period of great cultural activity in Dublin (Handel's Messiah was first performed here), and the heritage of public building and private dwellings built in the 18th Century remains. There was some destruction of Georgian buildings in the 1960's and 70's, but recent decades have seen a concerted effort to conserve such buildings. Not only do the public buildings remain, but many private homes built in the Georgian period are now converted into businesses, while retaining the Georgian architectural style. Georgian squares remain a fundamental part of Dublin architecture, and include not only Merrion and Fitzwilliam Squares, but also Mountjoy and Parnell Square.

#### (B) Relationships Between City and the Outside

Dublin occupies a special position in Ireland. Dublin has been the link between Ireland and the rest of the world, and it seems to overshadow and dominate provincial Ireland. There are often complaints that politicians, civil servants, the mass media, and academics devote too much time to Dublin and not enough to the rest of Ireland. Ireland's industrialization and modernization, beginning in the 1960's, has been felt most strongly in Dublin and the city has grown more rapidly than anywhere else in Ireland. The growth has tended to suck in Irish people from other parts of Ireland, and the growth has exacerbated administrative problems which exist elsewhere in Ireland, and also has created problems unique to Dublin. The next largest city (Cork) has a population of only one-sixth of Dublin's, and Dublin's catchment area has been expanding rapidly, as housing scarcities have driven people to live far outside Dublin. Nearly one-fourth of the population of Ireland resides in Dublin, and, over fifty percent of the population lives in Dublin and counties close enough to Dublin for people to commute into Dublin to work.

#### (B) Major Languages

The official language in Ireland is Irish, however, English is most people's first language and their competence with written and spoken Irish is poor. There are few native Irish speakers in Dublin. Most students acquire some competence in written and spoken Irish only in primary and secondary school, and the Irish government supports Irish language radio and television broadcasting. English remains the primary language for most citizens, although all government forms and state examinations are available in both languages.

#### (A) HISTORY

Dublin recently celebrated its millennium anniversary, and, during that one thousand years, there have been multiple external influences on its growth: Celtic, Scandinavian,

and British. The British influence has been the greatest, since Dublin was the administrative center for colonial rule of Ireland for many years.

### (B) The Origin of the City

Although the city of Dublin predates the Viking incursions of the ninth century, it is largely associated with the settlement by Norsemen from Scandinavia in 841. Scandinavian power was broken in the 11th Century, soon to be replaced by Normans from south Wales in the 12th Century. Dublin Corporation can trace its origins to a charter from Prince John, issued in 1192. Growth and expansion did not accelerate until the mid-seventeenth century. The population of the city was estimated at 9,000 in 1659, but had increased to 80,000 by 1700. This growth reflected Dublin's position as the administrative center of British occupation since the thirteenth century. British influence was felt most strongly in Dublin; outside Dublin was "beyond the pale".

Up to the mid-nineteenth century, the built-up area of Dublin was small and compact. It was largely confined to the area enclosed by the Royal and Grand canals. Although Dublin was compact, geographical distinctions between rich and poor existed. In the eighteenth century, Dublin affluence was concentrated in Mountjoy and Merrion squares, while the Liberties was overcrowded with poor families living in terrible conditions. The introduction of the railways, omnibus services, and the construction of the harbors at Howth and Dun Laoghaire opened up the city for expansion, especially towards the south. The middle-class moved outside the canal, seeking the amenities and space that could now be combined with access to the city center. The introduction of electrified trams in 1896 enhanced this spread of population, but the geographical expression of social distinctions remained stark. In 1885, it was reported that of 54,000 families, 32,000 lived in single rooms in only one quarter of the city's houses.

In 1922, 26 of Ireland's 32 counties became an independent state, and Dublin was the administrative center of the new state. Rapid population growth has taken place in the twentieth century. In 1926, the population of Dublin was 419,000 and was growing at the rate of about 7,000 per year. The late 1950's saw a transformation in Irish policy regarding economic development, with inward foreign investment being actively encouraged. Industrial development enhanced Dublin's dominant position as Ireland's commercial and administrative center. Since 1961, the growth of Dublin has accelerated, from 665,556 to 735,000 in 1966 (13,900 per year); 852,000 in 1971 (23,400 per year) to a current population of over one million. Dublin in the 1950's was a stagnant, almost decaying, city; since then, Dublin has grown dramatically.

This growth is striking because it takes place in the context of a stable national population of about three million. Dublin's share (including hinterlands) of the national population has increased from 17% in 1926 to 29% in 1981, almost double the 1926 figure. According to the most recent (1996) census, Dublin continues to constitute 30 percent of the national population, with significant growth in the counties immediately adjacent to Dublin. Dublin and surrounding counties constitute over fifty percent of the population of Ireland.

