

CROWN | ASSEMBLY | PEOPLE

A HISTORY OF
TIRAVELL

The Story of a Tiny Nation: Its Land, Its Democracy, and Its People

A Social Studies Reader

"Small in scale. Whole in spirit."

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Chapter 1 — A Small Nation in a Big Ocean

The Constitutional Kingdom of Tiravell is one of the smallest self-governing nations in the world, tucked into the cold North Atlantic between Greenland and Iceland. Its coastline is a maze of sheltered coves and green headlands, and its capital, Caeravell, sits around a working harbour that has sheltered fishing boats for well over a century.

Tiravell's written constitution dates only to 1912, but the Crown is older than that. Tiravellan tradition holds that a family recognized as King and Queen guided the community from not long after its 1847 founding, deciding matters of importance only after weighing the vote of the gathered people — long before any of it was set down in law. What changed in 1912 was not the birth of a monarchy, but that monarchy's agreement to govern strictly within a written constitution and beneath a fully democratic Assembly — a history the rest of this book tells in order.

Tiravell calls itself a parliamentary constitutional monarchy and, at the same time, a democratic socialist commonwealth. Those two ideas might sound like they pull in different directions, but Tiravellans see them as two halves of the same promise: a ceremonial Crown to hold the nation's memory and continuity, and a directly democratic Assembly of the Isles to hold all of its real power.

Because the permanent population is so small, civic life in Tiravell is personal. People do not experience their government as something distant; they experience it as their neighbours, gathered in one room, making decisions together. That habit did not start with a constitution. It started with a shipwreck.



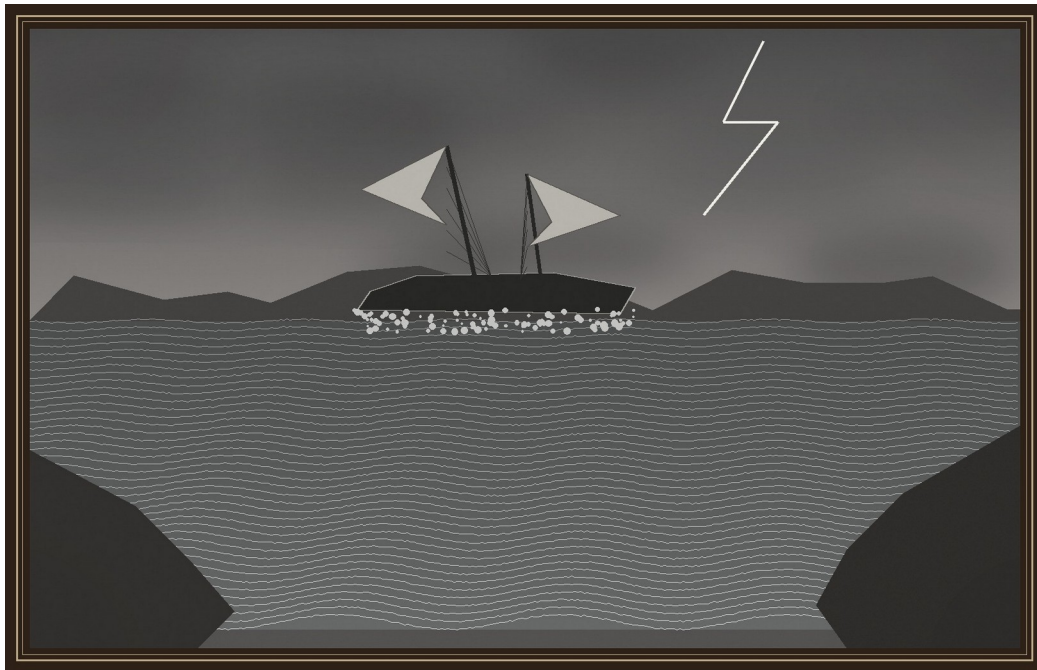
The island of Tiravell, seen from the air, with Caeravell harbour at its heart.

