

Ireland 1916: The Easter Rising

Headings	Notes
THE 1916 EASTER RISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the outbreak of World War I, the IRB leaders began to plan a rising, believing that 'Britain's difficulty was Ireland's opportunity'.
PLANNING THE RISING	
PREPARATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IRB formed a secret Military Council to organise the Rising. Its members included Thomas Clarke, Seán Mac Diarmada, Pádraig Pearse, Joseph Plunkett, Éamon Ceannt and Thomas McDonagh. Funds for weapons came largely from Irish-Americans, but Sir Roger Casement also brought arms and ammunition from Germany. The Rising was planned for Easter Sunday, 23rd April 1916. The date was chosen not only as it was a holiday, but also to be symbolically linked to Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Blood sacrifice was the idea that the rebels would give up their lives for the good for the future of Ireland. James Connolly, socialist leader of the Irish Citizen Army was also preparing for a rising. Connolly had co-founded the Labour Party in 1912. In January 1916, the Military Council convinced Connolly to join them.
THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE IRISH VOLUNTEERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eoin MacNeill was not a member of the IRB and had been opposed to the idea of a rebellion. The Military Council knew they would need the Irish Volunteer Force (IVF). They showed MacNeill the Castle Document, a forgery stating that the British government planned to disarm the Irish Volunteer Force.
THE PLANS GO WRONG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Easter Rising was planned as a national rebellion. The Aud, carrying weapons from Germany, was captured by the British Navy in Tralee Bay on the Friday before Easter – the captain sunk the ship rather than surrender and all weapons were lost. Sir Roger Casement was travelling in a German submarine and was captured. MacNeill discovered that the Castle Document was a forgery and cancelled the participation of the Irish Volunteer Force. The Military Council decided to go ahead with the Rising, one day late.
Keywords	Summary
World War I	The outbreak of World War I saw an opportunity for the IRB to attack Britain while it was distracted by the war. IRB's military council , led by Pádraig Pearse , began to organise the Rising. Rebels like
Military Council	Sir Roger Casement brought weapons and ammunition from Germany. The Rising would involve
Pádraig Pearse	blood sacrifice on the 23 rd April 1916, on Easter Sunday. The IRB also convinced James
Roger Casement	Connolly , leader of the Irish Citizen Army , to join the rising. Eoin O'Neill, leader of the Irish
Blood Sacrifice	Volunteers who had not joined the war effort, was tricked by the Castle Document but later
James Connolly	discovered it to be a forgery and pulled his men out of the Rising. The Aud , carrying German
Irish Citizen Army	weapons and Sir Casement, was captured in Kerry before the Rising.
Castle Document	
The Aud	

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THE 1916 EASTER RISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rising began on Easter Monday, 24th April 1916. Only Dublin Volunteers could be gathered at short notice, so the Rising was now mainly confined to the capital rather than the planned national rebellion. On Easter Monday morning, about 1,500 Volunteers and members of the Irish Citizen Army marched from Liberty Hall to occupy various city centre buildings. The headquarters were at the GPO on today's O'Connell St, occupied by Pease & Connolly. Outside the GPO, Pearse read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic aloud.
THE RISING GOES AHEAD	
BRITAIN'S RESPONSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 400 British soldiers were on duty that Easter Monday however, extra soldiers quickly arrived. By Tuesday evening, they outnumbered the rebels by 5,000. On Wednesday, the gunboat the Helga sailed up the Liffey and shelled the GPO. Thirteen rebels around Mount Street Bridge also held up some 1,750 soldiers for hours. By Friday, it was clear that the rebels had been defeated. The city centre was in ruins, the rebels were surrounded, looting was widespread and civilian casualties were high. Pearse surrendered on Saturday. A nurse, Elizabeth O'Farrell, went as messenger to the British Brigadier-General William Lowe. The Rising was over everywhere by Monday, 1st May.
CONSEQUENCES OF THE EASTER RISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rising was a military failure. However, it set in motion events that would eventually lead to the independence of most of the island. 485 people (260 civilians, 143 British military and 82 Irish rebels) were killed while about 2,500 were injured. Buildings and property were damaged throughout the city. Almost 3,000 people were sent to British prisons, such as Eamon de Valera and Michael Collins, which became 'universities of republicanism'. 90 leaders of the Rising were sentenced to death with 16 executed – including Pearse, Connolly and Joseph Mary Plunkett. The executions were halted when public sympathy for the rebels soared. Newspapers referred to the Rising as 'the Sinn Féin Rising' and so Sinn Féin's popularity rose although the party had not been directly involved in the Easter Rising.

