

Irish Catholic Confederation, 1642



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Dear delegates,

My name is Connor Elliott and I will be your crisis director for TUMUN 2021! I am very excited to welcome you (if only virtually) to campus in March. In the meantime, please read this background guide carefully and do whatever extra research you see fit to prepare for this committee—I have included a few useful resources later in the guide which should be helpful to you, which I strongly suggest you view, as I am by no means an expert in Irish history, and I have cut out some important things in order to bring this background guide down to size. First, though, allow me to introduce myself. I am a junior at Tufts studying International Relations with a focus in Security. Outside of academics, I currently serve as the Vice President/Treasurer of the Model UN team on campus, work as an intern for the State Department, serve as the Catholic representative on the Interfaith Student Council, compete on the Tufts Ethics Bowl team, and work part-time for the Tufts Chaplaincy.

As you might have guessed from that list, the subject of this committee stands at the intersection of a number of my interests, both academic and personal. That being said, I intend to make it as accessible as possible, so if there is anything you are confused about, or that relates to the conduct of committee which is not answered later in this guide, please feel free to reach out to me at connor.elliott@tufts.edu. The British civil wars of the mid 17th century are incredibly complex and confusing, so there is absolutely no shame in reaching out. Also, I have been competing in Model UN since high school, so if you need advice on how to participate in crisis committees or anything of that nature, again, please do reach out.

I will explain in further detail later in the background guide the exact mechanics by which I will run this committee, but there are a few things related to the time period and mindset that I do want to go over before we begin. The mid 17th century in Europe was a time of deep religious upheaval, something which can often be difficult for people from modern, secular societies to understand. There may be disputes, some central to this committee, which sound absurd to you, but be aware that these were things that people were willing to—and indeed did—die for, so please, take them seriously and try not to let your personal values override those of your character. Additionally, a few of your characters will have either committed, been complicit in, or approved of historical atrocities. It is my hope that we can continue to faithfully represent these characters while also unequivocally condemning any and all atrocities.

My hope is that this committee will be strongly competitive from all sides—i.e. that everyone in it will do well. If you feel that you do not know how to compete properly in a crisis committee, then by all means shoot me an email. I have been training delegates for years, and I have plenty of materials I can send along, or even do a Zoom call if that would help. I am immensely excited to run this committee for all of you, and I cannot wait to see what directions you all decide to take it in.

Vivat Rex Carolus!

Connor McAvoy Elliott

Introduction & Outline

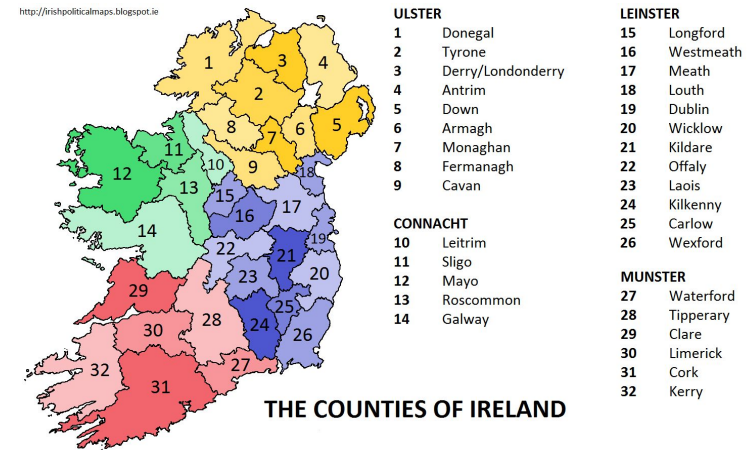
Hello delegates, and welcome to the Irish Catholic Confederation of 1642. Before we begin, allow me to briefly summarize what is contained in this background guide and in what order. We will begin with a quick and much-abridged overview of the last few centuries of Irish history up to 1641 to provide the backdrop for the events of the committee, occasionally digressing into British (note: when I write ‘British’ in this guide I mean ‘of the island of Great Britain’ and not of any political entity which is constituted by the whole, because that entity—the United Kingdom—will not come into existence for another 60-odd years) developments, particularly as relates to religion.

Then, we will move into a history of the events leading up to and surrounding the formation of the Confederation: the Rebellion of 1641, the beginning of the (first) English Civil War, and the synod at Kilkenny which ultimately resulted in the creation of the Confederate Assembly. The historical background will not go further than the beginning of the committee, but you are absolutely free to do your own research as to what happened next, and I will provide some useful links for further reading.

After wrapping up the historical section, we will go over the more practical questions of committee, beginning with a brief overview of the situation faced by the Confederate Supreme Council—both external threats and internal divisions—at the end of 1642, when this committee begins, as well as a list of the primary objectives of the committee. Finally, there will be a list of the roles you will be taking

on in this committee, complete with biographies and portfolio powers.