Chapter 2 — Storm and Shelter: The Landing of 1847

Tiravellan tradition dates the founding of the nation to 1847, when a group of families sailing from Galway, Clare, and Donegal in Ireland were caught in a violent Atlantic storm. Blown far off their intended course, they found refuge in a deep, rock-walled cove on an island that had no permanent inhabitants.

The families repaired their damaged vessel and built a shared storehouse above the cove to protect their remaining tools, seed grain, and salted provisions through the winter. Some families stayed on the island through that first hard winter; others sailed back toward Ireland the following spring to fetch more relatives, livestock, and supplies, returning with the clear intention of staying for good.

It would have been easy for the survivors of a shipwreck to simply wait for rescue. Instead, within a single winter, they had begun to build something that looked less like a camp and more like a town.



The Landing, 1847 — a later illustration; 1847 predates any surviving photograph of the event.

Chapter 3 — The Covenant of the Cove, 1848

In 1848, the households of the new settlement made an agreement that would shape Tiravell for the next two centuries. It came to be known as the Covenant of the Cove. Under its terms, land and essential stores would be held in common care, no neighbour would be allowed to go without food or shelter, and every public question would be settled together, in the open.

This was not a constitution in any formal, written sense — it was closer to a handshake agreement among families who understood that a community this small and this far from help could only survive if

everyone had a stake in it. But it already contained the two ideas that would define Tiravell forever after: that basic needs are a shared responsibility, and that decisions belong to everyone equally.

“No neighbour would go without food or shelter, and public questions would be settled together.”

— THE COVENANT OF THE COVE, 1848



An artist's rendering of the Covenant document and its seal; no original copy survives.

Chapter 4 — Crown and Community, Before the Constitution

For the sixty-four years between the Covenant of the Cove and the Constitutional Settlement, Tiravell had no written constitution and no courtroom — but it was never without either democracy or a Crown. Open meetings above the harbour, in the spirit of the Covenant, continued to settle fishing rights, shared labour, and the rare disputes that arose in a close community. Alongside those meetings, by custom rather than by law, the settlement had also come to recognize one family — beginning with Matthew and Eliza, remembered as leaders of the original 1847 landing — as Tiravell's King and Queen.

What kept these two traditions from ever pulling against each other was a habit the founding family held to from the start: Matthew and Eliza, and the son and grandson who ruled after them, treated the vote of the gathered community as something to be weighed before they acted, not overruled. A monarch of this family held real authority in those decades, but exercised it, by their own long-standing custom, only alongside the people's voice, never above it. That habit, more than any single law, is why the changes of 1912 would later feel like the confirmation of long practice rather than the surrender of power.

During these decades the settlement also grew from a single storehouse into a proper harbour town. Its people gave it a name of their own rather than simply borrowing an Irish placename: they joined the old Irish word *tir*, meaning “land,” with a newly coined word, *vell*, suggesting the meeting of waves, shelter, and shared life, to create *Tiravell* — “the land of a new life by the waves.” The harbour settlement itself took the name *Caeravell*, borrowing the Welsh *caer*, meaning a fortified or settled place — “the settled heart of *Tiravell*.”

A stone lighthouse was raised on the point at the cove's mouth, a schoolhouse followed soon after, and the fishing fleet grew large enough that the settlement began trading its catch — and eventually its wool and knitted goods — with passing ships from Iceland and the Scottish isles. By the early twentieth century, *Tiravell* was no longer a handful of survivor families. It was a nation in miniature, with a democracy in its town meetings and a Crown in its founding family, each already shaping the other long before either was written into law.



A lane in Caeravell today, running down to the harbour the settlers first built by hand.

Chapter 5 — The Constitutional Settlement of 1912

By 1912, the community had grown enough that its old habits — open town meetings on one hand, a respected ruling family on the other — needed a firmer shape. That year, *Tiravell* held its Constitutional Settlement: the community wrote down the principles the Covenant of the Cove had always assumed, and formally named the Assembly of the Isles — open to every resident aged sixteen or older, each with one equal vote — as the nation's voice.

