The Irish Parliamentary Party and the Third Home Rule crisis


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Abstract

But for the 1916 Rising, self-governing Ireland’s founding political generation would have been drawn not from Sinn Féin and the IRA, but from among the ranks of John Redmond’s Irish Parliamentary Party. This book makes the imaginative leap back to the time of the Third Home Rule Bill, arguing that the outlook of Irish Nationalist MPs was conditioned by their belief that George V would shortly be opening the Dublin parliament in College Green, thereby heralding the creation of so-called ‘promised land’. From this perspective, far from being politically enervated or on the back foot, the Redmondites fought tooth and nail for self-government at Westminster, while in Ireland they went toe-to-toe with their critics, whether they were Sinn Féiners, Gaelic Leaguers, O’Brienites, Larkinists, Ulster Unionists or Irish separatists.

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The conduct of the Conservative/Unionist party in relation to the Home Rule issue was indefensible in a parliamentary democracy. They indulged in what …Carson called an effort to 'degrade the British House of Commons'. The strategy of the Ulster Unionists, even the Irish Times, a staunch supporter of the anti-home rule campaign, admitted, was 'inherently vicious'. Bonar Law said in his famous Blenheim speech of July 1912 that 'there are things stronger than parliamentary majorities' and that there was no limit to which the unionists would go Home. Only search content I have access to.