Historical Background



Map of the 4 provinces and 32 counties of Ireland

Norman Conquest (12th century - early 16th century)

Up until the 12th century, Ireland was largely ruled by ethnically ‘Old’ Gaelic Irish clans and a few Norse-Irish lords left over from Viking days. However, after the Norman conquest of England and Wales, the new Norman nobility of England began to expand across the Irish Sea. Their expansion was largely uncontested by the divided and decentralized Gaelic Irish lords. After a time, the political situation settled into an equilibrium: the Pale of Ireland (roughly the counties of Dublin, Louth, and half of Meath) was controlled directly by the English King and was settled by Englishmen, who came to be called Anglo-Irish. A large swath of the southeast (most of the provinces of Leinster and Munster) was ruled by Anglo-Irish lords who were technically bound to the English king but in practice were mostly

independent. The rest of Ireland was ruled by independent Gaelic Irish lords.

It may seem as though Ireland were already divided between Anglo-Irish and Gaelic Irish; however, while it is appropriate to speak about ethnic and political divisions between Gaelic Irish and Anglo-Irish, it is important to note that there was more or less no cultural or religious difference between the two. The Anglo-Irish themselves spoke Gaelic, adopted Gaelic customs, and practiced the same Catholic religion as the Gaelic Irish even after the Protestant Reformation and the creation of the Church of England. There was little difference between an Anglo-Irish lord and a Gaelic Irish lord outside of ancestry and attitude towards English rule, particularly in the late period of the Norman Conquest when the Gaelic Irish lords were also brought under English overlordship.

Tudor Conquest (late 16th-early 17th century)

The largely hands-off policy towards Irish affairs held by their English overlords would end with the rise of the Tudor dynasty in England in the late 16th century. Two primary drives would lead to the so-called Tudor Conquest of Ireland, which is best understood not as a military conquest, but as a colonial process—England's first true colonial undertaking. The first drive was the Tudor desire to centralize the state and consolidate control around the monarchy, which meant breaking the power of the largely independent nobility. The second was the Protestant Reformation and the subsequent conversion of England to Anglicanism. This meant that, as England

was frequently at odds with Catholic powers on the Continent (particularly Spain), the entire Irish population—virtually none of whom had converted from Catholicism—was now politically suspect and potential fifth-columnists within the state.

The Tudors were unable to simply dictate to lords without inviting revolt, and unwilling to convert the Irish at a large scale due to language differences and their own personal prejudice. Thus, the Tudors adopted a single solution to both problems: settler colonialism, in the form of the Plantations of Ireland, where groups (colonies) of Protestants would be settled in Ireland with the goal of creating a new, Protestant ruling class dependent on the power of the King to keep them in place. The Plantations began on a relatively small scale, but quickly grew larger, greatly increasing political tensions, particularly when paired with political measures meant to decrease the Irish nobility's independence like Poyning's Law of 1495, which stated that all acts of the Irish Parliament had to be approved by the Irish and English Privy Councils, essentially the monarch's cabinet.

These tensions ultimately resulted in the Nine Years' War (1593-1603), a large-scale revolt by a significant number of the Irish nobility against the centralization of power by the Tudors. Ultimately, the Irish were defeated, and a number of the leading earls of the rebellion—particularly the powerful O'Neill family and others in Ulster—fled into exile. The war confirmed English fears of fifth-columnists, as the rebel Irish were backed by the Spanish government. However, the so-called 'flight

of the Earls' also provided them with an opportunity. The English confiscated the land of the exiled earls and used it to create the Plantation of Ulster, the largest plantation yet, which involved significant settlement from Scottish Presbyterians, not just English Anglicans. The beaten and exhausted Irish nobility was unable to effectively respond.

In the years following the war, a number of reforms were instituted in the Irish Parliament (which had previously acted much like the English one) and in the governance of Ireland more broadly, all of which aimed at disenfranchising Catholics and centralizing power. After 1607, Catholics were barred from serving in the Irish Army or holding any public office in Ireland, meaning that the Irish Privy Council, the Lords Justice, and the Lord-Deputy, who collectively ruled Ireland, would all be Protestants. Additionally, in 1613, the constituencies of the Irish Parliament were modified in order to give plantation settlers a permanent majority, despite their relatively tiny numbers. Thus, Catholics were shut out of the official levers of power in Ireland entirely.

Leadup to the Confederate Wars (early 17th century)

Resentment over disenfranchisement and the institution of the Plantations bubbled in Catholic Ireland for decades, but the immediate spark which set the stage for the 1641 Uprising and the subsequent Confederate Wars can be traced to the actions of a single man: Sir Thomas Wentworth, later 1st Earl of Strafford. Wentworth served as

lord-deputy—essentially governor—of Ireland from 1632 until 1639, when he was recalled to England and subsequently executed as a scapegoat for the King's failures there in 1641. Wentworth was extremely capable as a governor; unfortunately, he was also a ruthless, centralizing despot whose mission was to squeeze as much money as possible out of the island for King Charles' wars against the rebel Scots.

The Catholic nobility had already paid a significant amount of money to the King in exchange for 'the Graces,' a set of concessions which eased the persecution of Catholics. The most important of these were: first, if you had records reaching back at least sixty years showing your family had owned the land you owned, the government could not seize it (previously, the Tudor government had seized land where records could not be found from *five hundred years ago*); second, only an oath of allegiance to the King was necessary for Catholics, rather than an oath of supremacy (which Catholics could not take, as it placed the King above the Pope); and third, the now-entirely Protestant Irish Army would be restrained from abusing the largely-Catholic populace.

