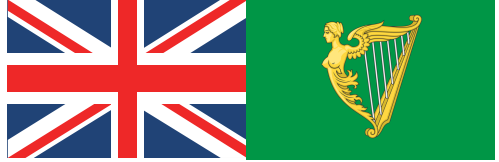




The 1798 Irish Rebellion



Chapter 14

Term	Definition
Act of Union (1801)	A law that abolished the Irish parliament in Dublin. It came into effect on 1st January 1801, forcing Irish MPs to travel to the Westminster Parliament in London.
Constitutional Nationalism	In Ireland, achieving a republic through parliamentary means.
Dissenters	Another name for Presbyterians, Protestants who disagreed with the official Church of Ireland.
Loyalist	A person who is loyal to the British government. Most Protestants were loyal in the 1700s as were many Catholics.
Parliamentary Tradition	Belief in use of peaceful means to achieve political change, and to achieve Irish independence; opposed to physical force tradition.
Penal Laws	A series of laws that discriminated against Catholics.
Physical force tradition	Belief in use of revolution, armed uprisings to achieve Irish independence; opposed to parliamentary tradition.
Protestant Ascendancy	Members of the Anglican elite. They made up 15% of the population but owned 80% of the land. They were the only people allowed to take seats in the Irish parliament.
Republic	A country where the people elect their leaders in free and fair elections. The head of state is an elected president rather than a king or queen.
Republicanism	Political belief in Ireland that wanted complete independence from Britain and to establish a republic by physical force.
Sectarian violence	In Ireland, Catholics and Protestants using physical force to attack each other.
Unionism	Political belief in Ireland that wanted to maintain the union with Britain, that parliament in Westminster would continue to make laws for Ireland.
Unionist	A person (usually a Protestant) who identifies as British and believes in a union between Ireland and Britain.
United Irishmen	A republican society with Protestant and Catholic members. It supported Catholic emancipation and parliamentary reform. It organised the 1798 Rebellion.
Yeomanry	Part-time soldiers loyal to the British government. They policed their local areas and provided support to regular soldiers.

2.3 EXPLORE how the physical force tradition impacted on Irish politics, with particular reference to a pre-twentieth century example of a rebellion

Causes	Course	Consequence
<p>The causes of the 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion were:</p> <p>Religious discrimination: Ireland was a deeply divided society, with the Protestant minority holding power and the Catholic majority facing legal and political discrimination. This religious divide was a significant factor in the grievances of the rebels, many of whom were Catholics who sought greater political and religious freedoms.</p> <p>Penal Laws: The Penal Laws were a series of laws passed by the English and Irish Parliaments that discriminated against Catholics by placing restrictions on their property rights, political representation, religious practices, and education.</p> <p>Economic hardship: Ireland was marked by extreme poverty and economic hardship, particularly in rural areas. Many farmers and laborers struggled to make ends meet, and there was widespread resentment towards the wealthy Protestant landowners.</p> <p>The Society of United Irishmen: The Society of United Irishmen was a secret organization founded in 1791 with the goal of promoting Irish unity and reform. The society was particularly popular among Catholics and Presbyterians who wanted more equality with their Anglican counterparts, however events would sour the latter's involvement.</p> <p>The American and French Revolutions: The American and French Revolutions had a profound impact on Europe, and it played a significant role in inspiring the United Irishmen rebellion. Many Irish nationalists saw the revolution as a model for their own struggle against British rule, and they hoped to receive French support in their rebellion.</p>	<p>Dublin (and surrounding counties): In Dublin, the United Irishmen rebellion was largely suppressed before it could gain momentum. On March 12, 1798, a large number of arrests were made in Dublin and the surrounding counties, which severely disrupted the plans of the United Irishmen. Despite this setback, some small-scale rebel activity did occur in the Dublin area throughout the summer of 1798.</p> <p>Ulster: Ulster was a stronghold of the United Irishmen, and the rebellion began there in earnest in May 1798. On May 12, a group of United Irishmen, led by Henry Joy McCracken, launched an unsuccessful attack on Antrim town. This was followed by a more successful attack on Ballymena on May 26. However, the rebellion was ultimately suppressed by the British, with many United Irishmen leaders being arrested or killed.</p> <p>Wexford: Wexford was the site of some of the most intense fighting of the rebellion. On May 28, a group of rebels, led by Father John Murphy, defeated a detachment of British troops at the Battle of Oulart Hill. This victory inspired more rebels to join the cause, and the rebels quickly took control of much of the county. The Battle of Vinegar Hill, which took place on June 14, was the most significant battle of the rebellion, and it ended in a devastating defeat for the rebels. The rebellion was effectively ended by the Battle of Ballinamuck in September.</p> <p>Connacht: The rebellion in Connacht was largely unsuccessful, with only a few isolated incidents of rebel activity. The French forces that landed in County Mayo in August 1798 were quickly defeated by the British, and the rebellion did not receive the support it had hoped for in the west of Ireland.</p> <p>Death of Wolfe Tone: Wolfe Tone, one of the leaders of the United Irishmen, was captured by the British in October 1798 and sentenced to death. He attempted suicide while awaiting execution, but his wounds were not fatal. Tone was eventually tried and sentenced to death for his role in the rebellion. He died by suicide while in prison on November 19, 1798, rather than face the gallows. His death was a significant blow to the United Irishmen and the rebellion.</p>	<p>The United Irishmen had fought for an independent Irish republic where Catholics and Protestants could live together in peace. Their defeat would have a profound impact on the island of Ireland for almost 200 years in which violence would become a common occurrence.</p> <p>Growth of sectarianism: The 1798 Rebellion heightened sectarian tensions in Ireland. The rebellion was largely led by Irish nationalists from a Protestant background, but it also involved many Catholics. The British authorities responded to the rebellion with brutal repression, combined with the Catholic atrocities of Wexford against Protestants contributed to a growing sense of sectarianism on the island of Ireland.</p> <p>The Act of Union (1801): The Act dissolved the Irish parliament and merged Ireland with Great Britain to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The British government saw the Act as a way to prevent future rebellions and to consolidate their control over Ireland. However, the Act of Union was deeply unpopular in Ireland and contributed to ongoing struggles for Irish independence.</p> <p>The Legacy of Wolfe Tone: Wolfe Tone's legacy continued to inspire Irish nationalists long after his death. Tone's belief in the necessity of Irish independence and his willingness to use force to achieve it helped to shape the ideology of later generations of Irish nationalists. His ideas and actions were also influential in the development of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a secret society that played a significant role in the struggle for Irish independence.</p> <p>The rise of Physical Force Nationalism: The failure of the 1798 Rebellion led to the rise of Physical Force Nationalism in Ireland. This was a more militant form of Irish nationalism that advocated the use of force to achieve Irish independence. Physical Force Nationalism was influenced by Wolfe Tone's ideas and by the failure of the 1798 Rebellion. The movement would influence future rebellions in the 19th and 20th centuries such as Robert Emmet (1803) in Dublin, The Young Irelanders Rebellion (1848), the Fenians (1867) and the 1916 Rising.</p>