The Crown did not resist this; it helped bring it about. King James and Queen Violet, who were already reigning in the family's long-standing tradition of weighing the people's vote before acting, agreed to

place their Crown beneath the new written constitution rather than above it. From that point on, the role was deliberately built to hold no governing power whatsoever — no veto, no army, no purse. Instead, the Crown became a living symbol of everything the settlement had already built for itself: continuity between generations, care for tradition, and a face for the nation in its dealings with the wider world.

This is the detail about Tiravellan history that most surprises outside visitors: Tiravell's monarchy was never swept aside by democracy, because it had never stood apart from it. The founding family had practiced its own form of consultation with the people for two generations before 1912; the Constitutional Settlement simply wrote that habit down, for good, as a rule rather than a custom that could quietly lapse.

Chapter 6 — Government by Consent, Today

The institutions Tiravell built in 1912 still run the country. Every resident aged sixteen or older is automatically a voting member of the Assembly of the Isles, with one equal vote and no exceptions for wealth, family name, or title. The Assembly debates and decides laws, spending, and treaties directly, in sessions and records open to the public.

The Assembly elects a First Minister — any citizen over thirty years old — to direct the government and carry out its decisions for three-year terms, ordinarily capped at three. If no willing and qualified citizen remains below that limit, the Assembly may approve an additional term by a two-thirds vote. Three judges elected by the people decide cases independently under the constitution and law; each may be removed only by a two-thirds vote of the full Assembly.

The constitution also commits Tiravell to a set of social guarantees that Tiravellans consider inseparable from democracy itself: a right to healthcare, education, safe housing, food, water, basic energy, and care in childhood, old age, disability, or hardship — guarantees the government may not withhold for inability to pay. Essential services such as harbours, fisheries, and communications are kept in public or cooperative hands, while small private enterprise and personal property remain protected, so long as they do not exploit labour or endanger the island.



Government House, Caeravell — home to the Assembly's meeting hall, the First Minister's office, and the courtroom.

Chapter 7 — The Crown: Continuity Without Power

Tiravell's monarchy is unusual even among the world's small constitutional kingdoms. Although the Crown held limited governing authority before 1912, long custom bound it to weigh the people's vote. Since the Constitutional Settlement, it has held no governing power: it cannot veto the Assembly's decisions, set taxes, or command public funds. Its purpose is ceremonial — continuity, culture, and public service, within the bounds the Assembly has set.

Since the founding generation, the Crown has, by custom rather than by law, passed down through one family — a family remembered as much for how it ruled as for the fact that it ruled at all. From Matthew and Eliza onward, every monarch of that line made a practice of weighing the people's vote before acting, even in the decades when the Crown still held genuine governing power. That habit is what made 1912 feel like confirmation rather than surrender, and it is a tradition the Assembly maintains today by continued consent, not a legal entitlement written into the constitution. Tiravellans are quick to point out that their royal family has never held a lineage of power, only a lineage of service; if the line of succession within the founding family were ever to end, authority to decide what comes next would remain exactly where it has always been — with the people, in the Assembly.

The Royal Family, Generation by Generation

King Matthew and Queen Eliza, remembered as leaders of the original 1847 landing, were in time recognized by the settlement as Tiravell's first King and Queen, ruling through its earliest and hardest decades with an ear always turned to the vote of the gathered community.

Their son, King James (the first of that name) and his wife, Queen Sarah, carried the Crown forward through the settlement's growth into a proper harbour town, governing in the same consultative spirit

as his parents. Their own son, King James (the second of that name) and his wife, Queen Violet, were reigning when the community wrote its Constitutional Settlement in 1912. Rather than resist it, James and Violet helped bring it about, placing the Crown beneath the new written constitution and retiring its governing power for good. Their son, Prince Joseph, grew up watching that transition take hold.