The implementation of the Graces had been delayed for some time already, but upon taking office Wentworth refused to implement them entirely. Instead, he embarked on a large-scale campaign of land seizures and massive expansion of the Plantations—including an attempt to transform the entire province of Connacht into a plantation—with the dual goal of raising funds for the Crown and breaking what political power the Irish Catholic

nobility and gentry had left. This was met with a massive uproar among the Catholic population, but the only real methods of redress left to them—petitioning the King and legal suits—were either ineffective or only slowed the process of colonization.

The Confederation

The Uprising of 1641

In 1641, Irish resentment, exacerbated further by economic recession and a poor harvest, found an outlet. The English state was clearly weak—the King had failed to put down a Scottish rebellion several times already, and was mired in dispute with Parliament—and thus, reasoned a small circle of conspirators, among them Lord Conor Maguire, Hugh MacMahon, and Sir Phelim O'Neill, its colonial apparatus in Ireland was vulnerable to a quick strike. The three planned to seize Dublin and a number of important strongholds in Ulster in a coup d'état and then open negotiations with the King.

The plot went ahead on the 22nd of October, 1641. While Sir Phelim was surprisingly successful in Ulster, MacMahon and Lord Maguire failed miserably in Dublin, and both were executed. Seeing that the coup d'état had failed, Sir Phelim issued a general proclamation of rebellion, including a fake commission from the King which purported to authorize Irish Catholics to defend their liberties. Ulster immediately erupted in violence as Catholics rose up and acted on their resentment against settlers, which quickly escalated into the widespread killing of civilians, including a notorious massacre at Portadown where one hundred

men, women, and children were drowned in the River Bann. The uprising quickly spread across Ireland, where many Catholics, both Anglo-Irish and Gaelic, took up arms to regain their liberties and to forcibly expel Protestant settlers.

England: Reaction & Civil War

The immediate reaction of the King was to name James Butler, Earl of Ormond, commander of all government forces in Ireland, made up mostly of Wentworth's Irish Army. With outrage increasing in England as a steady stream of Protestant refugees made their way across the Irish Sea, King Charles and Parliament momentarily put aside their differences and passed the Adventurers' Act, which raised money to put down the rebellion by promising to confiscate the land of all who joined in the rebellion and grant it to those who loaned money to the Crown.

Meanwhile, the Scots, who were at this time neutral in the conflict between the King and Parliament, deployed a force of their own to Ulster to protect the Scottish Presbyterian settlers there.

The agreement between the King and Parliament lasted exactly as long as it took to recruit the army, at which time the two immediately fell out over the question of who would lead it. Normally, the King would, but many in Parliament believed that the King was plotting to set up a despotic government (which he was) and restore the Catholic faith in England (which he was not), and would use this army to do so. Ultimately, this was the straw that broke the camel's back after decades of confrontation between King and Parliament, and King

Charles fled London in mid-1642 after failing to arrest his enemies in Parliament, with the First English Civil War beginning in earnest soon afterward. [note: this is a complex history that I do not have the space to get into here, but I do recommend you at least skim the Wikipedia page for the English Civil Wars if your arc involves the English factions in any way.]

The Synods at Kells and Kilkenny

By March of 1642, the previously-anarchic rebellion had begun to organize itself. Most of the Anglo-Irish and Gaelic nobility which had declared their support for the Uprising, as well as the Catholic clergy of Ireland, congregated in County Meath. While the nobility signed the so-called 'Catholic Remonstrance,' setting out their complaints against the colonial government, in the town of Trim, the clergy held a synod (a church council) in nearby Kells, where they declared the rebellion to be a just war under Catholic doctrine, and called on all Catholics to support its prosecution.

In May, a second synod was held in Kilkenny, which would become the capital of the Irish Confederation. There, the bishops called for the creation of a Catholic Confederation in Ireland and drafted the Confederate Oath of Association, which was quickly signed by both Anglo-Irish and Gaelic nobility. Signers swore to defend the free practice of Roman Catholicism in Ireland and vowed to obey all orders made by the Supreme Council of the Confederation, but still swore allegiance to King Charles. The Kilkenny synod also

vowed to excommunicate any Catholic who sided against the Confederation.

The Confederation was set up in the ensuing days, its constitution written by Patrick Darcy. The Confederate General Assembly, ostensibly a provisional governing body of Ireland holding it in the name of the King, but in reality a Catholic Parliament of Ireland, would meet in Kilkenny to pass laws. Once it gathered in October 1642, it elected a Supreme Council to act as the executive of the Confederation, with authority over all military matters, diplomatic matters, and domestic administration. The Supreme Council quickly took control of the various armies which had consolidated into being during the last year and divided them into four commands, one for each province.