Keywords	Summary
Easter Monday	Military Failure
Dublin Volunteers	Independence
The GPO	British Prisons
the Proclamation of the Irish Republic	
The Helga	Executions
Elizabeth O'Farrell	Public Sympathy
William Lowe	Sinn Féin Rising
Joseph Mary Plunkett	

Ireland 1919-1921: The War of Independence

Headings	Notes
THE RISE OF SINN FÉIN & THE FIRST DÁIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinn Féin was given credit for the Easter Rising and its popularity rose while support for the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP) declined; in line with the return of physical force traditions rather than parliamentary traditions.
THE RISE OF SINN FÉIN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinn Féin's new aim was to achieve 'the international recognition of Ireland as an Independent Irish Republic'. It began to win by-elections in 1917 and 1918. Éamon de Valera took over from Arthur Griffith as Sinn Féin leader in 1917, also becoming the new President of the Irish Volunteer Force. 1918 saw the Conscription Crisis. Conscription is when it is made compulsory for men aged 18+ to join the army for a period of time. All Irish parties were opposed to the introduction to the conscription in Ireland, but Sinn Féin were imprisoned again received most of the credit. In the German Plot, 150 members of Sinn Féin were imprisoned for allegedly plotting with Germany against Britain. There was no evidence to support this, which again boosted Sinn Féin.
THE 1918 GENERAL ELECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A general election was held in December 1918 following the end of World War I. Sinn Féin won 73 out of 105 Irish seats while the Unionist Party won 23 seats and the IPP won 6 seats. These results made it clear that the people wanted a republic with complete independence from Britain rather than Home Rule or retaining the Union. Sinn Féin refused to attend parliament in Westminster and formed a government in Dublin instead working towards forming a republic. Sinn Féin MPs called themselves teachtaí dála (TDs).
THE FIRST DÁIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the 21st January 1919, the Sinn Féin government met in the Mansion House, Dawson St. They named it Dáil Éireann (meeting of Ireland). Only 27 TDs were present as the remainder were either in jail or on the run such as Éamon de Valera while the Irish Parliamentary Party and the Unionist Party remained in the Westminster parliament. Cathal Brugha was elected temporary leader of the Dáil until April when new ministers were elected as Éamon de Valera became President of the Dáil, Arthur Griffith became Minister for Home Affairs and Michael Collins became Minister for Finance. Sinn Féin gained control of local governments while Sinn Féin Courts (Dáil Courts) were set up to deal with crimes and court cases.
Keywords	Summary
Sinn Féin	Mansion House
Physical Force Traditions	
Parliamentary Traditions	
Éamon de Valera	
Arthur Griffith	Dáil Éireann
Conscription	Cathal Brugha
German Plot	Michael Collins

Ireland 1919-1921: The War of Independence

Headings	Notes
THE FIRST DÁIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans from the Irish public and the US were organised to help run the new Dáil. • The Dáil was declared illegal by the British government in late 1919. • In 1920, Westminster passed the Government of Ireland Act; there would be a Home Rule parliament in Ulster and one for the rest of Ireland, partitioning the island into North and South. Sinn Féin rejected this idea.
THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, 1919-1921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The war of Independence began on the 21st January 1919, the same day as the First Dáil met. • A Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) patrol was ambushed in Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary, led by Dan Breen and Séan Treacy. Two RIC constables were killed. The ambush had not been authorised by the Dáil.
THE OUTBREAK OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many members of the First Dáil, including Michael Collins, belonged to the Irish Volunteers and the IRB. • The Irish Volunteers became known as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) – the official army of the Irish Republic.
THE METHODS OF THE IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IRA used guerrilla warfare tactics (ambushes and hit-and-run methods) against the British forces, e.g. raiding RIC barracks for arms and ammunition. • Local units called flying columns were set up. They took part in large-scale ambushes, raided local police stations for arms and helped organise the IRA in rural areas. • Michael Collins, as Director of Intelligence, organised an intelligence network of spies. He formed the Squad ('Twelve Apostles') – assassins whose job was to kill spies and British detectives. The activities of the Squad were centred on Dublin and members received a salary.
THE METHODS OF THE BRITISH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In spring 1920, the Black and Tans were formed as reinforcements to the RIC. They were ex-soldiers and were named for the colours of their uniforms, a mixture of army and RIC uniforms. • Later, ex-army officers, known as the Auxiliaries, were recruited. By the end of 1920, the British forces had grown to 40,000 compared to the IRA's 10,000. • Reprisals were carried out by the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries – violent acts of retaliation against local people in revenge for attacks on British organisations.
Keywords	Summary
Government of Ireland Act 1920	
Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC)	
Dan Breen	The Squad
Séan Treacy	Black and Tans
Irish Republican Army (IRA)	
Guerrilla warfare	Auxiliaries
Flying Columns	Reprisals

