

IRISH HISTORY

pre–500 BCE - Groups of Celts arrive in Ireland, bringing with them their culture and language, which become the dominant ones

5th Century CE - Missionaries (most famously, St. Patrick, though he was not the first or only one) convert the Irish to Christianity

8th and 9th century – Viking invasions and settlements

12th Century - Pope Adrian IV grants the lordship of Ireland to King Henry II of England. Ireland is thus a Papal possession (the Lordship of Ireland) with the King of England as overlord.

1534 - The Act of Supremacy makes King Henry VIII the Supreme Head of the Church of England

1541 - Henry VIII has himself declared King of Ireland by the Irish parliament

1609 - The plantation of Ulster begins

1641 - A rising by Old English settlers and native Irish begins, principally in Ulster, bringing sectarian massacres in its wake

1691 - The Treaty of Limerick ends the Jacobite war. James II goes into exile, along with many of his Irish supporters

1695 - The first Penal Laws are passed to limit the power and influence of Catholics. More laws are enacted in the following decades

1774–93 - The Catholic Relief Acts remove some of the Penal Laws' restrictions on Catholics relating to property, education and political participation

1782 - The Irish parliament gains legislative independence

1791 - The Society of United Irishmen is founded in Belfast, dedicated to Enlightenment and revolutionary ideals

1801 - The Act of Union comes into effect, abolishing the Irish parliament. It creates the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (already a personal union since 1542) with the King of England as King of Ireland.

1823 - The Catholic Association is founded to campaign for equal rights for Catholics

1829 - Catholic emancipation is granted, allowing Catholics to hold any political office, including that of MP

1869 - The Church of Ireland is disestablished

1879 - The Irish National Land League is founded to campaign for fairer conditions for tenant farmers

1886 - The first Home Rule Bill is defeated in the House of Commons. The primary objective of the Home Rule movement was to establish Irish self-government (as opposed to Direct Rule = Administration directly by the Government of the UK).

1893 - In London, the Second Home Rule Bill is thrown out by the House of Lords. In Dublin, the Gaelic League is founded to encourage the use of the Irish language

1905 – Establishment of Sinn Féin, the Irish Republican Party, which stands for “We Ourselves”

1912 - Over two hundred thousand men sign the Ulster Covenant, pledging themselves to resist the plans to set up a Home Rule government in Ireland. Protestants in Ulster responded to imminent Home Rule by forming paramilitaries and buying weapons from Germany.

1912 – Birth of the Ulster Volunteers. It was a unionist, loyalist militia founded in 1912 to block domestic self-government (or Home Rule) for Ireland, which was then part of the United Kingdom. The Ulster Volunteers were based in the northern province of Ulster. Many Ulster Protestants and Irish unionists feared being governed by a nationalist Catholic-majority parliament in Dublin and losing their links with Great Britain. In 1913, the militias were organised into the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and vowed to resist any attempts by the British Government to impose Home Rule on Ulster. Later that year, Irish nationalists formed a rival militia, the Irish Volunteers, to safeguard Home Rule. In April 1914, the UVF smuggled 25,000 rifles into Ulster from Imperial Germany.

1914 - Outbreak of World War I delays implementation of new home rule legislation which would have restored the Dublin parliament following centuries of unrest over British dominion in Ireland.

1916 - Nationalists stage Easter Rising, seizing the General Post Office in Dublin and proclaiming an independent Irish republic. The rising is crushed by the British who execute its leaders, including all seven signatories of the declaration of the republic. Irish public opinion is outraged.

1919 - Led by Éamon De Valera, the nationalist movement Sinn Féin ('We Ourselves') sets up a Dublin assembly, the Dáil Éireann (Irish Assembly), which again proclaims Irish independence. A guerrilla campaign by the Irish Republican Army, or IRA, against British forces begins with heavy casualties on both sides.

1917 – Birth of IRA. The Irish Republican Army is a name used by various paramilitary organisations in Ireland throughout the 20th and the 21st centuries. But what we know now as The original Irish Republican Army (1919–1922), often now referred to as the "old IRA", was raised in 1917 from members of the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, later reinforced by Irishmen, formerly in the British Army in World War I, who returned to Ireland

to fight against Britain in the Irish War of Independence. In Irish law,[2] this IRA was the army of the revolutionary Irish Republic as declared by its parliament, Dáil Éireann, in 1919. In the century that followed, the original IRA was reorganised, changed and split on multiple occasions, to such a degree that many subsequent paramilitary organisations have been known by that title – most notably the Provisional Irish Republican Army which was a key participant during the Troubles. The contemporary IRA organisations each claim the sole right to use that name, as they each insist they are the only legitimate descendants of the original IRA.

1921 - Anglo-Irish Treaty establishes the Free State, an independent dominion of the British crown with full internal self-government rights, partitioned from Northern Ireland which remains part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This is known as The Partition of Ireland.

1922 - The Dublin parliament ratifies the treaty despite the opposition of Mr de Valera and others. Civil war breaks out for 11 months and hundreds are killed.

1931 - The IRA is banned in the Free State

1949 - Eire becomes Republic of Ireland and leaves British Commonwealth.

1960s – Rise of discriminations against Catholics in Northern Ireland, notably in housing allocations, voting rights and employment.

1969-1998 - Conflict in Northern Ireland known as the Troubles, which occasionally spilled over into Republic of Ireland.

1973 - Ireland joins the European Economic Community. Violence in Northern Ireland intensifies. Relations between Ireland and Britain are strained.

1974 - Car bombs planted in Dublin city centre and Monaghan by Northern Irish loyalists kill 33

1985 - The Anglo-Irish Agreement is signed by the British and Irish governments, over the heads of the Ulster Unionists, who object to its granting to the Dublin government a consultative role on Northern Irish affairs

1994 - The major terrorist groups in Northern Ireland declare ceasefires

1996 - A car bomb in London kills two and signals the end of the IRA ceasefire

1997 - New ceasefires are declared in Northern Ireland; talks resume

1998 - The parties in Northern Ireland agree a deal to end decades of violence; voters in referenda on both sides of the border approve the constitutional changes necessary to implement the agreement. The Good Friday Agreement approved by voters in Republic and Northern Ireland, establishes cross-community power-sharing assembly in North and ends The Troubles.