Further Reading

<http://bcw-project.org/> - the British Civil Wars Project, an invaluable historical resource for the period

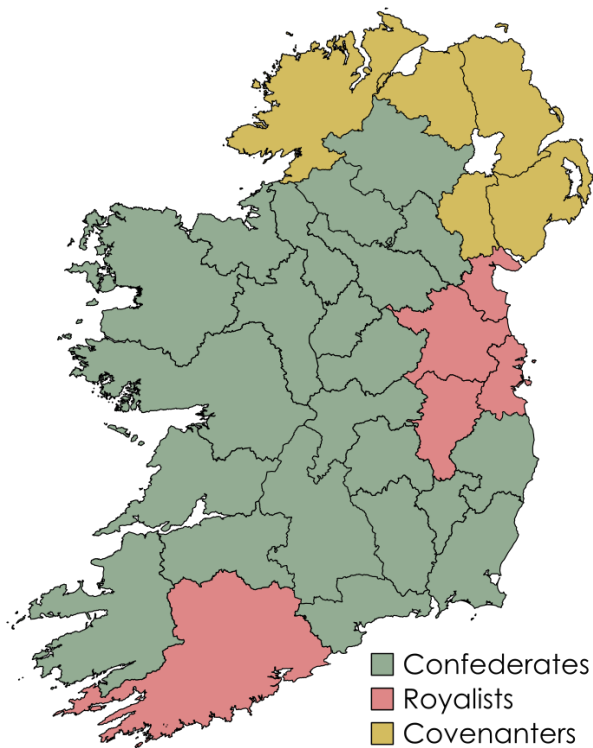
[The Confederation of Kilkenny](#) - one of the few books on the subject

The Committee's Task

The committee, taking on the role of the Supreme Council of the Irish Catholic Confederation, faces a number of challenges, both internal and external. Dealing with these challenges is essential to the committee's core task: defending the rights and privileges of the Catholic people of Ireland.

Ending the War

Immediately upon its creation, the Confederation faces war on three fronts: against the Royalists in the Pale and Cork and the Scottish Covenanters in northern Ulster (see map below). War against the Scottish—who have invaded Ulster to protect the lands and lives of Scottish Presbyterian settlers there—will be uncontroversial. On the other hand, James Butler, the Marquis of Ormond and the Royalist commander in Ireland, may request a ceasefire so that his men may be redeployed to the mainland if the war there begins to go poorly. Many within the Supreme Council, particularly the King’s representative James Tuchet, will likely push to accept this. Many others, though, particularly the Papal nuncio Archbishop Rinuccini, will push for the Confederation to recapture the Pale while the forces there are weak.



Map of the current political situation

Preparing for the Next War

Regardless of how the committee ends the immediate conflicts that face it, the Confederation must eventually face the enemy which constitutes the reason for its existence: the English. The precise nature of this confrontation depends on how amenable to negotiation the eventual winners of the English Civil War are, something which the committee may be able to affect through sending aid or troops to one side or the other while the war still continues. Either way, the committee must strengthen its position as much as possible, strategically, politically, and financially. There are a wide range of ways in which each of these can be done: seeking foreign aid, building legitimacy in Ireland, recruiting troops, and levying taxes are just a few of the ways in which the committee could seek to shore up its position.

Defining Confederate Goals

The agreed-upon goal of the Confederation—to ‘defend Catholicism in Ireland’—is incredibly vague, and many within the Confederation have different ideas about what it means. The clerical faction, which includes both Catholic clergy and hardline Gaels like Owen Roe O’Neill, seek nothing less than the re-establishment of the Catholic Church as the official state religion in Ireland and the expulsion of all Protestant settlers brought over during the Plantations. On the other hand, the noble faction, which consists of most of the Anglo-Irish lords, favor a negotiated peace with King Charles and the Royalists, which should include religious freedom for

Catholics in Ireland and an independent Irish parliament, presumably based on the Confederate Assembly, subordinate only to the King.

There is also an amorphous group of moderates, mostly consisting of those who are neither clergy nor noble, like Nicholas Plunkett, who seek to find compromise between the two factions and see that, if the Confederation comes apart, they are unlikely to meet any of their goals. If either of the two main factions attempts to end the war without at least addressing the goals of the other, it would create a major breach in the committee which could easily lead to rupture and internal civil war. As delegates, it is your task to negotiate this divide, and do your best not to rip the committee apart from the inside when you finally decide on a set of workable goals for the Confederation to pursue.

Achieving Confederate Goals

The committee, aside from defining its goals, must also achieve them. Unfortunately, it is just as divided on how to do so as it is on what its goals are. The hardline clerical faction is deeply opposed to compromise with those, like the Lord Inchiquin, who have persecuted Catholics in Ireland, and will push for war until its goals are met. The noble faction, on the other hand, is loyal to the King and will seek compromise with him, particularly if it seems as though Parliament is close to winning the English Civil War. Essentially, the clerical faction would prefer to dictate terms at the end of a sword, while the moderates would prefer to achieve its ends through negotiation. As delegates, you must

decide what the best way, or mix of ways, to achieve the goals of the committee is.

Members of the Supreme Council

Richard Butler, 3rd Viscount Mountgarrett Biography:

Born in 1578, Richard Butler is one of the oldest and most respected members of this committee. He distinguished himself as a young man fighting against the English in the last major Irish rebellion, the Nine Years' War. Though he and his father were pardoned and allowed to keep their lands by Queen Elizabeth I after the war ended, he maintained his old loyalties. He used his position of Viscount Mountgarrett to protest colonization, and, many in England suspected, to plot rebellion against the Crown. He was also instrumental in the impeachment of Sir Thomas Wentworth, the tyrannical lord-deputy of Ireland.