## (B) Migration: Past and Present

The growth of Dublin has been, to a large extent, at the expense of rural Ireland. There has been a high degree of in-migration from more rural parts of Ireland (though migration to Dublin represents only a fraction of total out-migration). Until recently, there was little migration into Dublin from outside Ireland, although, especially in the 1980's, there was a significant amount of illegal migration into the United States from Dublin and Ireland in general. This has all changed in the 1990's. As a result of economic development, expatriates living abroad were able to find jobs back in Ireland, and many of those jobs were in Dublin. There has also been an increase in the workers from other European Union states. There has been an increase in the number of educated Dubliners obtaining employment in the European Union or the United States, but most would expect to return to Dublin in due course. More recently, there has been a rapid increase in the number of refugees for outside the European Union seeking asylum in Ireland, with about 1,000 arriving per month; many of those reside in Dublin, although the overwhelming majority have their applications refused and the state attempts to deport them.

## (A) INFRASTRUCTURE

Dublin's infrastructure betrays its age, as many of its streets belong to a period before cars, buses, or trains. There has been a significant increase in infrastructure investment in Dublin, especially in water and sewerage, to cope with rapid growth in the last thirty years. The high fertility rate of families in Dublin, compared with the rest of Ireland and all of Europe, has led to inaccurate population projections and inadequate provision of services. The most significant factor causing the housing shortage is, however, cultural: home ownership is highly valued, and the consequent demand for land puts great strain on the local authorities' ability to keep pace with urban sprawl, especially since most private residences are built in low density areas.

## (B) Public Buildings, Public Works, and Residences

There are a number of important buildings that are evidence of Dublin's Georgian heritage. These include the Customs House, the Four Courts, and King's Inns, all designed by Gandon in the 18th Century. In addition, there is the Casino in Marino, a Palladian pavilion, completed in 1771, as well as Parliament House, now a commercial bank. There are also numerous Pugin Churches throughout Dublin, as well as larger Cathedrals such as Christchurch and St. Patrick's Cathedral.

## (B) Politics and City Services

Dublin has its own administrative system, but, by comparison with urban authorities in other countries, it lacks autonomy. It is bound by central government rules which permit little flexibility, and lacks an independent means of income and is dependent on central government for the funds. While the central government provides some social services, the local authority is expected to provide public housing, and look after the infrastructure (water, sewage, transportation). The administrative machinery has not been able to cope with the increased demand that followed from the rapid growth of Dublin in the 1980's,

resulting in delays and dissatisfaction. The administrative structures have caught up with the demand, but there remain major problems in providing an adequate transportation system.

The local administrative structure is not unified. Until 1994, it was divided into two authorities: an urban core and a separate outlying authority. In 1994, the growth of the region led to that outlying authority being subdivided into three separate and autonomous administrative units. There are proposals to create a unified administrative structure, but these are, as of 2000, only proposals. Local political offices (county and borough councillors) are filled every five years through election, through proportional representation with a single transferable vote. There are 142 councillors in the four authorities, many of whom have also been elected to the national parliament. Most national politicians use service on the local authority as an opportunity to build a local power base and, even once elected to the national parliament, retain their local authority office in order to maintain their electoral base. Councillors elect a mayor, from their own number, each year. The mayor has little administrative or policy making power, and, indeed, the elected politicians have quite limited power. There is a strong tradition of local administration and many decisions are made by local officials who are professional civil servants and relatively immune from political interference.

There is a strong overlap between local and national politics, and many councillors are either national politicians as well, or are aspiring to become national politicians. The main national parties are also represented at local level: Fianna Fail is the largest national party (with about 40-45 percent electoral support), Fine Gael (with about 20-25 percent), Labour (about 15 percent) and other smaller parties. There are relatively few differences in economic policies between the parties, though there are differences with regard to social policies and attitudes towards national sovereignty and Northern Ireland. Voting is by proportional representation with a single transferable vote in multi-seat constituencies. This produces a result in which the proportion of politicians elected tends to mirror, quite closely, the diversity of electoral opinion, thus encouraging the representation of small or marginal political views.

City services are largely funded by central government, with little freedom to raise funds independent of central government. The most sensitive of areas in which the local authority has autonomy is the allocation of public housing amongst competing applicants and granting of planning permissions for new developments (both private and commercial). Zoning decisions are made by the local authority and have been the subject of controversy because politicians can override the planning recommendations of local officials. It now appears that, during the growth periods of the 1980's and 90's, politicians' decisions were based on private financial contributions made to them by interested parties, rather than the merits of the case, and rules regarding political ethics have been strengthened.

