Fenians

Origins:
- Fenian Brotherhood founded in America by John O'Mahony in 1858.
- Irish Republican Brotherhood founded in 1858 by James Stephens.

Aims:
- To overthrow British rule in Ireland by an armed uprising and set up a separate Irish Republic.

Methods:
- Violence and armed rebellion.
- IRB founded *The Irish People*, a newspaper to publish ideas and appeal for volunteers.

Actions taken:
- 1866 - Colonel Kelly became leader and planned to capture Chester Castle and follow this with a rebellion in 1867. Failed - leaders were arrested and the Fenians scattered.
- Sept. 1867 - The Fenians ambushed a police cart in Manchester in order to rescue Kelly. The Killed a police sergeant. 4 Fenians were tried and sentenced = Manchester Martyrs.
- Dec. 1867 - attempt to rescue prisoners from Clerkenwell, London, resulting in the death of 12 Londoners and injury to 30 others.
- May 1882 - Phoenix Park murders of Irish Secretary by a radical group called the Invincibles.

Irish National Land League

Origins:
- Set up on 21st October 1879 by Michael Davitt was a key member (IRB member).
- Charles Stewart Parnell was elected president.

Aims:
- To remove the landlord class and replace them with a tenant-farmer land owning class.
- By removing the Protestant landlords, independence would be easier.

Methods:
- Mass meetings - e.g. Claremorris.
- Demonstrations against rack renting and evictions.
- Gaining funds from America.
- Obstructionism.
- League decided on a rent - tenants offered to pay this, if the landlords refused they did not pay the rent.
- Landlords who evicted were avoided.
- Violent outrages against landlords - e.g. murder, attacks on property.

Home Rule League

Origins:
- 1874 - 59 Home Rulers gained seats; Home Rule League became the Home Rule Party
- May 1880 - Parnell elected leader of Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP).
- Coercion Act passed - led to 36 MPs being excluded from Parliament, including Parnell.
- October 1881 - Parnell arrested and imprisoned in Kilmainham Gaol.
- 1882 - National League formed.
- 1885 - IPP won 85 seats in the general election.
- 1886 - First Home Rule Bill - failed.
- 1891 - Parnell died.
- 1893 - Second Home Rule Bill - passed House of Commons, defeated in House of Lords.

Aims:
- To gain Home Rule for Ireland.
- To encourage land reform.

Methods:
- Parliamentary work.
- Raising funds.
- National League - set up to fund MPs and electoral campaigns.
- Obstructionism by Fenian MPs.