To perhaps no one's surprise, he assumed command of rebel forces in his home county of Kilkenny immediately following the outbreak of the 1641 Uprising, and traded a few blows back and forth with Royalist forces commanded by the Marquis of Ormond (who also happens to be his grand-nephew). His unimpeachable record as an advocate for Catholics in Ireland, combined with his status as the most prominent noble to declare for the rebels, led the Confederate Assembly to appoint him President of the Supreme Council upon its creation in 1642.

While Mountgarrett's sympathies, as an Anglo-Irish lord himself, lie mostly with the noble faction, he is expected to act in a manner befitting the President of the

Supreme Council: i.e. not as a partisan voice.

Portfolio Powers:

As President of the Supreme Council, Mountgarrett is expected to preside over the committee. He is *not* an executive—executive power is vested in the committee as a whole—but he does have power to set the agenda in some respects. The role also brings with it a substantial amount of prestige, which only adds to his already-existing stature within the governing structures of the Confederation. There is also the fact that the Confederation is based in County Kilkenny, which he is lord of, and the committee meets in his castle, Kilkenny Castle. Finally, he is married to the daughter of the last Earl of Tyrone, Margaret O'Neill.

Owen Roe O'Neill

Biography:

Born in Ulster in 1583, Owen Roe O'Neill is one of the few members of the committee old enough to have fought in the Nine Years' War, the last great Irish uprising. After its conclusion, his uncle, the Earl of Tyrone, was attainted and fled into exile, and he travelled with him. He joined the Spanish army in 1605, shortly after the war's end, along with a number of other Irish exiles—not an uncommon sight at all in the early modern period—where he would remain until 1642. There, he distinguished himself as an extremely capable officer, reaching the rank of colonel.

In mid-1642, in the midst of the Uprising, he arrived in County Donegal, Ulster with large stocks of arms and ammunition, and a loyal cadre of Spanish-trained officers. The Confederate

Assembly, upon its creation, immediately appointed him overall military commander in Ulster. Despite his abilities as an officer, he has largely fallen back in the face of Scottish Covenanter assaults thanks to the weakness of the untrained, undersupplied troops under his command.

O'Neill is probably the most radical member of the clerical faction, motivated both by ideological convictions and personal interest. Ideologically, he seeks to assure complete Catholic supremacy in Ireland, to roll back the Plantations by expelling the Protestants, and even to restore a sovereign, independent Ireland. Personally, he desires his uncle's old title and lands as Earl of Tyrone, which have been settled by Protestants as part of the Plantation of Ulster. However, he has not been recognized by the Confederation as the rightful Earl of Tyrone, as this title is disputed by his kinsman, Sir Phelim O'Neill.

Portfolio Powers:

Owen Roe O'Neill is basically one of two competent commanders the Confederation has, the other one—ironically—being the King's representative, the Earl Castlehaven, who he does outmatch. He has command of all Confederate forces in Ulster, though he is expected to follow the committee's decrees when it comes to overall strategy. While his troops are greatly undertrained and underfunded, O'Neill has the experience to train them and the legitimacy to lead them. He also has substantial contacts in the Spanish military.

Nicholas Plunkett

Biography:

Nicholas Plunkett was born in 1602, the third son of Christopher Plunkett, Lord Killeen. Knowing he was unlikely to inherit, he became a lawyer, though a deeply politically-involved one: he frequently defended Irish landowners in court when lord-deputy Wentworth attempted to confiscate their lands. He was elected to the Irish parliaments of 1634 and 1640, where he continued to oppose Wentworth. Despite this advocacy against Protestant settlement, however, he was initially opposed to the 1641 Uprising, though he eventually came around after Royalist troops burned his house down.

If there is one word which summarizes Plunkett's role in the Confederation, it is 'diplomat,' both internally and externally. Internally, he acted as a legal adviser at the initial negotiations establishing the Confederation, and subsequently sat as Chairman of the Confederate Assembly at Kilkenny. Externally, he often acted as the top negotiator and envoy for the Confederation, travelling abroad often to win support or to negotiate with the Confederation's ostensible enemies.

This diplomatic outlook strongly influences his personal ideology: Plunkett is decidedly moderate, and wishes to see the unity of the Confederation preserved above all. He will likely push for whatever compromise can be found between the clerical and noble factions; otherwise, the entire thing could fall apart.

Portfolio Powers:

As Chairman of the Confederate Assembly, Plunkett holds some influence there, and is able in some respects to shape

its agenda. Also, as the primary diplomat for the Confederation, Plunkett has a large number of connections abroad and is generally regarded as the man who speaks for the Confederation. He is also a capable lawyer, trained in London and Dublin, and has a good knowledge of both English and Irish law.

Archbishop Giovanni Rinuccini

Biography:

Born to a patrician family in Florence in 1592, Archbishop Giovanni Rinuccini's life has been dedicated above all else to his duties to the Church. Rinuccini studied both canon (religious) and civil law before being appointed to the archbishopric of Fermo in November 1625 at the recommendation of his uncle, Cardinal Bandini, for which he had to obtain a special dispensation as he had to first be ordained as a priest. Though he was soon offered a more prestigious post in Florence, he declined it, insisting upon his duty to the people of Fermo. He is also a prolific writer and intellectual.

