Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Time 2 hours 15 minutes

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History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 31: Rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485–1603

Source Booklet

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Source for use with Section A.

From Fynes Moryson, *An Itinerary*, published 1617. Moryson was appointed as the personal secretary of Lord Mountjoy in 1600 and was in Ireland with Mountjoy during the latter stages of Tyrone's rebellion. Here he is describing the events of 1599.

Ireland was in such a disorderly state that many thought that order could only be restored by the powerful hand of Robert, Earl of Essex. This noble Lord had been involved in military campaigns of the greatest importance and was generally loved by both the nobility and the gentry. In recent years, he had won much honour in service both on land and at sea. He had long been a dear favourite of the Queen who believed him fit for this service in Ireland. His enemies also proposed that he should lead the campaign so that he would be absent from court.

Lord Essex was granted the title of Lord Lieutenant with greater authority than previous Lord Deputies in Ireland. He was given special instructions from the Queen to throw all his forces against the chief traitor, Tyrone, in Ulster. The people imagined nothing but victory with such a leader and such a strong army. With this great approval, Essex journeyed to Ireland in March.

However, Essex did not seek out Tyrone as the Queen had ordered him. Instead he was persuaded by some, motivated by their own private gain, to lead his forces against a few rebels in Munster. Here, he captured a great number of cattle. At the end of July, Essex brought his forces back into Leinster. His soldiers were weary, sick and incredibly diminished in number. All that he had accomplished, besides the scattering of a few of the rebels' weaker forces, was to capture a single castle that, after his departure, fell to the rebels again.

Hearing that the Queen was upset by his actions, Essex first blamed the Irish Council, whose advice he said he had followed because of its experience in Irish matters. Later, he explained to Her Majesty that he had been unable to accomplish more because his army was unwilling to be led towards Ulster and that many had deserted. He stated that he had no more than 4000 men, whereas Tyrone had over 6000 who were strongly positioned. He said that there had been little prospect of being able to establish strongholds in Ulster, and that supplying them through the winter would be dangerous anyway.

Her Majesty was greatly offended that such a strong army, maintained at such cost, had achieved nothing in six months, and had little hope of doing anything further against the rebels that year.

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Acknowledgement

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