## (B) Educational System

Dublin has a well developed educational system, with 227 primary schools, 97 secondary schools, 3 universities, 1 college of art and design, 1 institute of technology, 1 college of

industrial relations, and 2 colleges of education. Education is publicly funded, with free education from primary to third level, though some fees at third level. Education is through English, with the exception of a small number of primary and secondary schools which operate through Irish. A minority of schools are 'fee paying', which means that, in addition to a government grant, parents also pay an additional fee. Although schools are funded by the state, most primary and secondary schools operate within a religious ethos; mostly Roman Catholic, but also some Protestant, Muslim, and Jewish schools. Boards of management of school concerned with overall policy, including religious ethos. There is a small number of non-denominational or multi-denominational schools at primary and secondary level, as well as a small, but growing number, of Irish language immersion primary and secondary schools. There are four major third level Universities in the Dublin region, along with a number of smaller third level colleges. Third level education is non-denominational.

#### (B) Transportation System

Due to rapid growth in Ireland generally, and Dublin in particular, as well as a rapid increase in prosperity, Dublin is currently experiencing significant transportation congestion. There is no tram or subway system (although one is being planned), and there is only a small capacity train service, using the existing intra-Ireland rail network, for commuting from nearby towns. Transportation is largely by private car, with some increase in bus usage, and a dependence on taxis when the buses become infrequent after midnight. As a result of more cars being purchased, traffic congestion has become a serious barrier to economic growth.

#### (A) CULTURAL AND SOCIAL LIFE

Although Dublin is the economic and administrative center of Ireland, it is known outside of Ireland for its rich cultural life and enjoyable social life.

#### (B) Distinctive Features of the City's Cultures

Unlike other urban areas, there is not a cafe society in Dublin. Instead, Dublin is noted for the centrality of drinking and pubs (public houses) in Dublin's social life. Most social activity takes place in the context of pubs. Pubs close before midnight, at which time younger people often go on to nightclubs.

There are two centers of Dublin, one on the north side of the river and the other on the south side. Grafton Street, on the south side of the river, constitutes a compact shopping district, for middle and upper range shopping. There has been an increase in suburban shopping malls, often populated by British and multi-national chain stores, but the city center remains a shopping magnet.

Temple Bar was a decaying section of the city center when it was being held by CIE (formerly the state transportation authority) in order to build a new bus terminal. While planning was sought, only short-term leases were allowed, which encouraged the growth of marginal uses (small shops, restaurants, studios, and so on). When plans for the bus terminal were abandoned, the cultural activities in the area were important enough to be

preserved under a special government plan. The area is now a thriving center for art and cuisine.

### (B) Cuisine

There has been recent growth in the number of restaurants in Dublin, and eating out is becoming an important feature of Dublin social life. There has been a reliance on Irish, French, Indian and Chinese, Italian, with increasing diversity developing in the last ten years. Ireland is well known for the quality of cheese, lamb, and fish which form part of the daily diet.

### (B) Ethnic, Class, and Religious Diversity

Ireland has been a relatively homogeneous society, and Dublin mirrors this homogeneity, at least in ethnic divisions. Although there are many Dublin residents who grew up in other parts of Ireland (and who maintain loyalties to those other counties), this is not perceived as a political or cultural division (except in terms of inter-county sports competitions). The one significant source of division arises from a small group known as 'travellers' (known also by more pejorative terms such as itinerants or tinkers); these are people who dress and speak differently from the 'settled' community and who move from one temporary dwelling site to another, bringing their caravans (trailers) with them. They are dispersed in small groups throughout Ireland, inter-marrying with each other. There are about 22,000 travellers in Ireland, and about 5,000 in the Dublin region. They are the subject of discrimination by the majority population, and are often suspected of criminal activities. About one-third are 'settled', living in one house continuously. Another third live on 'halting sites', provided by local government. These halting sites provide access to water and electricity for trailers; and another third park their trailers informally by the side of the road. Most remain mobile, moving from one temporary dwelling to another, they are largely outside the state administrative system and the services provided by the state.

There are also significant class divisions in Dublin, with relatively low levels of class mobility. Although education is state supported, third level education largely remains a middle class preserve, enabling middle class families to pass their professions on to their children. Class divisions are manifest in different residential patterns. There is a high proportion of private house ownership (traditionally at around sixty to seventy percentage) and a lower level of apartment (versus home with garden) dwelling or rental (versus ownership). Private home ownership is largely a middle class phenomenon, with many working class couples dependent on government supported housing, often in apartments. Thus, Dublin is largely divided into working class areas of publicly supported housing, and middle class areas of private housing. Only a small number of public housing estates are in middle class areas.