What he most decidedly is not is a diplomat. Despite this, though, Pope Innocent X still appointed him papal nuncio to the Confederation. The Vatican is determined to support the Confederation in its fight for the Catholic people of Ireland for obvious reasons, and so it has dispatched Rinuccini to direct that support and coordinate between the Pope and the Supreme Council. [note: technically, he was not dispatched to join the committee until 1645, but I have moved up his arrival date so that he can participate in the committee.]

Rinuccini, in line with both papal policy and his own deep devotion to the Church, is a hardliner of the clerical faction. While he has declared that his mission supports the rule of King Charles I, and that his principle objective is to secure religious freedom for Catholics in Ireland, he will push hard for his true objective: the re-establishment of Catholicism as the state religion in Ireland, presumably including the removal or forced conversion of Protestants, as a stepping stone to the eventual re-conversion of Great Britain.

Portfolio Powers:

As the papal nuncio, Rinuccini represents the pope on the Supreme Council. This gives him some influence over Catholic clergy in Ireland, though some archbishops may not wish to obey him without a direct order from the Vatican. It also grants him legitimacy with many of the lay people. More importantly, though, the Vatican has been gathering money, weapons, and ammunition for the Confederate cause, both out of its own stocks and from well-wishers across Europe, and Rinuccini has control over the process of provisioning of these resources to the Confederation.

Archbishop Thomas Fleming

Biography:

Thomas Fleming was born in 1593 in County Meath to Christopher Fleming, the 12th Baron Slane, an Anglo-Irish lord. As the eldest son, he inherited the title upon his father's death in 1625, but having already entered the priesthood, renounced it in favor of his younger brother, William. As a young man, he studied at the Franciscan College in Leuven (in modern-day Belgium), and,

following his graduation there, joined the Franciscan Order and became a professor at the Catholic University of Leuven. In 1623, Pope Urban VIII appointed him Archbishop of Dublin.

While Fleming, a pacifist in line with his Franciscan beliefs, did not approve of the violence of the 1641 Uprising, he still dispatched a representative to the synod at Kilkenny, and resolved to take part in the opening meeting of the Confederate General Assembly, which, in light of his prominent position and history of advocacy for Catholic rights in Ireland, appointed him to the Supreme Council.

Fleming's Anglo-Irish noble descent inclines him to be part of the noble faction. However, the main reason he is aligned with that faction is his personal conviction towards pacifism: the noble faction is the one which prefers a negotiated settlement to end the war as soon as possible, rather than the clerical faction, which will push for war until it is sure it can achieve all of its ends. If the factions happen to change position on this, expect Fleming to realign.

Portfolio Powers:

As the Archbishop of Dublin, Fleming is the *de facto* first among equals of the native Irish clergy in normal times, though with the presence of Archbishop Rinuccini he may have more trouble enforcing this position outside of Leinster. Influence in the clergy is extremely important; the Confederation is based in declarations of the clergy, and its legitimacy rests upon them. Additionally, while the gentry and the bourgeoisie keep up with events through their own sources, the clergy

is the main line of communication that the committee has with the Irish peasantry.

Thomas Preston

Biography:

Thomas Preston was born in 1585 to the fourth Viscount Gormanston, an Anglo-Irish noble in Dublin. As many second sons of nobility do, he left to seek his fortune in war at a young age in 1605, joining the same Irish regiment of the Spanish army as Owen Roe O'Neill, who ultimately ended up being his commander for a brief time. However, he departed the Spanish service in 1625 when Spain and England went to war, not wishing to potentially fight against his kinsmen. He and O'Neill had a falling out over his departure, beginning a quarrel which continues today, and when he returned to the Spanish service after the peace with England, it was with his own regiment.

In 1641, Preston returned to Ireland in order to fight in the Uprising, and volunteered his services to the Confederation upon its creation. Through the influence of his nephew, the sixth Viscount Gormanston, he was appointed to command Confederate military forces in Leinster. In the early days of the war, he captured a number of forts in central Ireland, but expended much of his small stock of supplies doing so, and is now on the back foot against the Royalists under the Marquis of Ormond, facing severe supply shortages.

Ideologically, Preston is a moderate member of the clerical faction thanks to the fact that he has spent most of his life—particularly his formative years—fighting and living alongside the

radical Irish exiles fighting in the Spanish army. However, there are a number of things that pull him in the other direction: his personal rivalry with the arch-radical, Owen Roe O'Neill, and his Anglo-Irish noble relatives. Thus, if provided with the right set of personal incentives, Preston could easily switch sides on most issues.

Portfolio Powers:

While outclassed by both his old rival Owen Roe O'Neill and the Earl Castlehaven as field commanders, Preston is the most capable siege commander available to the Confederation. This is relevant to his position holding operational command of all Confederate military forces in Leinster, as the committee may want to attempt to capture Dublin. While more experienced and better-trained the Ulster army, his troops face similar supply problems. He also has substantial connections with the Spanish military.