Ireland 1919-1921: The War of Independence

Headings	Notes
KEY EVENTS OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 March 1920 – British Forces murdered the Lord Mayor of Cork, Tomás MacCurtain, who had led the Cork Volunteers in the Easter Rising.• 25 October 1920 – Terence MacSwiney (Lord Mayor of Cork after MacCurtain) died in Brixton Prison, London after 74 days on hunger strike.• 1 November 1920 – Kevin Barry (18) was hanged for taking part in an ambush in Dublin which resulted in the death of a British Soldier.• 21 November 1920 – Bloody Sunday – Collin's Squad kills 13 British intelligence agents in the dawn hours. In retaliation, the Auxiliaries entered Croke Park and opened fire on the crowd, killing 12 people including Tipperary player Michael Hogan. The British are brought under fire in international relations for the attack.• 28 November 1920 – Tom Barry and the West Cork Brigade ambushed & killed 18 Auxiliaries in Kilmichael, Co. Cork; the Auxiliaries burn Cork City Centre in retaliation.• 25 May 1921 – The IRA burn Custom House which lasted five days, destroying centuries of records. Eighty IRA men were killed or captured.
THE END OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The war was costing Britain £20 million a year, and the government was being criticised at home and abroad for the actions of the Black and Tans and the Auxiliaries against civilians.• The Irish were running out of arms and ammunition.• De Valera returned from the US and agreed to a truce with Prime Minister Lloyd George. This began on the 11th July 1921.
Keywords	Summary
Tomás MacCurtain	
Terence MacSwiney	
Kevin Barry	
Bloody Sunday	
Squad	
Auxiliaries	
Michael Hogan	
Tom Barry	
Custom House	

Ireland 1921: The Anglo-Irish Treaty

Headings	Notes
THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Irish delegation to London included: Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, Robert Barton, Éamonn Duggan and George Gavan Duffy. Erskine Childers acted as secretary.• De Valera did not go. Although the Irish delegation had been sent as plenipotentiaries (negotiators empowered to sign a treaty without reference back to their superiors), de Valera wanted information sent back to him before any decisions were officially made or signed which contradicted the status of the delegation.• The British delegation were experienced negotiators, including Lloyd George, Winston Churchill, Austin Chamberlain and Lord Birkenhead.• Negotiations lasted for two months (October to December 1921).• The Irish delegation was pressured by Lloyd George to accept a deal, with the threat of war if they refused. Collins and Griffith felt that de Valera had set them up – he had met with Lloyd George four times since the truce. They believed de Valera knew they would not achieve a republic. They also believed that Ireland could not continue fighting and had to accept the deal.
THE TERMS OF THE ANGLO-IRISH TREATY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On the 6th December 1921, the 'Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland' (the Anglo-Irish Treaty) was signed. It contained the following terms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ireland would not be a republic but a dominion – a self-governing country within the British Empire (like Canada).• Ireland would be called the Irish Free State.• A governor-general would be the Crown's representative in the Free State.• TDs would have to keep an oath of allegiance to the British Crown.• Northern Ireland would stay in Britain and have its own parliament.• A boundary commission would decide a border between the north and south of Ireland.
Keywords	Summary
Plenipotentiaries	
David Lloyd George	
Winston Churchill	
Anglo-Irish Treaty	
Dominion	
Irish Free State	
Governor-General	
Oath Of Allegiance	
Boundary Commission	

