Ireland and Spain, 1939-55: Cultural, Economic and Political Relations from Neutrality in the Second World War to Joint Membership of the United Nations


Abstract

The principal objective of this thesis is to investigate and understand the relationship between Ireland and Spain from 1939 to 1955 by researching the cultural, economic and political ties that existed between both nations. The research is based on primary sources examined in the diplomatic archives of Dublin and Madrid as well as original documents analysed through unrestricted access to private archives. The main body of files investigated centre on the reports of diplomats that reveal the nature of this relationship, which was in the main harmonious, despite the momentous internal and external challenges that confronted both countries during that period. The findings expose the perceptions held by the leading politicians towards this affiliation and why it was considered important to maintain. The results also show that ultimately the relationship proved ephemeral because it was based on antediluvian and archaic values that were incompatible with the prevailing course of history. By juxtaposing Ireland and Spain between the start of the Second World War and the admission of both nations into the United Nations in 1955, a major gap in historical research is explored that substantially assists the knowledge of this bilateral relationship. Furthermore, the research lifts a veil on the socio-economic and socio-political environments of both countries in a way that contributes to the historiographical appraisal of the period.
The world witnessed two devastating wars in the 20th century. The First World War broke out in 1914 and continued till 1918. Millions of people were killed, wounded, maimed, crippled and rendered homeless. The outbreak of the Second World War revealed to the world the weaknesses of the League of Nations. It was felt that a much stronger international organisation should be created, if the world was to have peace. The Second World War which broke out in 1939 came to an end in 1945. The Atlantic charter (3) To develop friendly relations among nations on principles of equal rights and self-determination; (4) To recognise the fundamental rights of all people. United Nations declaration or the Washington declaration There have been many cultural links between Britain and the rest of Europe as European civilization developed and close proximity have intertwined Britain’s economy with those of other European countries but these have been the political links in the last two centuries. The Battle of Waterloo. On 18 June 1815 one of the most famous battles in British history took place between the forces of the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon Bonaparte. Find out more here. From the end of the Napoleonic Wars to 1914. From the end of the