James Touchet, 3rd Earl of Castlehaven

Biography:

James Touchet, the youngest member of the committee, was born in 1612 to Mervyn Touchet, the second Earl of Castlehaven. He and his step-mother brought a complaint against his father which ultimately led to his father being put on trial for 'gross sexual misconduct' (the sexual assault of his wife and homosexuality, which was illegal at the time) and executed in 1631. Castlehaven in Ireland passed to James, but his father's estates in England were confiscated. He then fought for the Crown in the Bishops' Wars in Scotland and a number of European wars, where, in 1640,

he witnessed Owen Roe O'Neill's surrender to the French at Arras.

Castlehaven returned to Ireland in 1641 to attend to his estates. He was there when the 1641 Uprising began, and offered his services to the Crown to suppress the rebellion. However, his Roman Catholic faith made the Royalists suspicious, and they indicted him for high treason and imprisoned him in Dublin. It is unclear whether these suspicions were well-founded at the time, but they soon were as Castlehaven managed to escape custody in late 1642 and flee to Kilkenny, where the Confederates gave him the command of all cavalry in Leinster and a seat on the Supreme Council. Some, however, believe that his escape was engineered by James Butler, the Royalist commander, so that he could have a direct line to the Supreme Council.

Castlehaven is obviously a strong supporter of the noble faction; in fact, he may very well be the strongest. Officially, he sits on the Supreme Council as the representative of King Charles. He would like to see peace at all costs, and is a strong supporter of the Marquis of Ormond, despite the fact that they are at war with one another.

Portfolio Powers:

Castlehaven is one of the two decent field commanders available to the Confederation, the other being Owen Roe O'Neill. He has command of all cavalry in the Leinster army, which is currently the largest command of the four, though he technically is also under the command of Thomas Preston. He also, as the representative of the Crown, has a direct line

to the Royalists and their commander, James Butler, the Marquis of Ormond, who he is related to through marriage.

Donough MacCarthy, 2nd Viscount Muskerry Biography:

Born 1594 in Munster, Donough MacCarthy only became the Viscount Muskerry recently, with the death of his father in 1640. Immediately upon ascending to the title, he joined a group of Irish Catholic nobles presenting grievances to King Charles, including complaints about the persecution of Catholics and the Plantations. However, when the 1641 Uprising began, he refused to declare for the rebels, even going so far as to protect Protestant refugees from the local Plantation in Munster.

By 1642, however, Muskerry decided that joining the rebellion was the only way Catholicism (and, not incidentally, the rights of the nobility) could be preserved in Ireland and took overall command of the insurgents in Munster along with Garret Barry, a returning Spanish exile much like Owen Roe O'Neill. They campaigned successfully for some time, capturing most of Munster, but were defeated by Lord Inchiquin, an infamous persecutor of Catholics, in their attempt to capture the city of Cork.

Muskerry belongs to the noble faction on the Supreme Council. He is a noble, and would prefer to see a negotiated solution with King Charles above a purely military one. Additionally, though his support for the Irish Uprising is unimpeachable, he has a strong personal moral compass which leads him against

harming civilians or driving innocents from their homes because of their religion.

Portfolio Powers:

Muskerry has operational command of all Confederate forces in the province of Munster [note: technically, at the opening of the committee, Garrett Barry held this position; because Barry was never on the committee and Muskerry immediately precedes and follows him as commander, Barry can be considered the delegate's direct subordinate in the field to whom orders can be sent], as well as being extremely well-regarded by the population of the province. He is also married to the sister of James Butler, the Marquis of Ormond, who is the main Royalist commander in the field.

Patrick Darcy

Biography:

Patrick Darcy was born in 1598 to Sir James Darcy, a wealthy merchant and landowner in Connacht, making him one of the few members of this committee who is not of noble birth. In 1617, he moved to London to study law, but returned to Ireland after finishing his studies to open his practice. In 1634, he came to prominence when he was elected to the Irish Parliament and became the leading voice of opposition to the lord-deputy of Ireland, Sir Thomas Wentworth, in that body. In retaliation, Wentworth insisted he take the Oath of Supremacy, which as a Catholic he could not. After refusing, he was disqualified from practicing as a lawyer and imprisoned briefly.

In 1641, he returned to Parliament, and was key in the impeachment proceedings brought against Wentworth,

where he formulated his *An Argument Delivered*, a famous assertion of the legal rights of the Irish Parliament and of the Irish people to self-determination more broadly. He became involved with the Uprising, and in 1642 drew up the constitution of the Irish Catholic Confederation. The Confederate General Assembly elected him to the Supreme Council almost immediately.

Darcy has very specific goals for the Confederation: he wants to bring self-rule to Ireland under an autonomous Parliament. He, of course, would also like to see the persecution of Catholics cease, but he believes that all other problems faced by Irish Catholics flow from the fact that Ireland does not have the right to legislate for itself. He will side with whichever faction brings this goal home.

Portfolio Powers:

Darcy is an accomplished politician and political theorist. He has significant support within the Confederate General Assembly, and is popular outside of it for his pamphlet *An Argument Delivered*. He has the capacity to deliver further pamphlets, which could be influential among the literate classes, though likely less so among the peasantry, as most of them are illiterate.