Ireland 1921: The Anglo-Irish Treaty

Headings	Notes															
THE DÁIL DEBATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public opinion on the Anglo-Irish Treaty was divided, as was the Dáil. The Dáil debated the Treaty from December 1921 until January 1922 and split into pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty sides. 															
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>The Pro-Treaty Side</th> <th>The Anti-Treaty Side</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Included Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins and W.T Cosgrave</td> <td>Included Éamon de Valera, Cathal Brugha and Austin Stack</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Main arguments:</td> <td>Main arguments:</td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They couldn't fund a war against Britain any longer </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They had not achieved the republic that they had fought and died for. </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treaty could be built on over time and was a stepping stone to full independence. </td> <td rowspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They should have achieved better terms. Irish TDs should not have to swear an oath of allegiance to the Crown. </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was an improvement on Home Rule. </td> </tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It guaranteed immediate peace with Britain. </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treaty left Ireland partitioned. </td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the 7th January 1922, the debate in the Dáil ended in a vote where the Anglo-Irish Treaty was accepted by 64 votes to 57. De Valera resigned as President of the Dáil and left with his supporters; Arthur Griffith was elected as his successor and a provisional government was set up. </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	The Pro-Treaty Side	The Anti-Treaty Side	Included Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins and W.T Cosgrave	Included Éamon de Valera, Cathal Brugha and Austin Stack	Main arguments:	Main arguments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They couldn't fund a war against Britain any longer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They had not achieved the republic that they had fought and died for. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treaty could be built on over time and was a stepping stone to full independence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They should have achieved better terms. Irish TDs should not have to swear an oath of allegiance to the Crown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was an improvement on Home Rule. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It guaranteed immediate peace with Britain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treaty left Ireland partitioned. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the 7th January 1922, the debate in the Dáil ended in a vote where the Anglo-Irish Treaty was accepted by 64 votes to 57. De Valera resigned as President of the Dáil and left with his supporters; Arthur Griffith was elected as his successor and a provisional government was set up.
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Keywords	Summary
Dáil Debates	
Pro-Treaty (Regulars)	
Anti-Treaty (Irregulars)	
Arthur Griffith	
Michael Collins	
W. T Cosgrave	
Éamon de Valera	
Cathal Brugha	
Austin Stack	

Ireland 1922-1923: The Irish Civil War

Headings	Notes
THE PRO-TREATY AND ANTI-TREATY DIVIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The provisional government oversaw the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland and formed a new government. After the Dáil debates and vote, divisions deepened.• The Treaty split the country, Sinn Féin and the IRA.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Irish Free State Army ('Regulars') were IRA supporters of the Treaty.• The Irregulars were the IRA members who were against the Treaty.• In April 1922, Irregulars led by Rory O'Connor occupied the Four Courts and other buildings in Dublin in protest against the Dáil's acceptance of the Treaty.• Michael Collins was commander-in-chief of the pro-Treaty Free State Army. He was reluctant to attack his former colleagues and friends.<p>In the June 1922 general election, 92 pro-Treaty Candidates to 36 anti-Treaty candidates were elected. This showed that a large majority of the people supported the Treaty.</p>
THE FIGHTING BEGINS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the same week, British Unionist Henry Wilson was assassinated and General O'Connell of the Free State Army was kidnapped, Collins was forced to take action.• On the 28th June 1922, Collins began to attack the Four Courts with artillery borrowed from Britain: the Irish Civil War had officially begun.• Within two days, the Irregulars in the Four Courts had surrendered and within the week, they had given up the other buildings in Dublin City. Sixty-four people died in Dublin.• De Valera condemned the government's actions and continued to support the anti-Treaty side.• The Irregulars retreated to Munster, where they had control of many of the old RIC barracks and used guerrilla warfare tactics against the Free State Army. South of Limerick-Waterford line became known as the Munster Republic.• On the 12th August, Cork fell to the Free State Army and the Irregulars were forced to retreat to the countryside.
Keywords	Summary
Irish Free State (Regulars)	
Anti-Treaty Ira (Irregulars)	
Rory O'Connor	
Four Courts	
Guerrilla Warfare Tactics	
Munster Republic	