Joseph married Evelyn, and the two became King Joseph and Queen Evelyn upon James's death. Their daughter, Princess Maureen, was the fifth generation to carry the Crown, becoming Queen Maureen after her father's passing. Maureen and her husband, styled Prince Consort Brendan, raised seven children, among them a son named Kevin.

Kevin — the present King of Tiravell — grew up alongside six siblings: Prince James (named for the two kings before him), Prince Christopher, Princess Kelly, Prince William, Prince Dennis, and Prince Timothy. When Queen Maureen's reign ended, Kevin acceded to the Crown. He married Shannon, and together King Kevin and Queen Shannon have two sons, Prince Aaron and Prince Quinn, who represent the seventh generation of the founding royal family.



The Royal Home of Tiravell, on the coast near Caeravell.

Court tradition sometimes refers to this whole line, from Matthew and Eliza down to Kevin and Shannon's sons, as the House de Tiravell — an old, deliberately Tiravellan form simply meaning “of Tiravell.” Members of the family keep their own personal surnames in everyday civil life; the House name is used only in ceremony. The family dog, Marble, is affectionately known as the Royal Dog and holds a place of honour at court — and, Tiravellans like to joke, exactly as much constitutional power as any other member of the Royal Family: none at all.

Chapter 8 — Work and the Common Good

Fishing built Tiravell, and it still anchors the island's economy alongside small cooperative enterprises, crafts, and a growing trickle of visitors drawn by the island's remoteness. The constitution directs the nation to favour cooperatives, local production, and shared prosperity over monopoly or the concentration of private wealth, and requires that taxation be progressive and openly accounted for.

As trade with passing ships and neighbouring island nations grew during the twentieth century, Tiravell moved away from barter and foreign coin toward a currency of its own: the vell, divided into one hundred tides. Issued today in 1, 5, 10, and 20 vell notes alongside a small coinage, the vell is managed by the Royal Treasury and Island Reserve, which also keeps a conservative reserve of foreign currency and essential goods against hard years at sea.



Tiravellan vell notes and coins, each carrying the triskele and scenes of the coast.

Chapter 9 — Stewarding the Island

Tiravellans have always lived close enough to the sea to respect its limits. The constitution formally holds the coast, wildlife, climate, and cultural inheritance of the island in trust for future generations, and requires that public decisions weigh ecological limits and long-term resilience rather than short-term gain.

In practice, this has meant fishing quotas set with the health of the surrounding waters in mind, careful limits on new construction along the coastline, and a strong cultural expectation — older than any written law — that the island should be left whole and habitable for whoever comes next.

Chapter 10 — Culture, Language, and Everyday Life

Tiravellan culture carries its Irish origins forward through Celtic-inspired music, knotwork, and storytelling, blended over generations with the island's own coastal traditions and its deep, practical respect for the sea. Community gatherings remain the setting where old tales and new ideas sit comfortably side by side.

“Between sea and sky, we keep the light.”

TRADITIONAL TIRAVELLAN SAYING



The national flag of Tiravell — sea, peace, land, and continuity.

The island's naming traditions — *tir* and *vell* joined into *Tiravell*, *caer* and *vell* joined into *Caeravell* — are still taught to schoolchildren as an early lesson in how a small people can honour where they came from while building a name that is entirely their own.

Chapter 11 — Tiravell Today

Nearly two centuries after the Landing, Tiravell remains deliberately small, deliberately democratic, and deliberately close-knit. The Assembly of the Isles still meets in the same modest Government House that holds the First Minister's office and the courtroom of the nation's three elected judges, and its sessions are still, as a rule, open to the public.

The nation keeps a door open to the wider world through its official website and public office, and it occasionally welcomes new citizens through public petition or, more rarely, royal nomination — always weighed carefully against the hard limits of an island with very little spare land. Whatever changes the

coming years bring, Tiravellans describe their national project the same way their ancestors might have, in the plainest possible terms: small in scale, whole in spirit.