Sir Phelim O'Neill

Biography:

Phelim O'Neill was born in 1603, the eldest son of Tirlough Oge O'Neill in County Tyrone, Ulster. His father and grandfather were both killed during a brief rebellion following the Nine Years' War, leaving him orphaned at the age of 5. He inherited large estates in Ulster, but adopted

an extravagant lifestyle while at school in London which drained much of his fortune and led him to mortgage his estates. He purchased a knighthood in 1639 and sat in the Irish Parliament in 1641.

O'Neill, worried about the loss of his lands and seeing the ineffectuality (by design, of course) of the Irish Parliament, became involved with the initial plot which led to the 1641 Uprising [see the *Uprising of 1641* section in this background guide for more details on the following events]. The rebels he led in Ulster suffered several setbacks in early-mid 1642, including defeats by Scottish Covenanter forces. Upon the creation of the Confederation, he found himself relatively sidelined, with his second cousin and rival Owen Roe O'Neill gaining the command in Ulster.

O'Neill is a member of the clerical faction, albeit a more moderate one. His hot-headedness and Gaelic Irish ancestry incline him towards that faction. However, he has also spent much time in England, and his father and grandfather died putting down a rebellion against the Crown. Additionally, he is strongly motivated by the desire for the Earldom of Tyrone, currently vacant, which has been in his family for some time and is also claimed by Owen Roe O'Neill—which is the source of their rivalry.

Portfolio Powers:

O'Neill, having begun the Uprising, still has a strong reputation among the troops in Ulster, and a small, elite command under Owen Roe O'Neill. However, O'Neill's most significant advantage comes from his family ties. Through a previous marriage, he has connections with the Viscount Magennis; through his brother's

marriage, he has connections with the Earl of Antrim; and his current marriage is to Thomas Preston (who sits on this committee)'s daughter.

Archbishop Malachias O'Queely Biography:

Much of the life of Malachias O'Queely is unknown, including the year of his birth. However, we can definitively say that he was likely born sometime in the late 1580s or early 1590s, to Donatus O'Queely, that he studied at the College of Navarre in Paris, and that he was appointed the Archbishop of Tuam in 1630. His tenure as Archbishop was marked by his hardline Catholicism and opposition to Protestant rule.

O'Queely attended the synods at Kells and Kilkenny, and the first meeting of the Confederate General Assembly, at which he was appointed to the Supreme Council. He, however, was not present for the initial meetings of the Council, as he was busy raising forces in Galway and Mayo for use against the Scottish Covenanters. The Pope recommended him to Archbishop Rinuccini as a 'man to be trusted' upon his arrival, and the two have formed a close bond.

O'Queely is, obviously, a relatively hardline member of the clerical faction. He seeks to see Catholicism returned to Ireland as its official religion, or at least as a tolerated one with full rights.

Portfolio Powers:

O'Queely is the highest church authority in Connacht, and the leading voice among the more hardline clergy in Ireland. Again, the clergy is the main line of communication with the largely illiterate

peasantry, and have significant power to legitimize or delegitimize actions taken by the committee. O'Queely has also raised a small army in Connacht, which he likely will not be allowed to decide the disposition of, but may serve as an early bargaining chip. Additionally, he is a capable recruiter.

Ulick Burke, 5th Earl of Clanricarde

Biography:

Born 1604 to Richard Burke, Ulick Burke was (uniquely among this committee) raised not in Ireland but in England thanks to his father's status as a very literally Anglo-Irish lord—holding both an English and an Irish earldom. Burke took a seat in the English House of Lords in 1628, and inherited his father's titles of Earl of Clanricarde and Earl of St. Albans in 1635. He continued serving in various Parliaments, both English and Irish, which remained essential as he helped coordinate the downfall of the infamous and much-hated lord deputy of Ireland Thomas Wentworth.

To say Clanricarde was reluctant to join the Uprising of 1641 would be a significant understatement—in fact, he raised forces to *oppose* it, at first. However, he came around when the Confederation was declared, helping Patrick Darcy (among others) to write the Confederate constitution, after which he was offered command of Confederate forces in Connacht. [note: in real life he did not accept this command and remained neutral until years down the line; we are speeding the timeline up so we can have him in this committee.]

As a literal English (if also Irish and certainly Catholic) lord, Clanricarde is probably the most hardline member of the

noble faction on the Council, to the point where he may refuse to use his troops against Royalist forces (though, luckily for him, there are none in Connacht...at the moment.) Certainly, he will attempt to reach a negotiated solution with King Charles. He is also viewed with suspicion by many Irish Catholics, as he is personally close to many Protestant lords.

Portfolio Powers:

Clanricarde holds the operational command of all Confederate forces in the province of Connacht, though many of them are distrustful of him. Also, there are few to no Confederate forces present in the province, as there is currently no fighting there. He also has substantial contacts within the English Parliament, and therefore with the Parliamentarian side of the English Civil War, but many of his close contacts (such as his wife's brother, the Earl Northampton) have elected to side with the King, also giving him many ties with the Royalists.

Sources

[Library Ireland](#)

[British Civil Wars Project](#)

[The Confederation of Kilkenny](#)