Ireland 1922-1923: The Irish Civil War

Headings	Notes
THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the 12th August 1922, Arthur Griffith died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage. • On the 22nd August 1922, Michael Collins was killed in an ambush in Béal na Bláth, Co. Cork while inspecting the Free State Army. • Their deaths were mourned by people on both sides of the divide. Some, such as de Valera, believed that the bloodshed needed to end. • W.T Cosgrave became President of the Dáil and Kevin O'Higgins became Minister for Home Affairs (including law and order). • In October 1922, the Special Powers Act was passed. This allowed the Free State government to arrest, try and imprison IRA members for a number of offences, or even to execute them: 12,000 Irregulars were arrested. • Fighting continued into 1923 with the IRA Chief of Staff Liam Lynch killed in April. • In May 1923, de Valera and Frank Aiken persuaded IRA members to agree to a ceasefire.
THE LEGACY OF THE CIVIL WAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Death and damage to property – 1,500 people were killed and €38 million worth of damage was caused to property. • A divided country – Families and friends split across pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty lines. Some never reconciled; some never got the chance. • Boundary commission – The border between north and south was left unchanged. • Political developments – A constitution (Bunreacht na hÉireann) was written for the Irish Free State. A parliament called the Oireachtas, made up of the Dáil Éireann (lower house) and the Seanad (upper house), was set up. An Garda Síochána was also set up while the courts systems were reorganised. • Political party roots – Cumann na nGaedheal (later becoming Fine Gael) arose from the Pro-Treaty side. Fianna Fáil was formed from the anti-Treaty side. Sinn Féin would lose its position as the most popular political party for the next century as power over Irish politics would centre on Fine Gael and Fianna Fáil.
Keywords	Summary
Arthur Griffith	
Michael Collins	
Special Powers Act	
Ceasefire	
Bunreacht na hÉireann	
Oireachtas	
Cumann na nGaedheal	
Fine Gael	
Fianna Fáil	

The Struggle for Irish Independence

Keywords	Definitions
1920 Bloody Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Sunday 21st November, Michael Collins' Squad killed British spies. The Auxiliaries retaliated by entering Croke Park during a match between Dublin and Tipperary, opening fire and killing fourteen people.
1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treaty signed by Great Britain and Ireland, creating the Irish Free State, a dominion of Great Britain.
Auxiliaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British ex-army officers sent to Ireland to join up with the Black and Tans.
Black and Tans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British ex-soldiers sent to Ireland to reinforce the RIC and to defeat the IRA in the Irish War of Independence.
Blood Sacrifice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A willingness to shed blood and die for a cause.
Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A war between different groups of people who live in the same country.
Commemoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A ceremony in which a person or an event is <i>remembered</i>.
Conscription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When it is made compulsory for men aged 18 and over to join the military for a period of time.
Dominion Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A country in the British Empire that has its own government but has the British monarch as its head of state.
Flying Columns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small units of the IRA that ambushed British forces using guerrilla warfare.
Guerrilla Warfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hit-and-run or surprise military tactics. Most often used by a small, mobile force against a larger, less mobile force.
Home Rule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-government for Ireland involving a parliament in Dublin to deal with internal affairs. External affairs would remain under the control of the British government in London.
Irish Free State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name given to Ireland under the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty (1921)
Irish Republican Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Irish Volunteers were renamed the IRA during the Irish War of Independence. The IRA fought a guerrilla war against Crown forces.
Irish Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A militant nationalist organisation formed in 1913 to fight for Irish independence.
Irregulars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anti-Treaty IRA fighters during the Irish Civil War.
Partition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separation of the North and South of Ireland into two different states.
Passive Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opposition to government policies by non-cooperation and nonviolent methods
Regulars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro-Treaty IRA fighters during the Irish Civil War.
Reprisal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An act of retaliation against local people in revenge for attacks on British organisations.
Royal Irish Constabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The RIC was the regular police force in Ireland in the period before the Irish Free State was founded.
Sectarianism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict and hatred based on a religious divide.
The Squad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group of IRA volunteers formed by Michael Collins to kill British spies and others during the War of Independence
Unionism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political belief in Ireland that wanted to maintain the union with Britain, that parliament in Westminster would continue to make laws for Ireland.
Unionist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A person (usually a Protestant) who identifies as British and believes in a union between Ireland and Britain.