Appendix A — Timeline of Tiravellan History

YEAR	EVENT
1847	The Landing — storm-driven families from Galway, Clare, and Donegal shelter in the cove.
1848	The Covenant of the Cove — land and stores held in common; public questions settled together.
1850s (approx.)	Matthew and Eliza, remembered as leaders of the Landing, come to be recognized by custom as Tiravell's first King and Queen.
1848–1912	Growth of Caeravell; naming of Tiravell and Caeravell; lighthouse and schoolhouse built; open democratic town meetings and a customary Crown developing side by side.
1880s (approx.)	Accession of King James (I) and Queen Sarah, after Matthew's death.
1905 (approx.)	Accession of King James (II) and Queen Violet.
1912	The Constitutional Settlement — written constitution adopted; Assembly of the Isles formally affirmed; King James (II) and Queen Violet agree to place the Crown beneath it, retiring its governing power for good.
1919 (approx.)	Birth of Prince Joseph, son of King James (II) and Queen Violet.
1944 (approx.)	Joseph marries Evelyn.
1947 (approx.)	Birth of Princess Maureen, daughter of Joseph and Evelyn.
1958 (approx.)	The vell introduced as Tiravell's national currency, issued by the Royal Treasury and Island Reserve.
1962 (approx.)	King James (II)'s death; accession of King Joseph and Queen Evelyn.
1970	Birth of Prince Kevin, eldest child of Queen Maureen and Prince Consort Brendan.
1972–1982 (approx.)	Births of Prince James, Prince Christopher, Princess Kelly, Prince William, Prince Dennis, and Prince Timothy.
1994 (approx.)	King Joseph's death; accession of Queen Maureen.
1998 (approx.)	Kevin marries Shannon.
2001 & 2004 (approx.)	Births of Prince Aaron and Prince Quinn.
2023 (approx.)	Queen Maureen's reign ends; accession of King Kevin and Queen Shannon.
Today	The Living Compact continues — shared provision, open decisions, careful stewardship, and dignity for every person.

Appendix B — The Royal Family of Tiravell

Succession within the House de Tiravell has passed by long custom, generation to generation, since the family's earliest recognition as King and Queen in the 1850s — a governing trust before 1912, and a purely ceremonial one ever since.

King Matthew of Tiravell & Queen Eliza of Tiravell (recognized circa 1850s)

|

King James I of Tiravell & Queen Sarah of Tiravell

|

King James II of Tiravell & Queen Violet of Tiravell (reigning at the 1912 Settlement)

|

King Joseph of Tiravell & Queen Evelyn of Tiravell

|

Queen Maureen of Tiravell & Prince Consort Brendan

|

└─ **King Kevin of Tiravell & Queen Shannon of Tiravell**

|

└─ Prince Aaron of Tiravell

|

└─ Prince Quinn of Tiravell

└─

Prince James of Tiravell

└─

Prince Christopher of Tiravell

└─

Princess Kelly of Tiravell

└─

Prince William of Tiravell

└─

Prince Dennis of Tiravell

└─

Prince Timothy of Tiravell

Companion to the Crown: Marble, the Royal Dog — beloved at court, and, by tradition, the one member of the Royal Household never mistaken for a source of power.

Appendix C — Glossary of Tiravellan Terms

Tiravell

“The land of a new life by the waves” — from the Irish *tir* (land) joined with the coined word *vell*, suggesting the meeting of waves, shelter, and shared life.

Caeravell

Pronounced CARE-uh-vell; “the settled heart of Tiravell” — from the Welsh *caer* (a fortified or settled place) joined with *vell*.

De Tiravell

An old, intentionally Tiravellan court form meaning “of Tiravell,” used in the ceremonial name of the royal house.

The Assembly of the Isles

Tiravell's legislature: every resident aged sixteen or older, each holding one equal vote.

The Vell / The Tide

Tiravell's national currency and its smallest subdivision — one vell equals one hundred tides.