Ireland is overwhelmingly Roman Catholic, especially since the partition of Ireland into the Republic of Ireland, while the northern six counties remained part of the United Kingdom. The majority of non-Catholics resided in these counties, the remainder was overwhelmingly Catholic. While there was, in Dublin, a large Protestant minority, this

has decreased over time. The main religion is Roman Catholic (911,454 members), followed by Church of Ireland (26,169 members) and Presbyterian (2,716 members). There is a small Jewish community (1,393 members). So strong is the Roman Catholic influence that much of the political, legal, and educational system is suffused with religious values, leading to charges of Ireland having elements of a theocracy. While there would have been some truth to this for many decades, there has been increasing division developing between church and state for the last thirty years, culminating in the passing of various laws (including divorce) which do not conform to Catholic teaching.

Recent years have seen a significant increase in migration into Dublin. In the 1980's, this was largely from other European Union residents, supplemented by a small number of students and workers from the Middle East. There is now a significant, and growing, Muslim community in Dublin. In the late 1990's, due to an increase in refugees and asylum seekers from outside the European Union, there has been an increase in residents from Eastern Europe, and West and Central Africa (currently, about one thousand people per month apply for asylum in Ireland, though only a relatively small percentage have their application granted).

#### (B) Family and Other Social Support Systems

Kinship remains an important value in Dublin; people have knowledge of, and maintain contact with, a wide range of close kin and more distant cousins. Although recent economic changes have increased mobility, adults remain in close contact with siblings and cousins. Individuals who grew up in rural parts of Ireland would often return at intervals (at least one or more weekends a month) before marriage, and maintain contact (even if only during summer holidays) after marriage. These ties are often also used for economic benefit, with exchanges of services or information being used for mutual benefit. Funerals remain an important mechanism by which the extended kin group is maintained, as is the yearly event of Christmas (a event of major significance for extended families). Until recently, divorce was illegal in Ireland, so families remained together, legally, even if spouses were actually separated. The family remains the primary care-giving unit, with elderly or handicapped relations being looked after by other members of the family.

#### (B) Work and Commerce

Dublin is the economic hub of Ireland. It is the administrative and financial center, and most economic activity is situated in Dublin. In recent years, economic growth has depended on information based businesses, and the Irish government has made significant infrastructure investments to encourage investment by multi-nationals specializing in high-technology activities. There are high speed data links between Ireland and the United States, Britain, and the rest of Europe, and a significant amount of economic activity is linked with multinational or US corporations.

## (B) Arts and Recreation

There are numerous art galleries in Dublin, including the National Gallery (which is currently expanding) in the city center, and IMMA (Irish Museum of Modern Art), located in the renovated Royal Hospital Kilmainham (previously a home for wounded army pensioners) which was originally built in 1680 and modeled after Les Invalides in Paris. The National Museum is spread over three locations, two in the city center and one, near IMMA, in a former army barracks. The Museum is adjacent to the Dail (the Irish Parliament), and on the other side of the Dail is the National Library, housing a valuable archival material. There is a strong theater tradition in Dublin, with the Abbey Theatre the best known, but only one of many theaters in Dublin. There is an annual Dublin Theatre Festival which attracts a wide variety of plays.

The major sports played in Dublin are soccer, rugby, Gaelic football, and hurling. The latter two are similar to football and hockey (although hurling predates hockey, and is described in early Irish folktales). There is a stadium on the north side of the city for Gaelic football and hurling, while soccer and rugby are played in a stadium on the south side of the city. Golf and horse and greyhound racing are the other popular games. There are a multitude of golf courses within and on the outskirts of Dublin. The major horse race tracks are now outside Dublin, but within easy commuting distance, and there are two greyhound tracks within Dublin. Riding and sailing are also popular.

## (A) QUALITY OF LIFE

Dublin has been known as a city for literature and conversation, often over a pint of Guinness. Although the pace of life has increased, it still remains a popular European city, attractive precisely for its quality of life. Irish traditional music is still a feature of many pubs, with 'sessions' on Friday and Saturday nights.

## (A) FUTURE OF THE CITY

There is currently a housing shortage and transportation crisis in Dublin, as recent economic growth has led to full-employment and labor shortages. The city has become a quite expensive place to reside, due to a recent rapid increase in the cost of private housing. It is expected that increased supply will reduce the price of housing, but at the cost of a more widely dispersed population and longer commuting times from more distant areas.

There has been an increasing focus on high-technology economic investment in Dublin, and the government has funded major infrastructure investments in broadband technology within Dublin and linking Dublin to external data networks. Growth in hardware and software computer technologies seems likely to continue, supported by a successful educational system which provides labor for the new industries.

There has been increasing investment in rejuvenating the urban center of Dublin. Following on from the successful creation of Temple Bar, there has been an innovative restoration of Smithfield on the northern side of the Liffey. Formerly a public market, it is now a public urban space. Further investment in urban areas, complemented by a

planned subway to improve public transportation, will continue to make Dublin a center for economic and cultural growth.

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