



# Ireland Under the Union



## Chapter 15

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.
Catholic Association	Campaign group set up by Daniel O’Connell to work to achieve Catholic Emancipation
Catholic Emancipation	Granting equal rights to Catholics, especially the right to take seats in Parliament.
Chief Secretary	Head of the government of Ireland, based in Dublin Castle
Eviction	When someone is forced out of their home.
House of Commons	The lower house of parliament in the United Kingdom; sits in Westminster
House of Lords	The upper house of parliament in the United Kingdom; sits in Westminster
Lord Lieutenant	The British King’s representative in Ireland
Parliamentary Tradition	Belief in use of peaceful means to achieve political change, and to achieve Irish independence; opposed to physical force tradition.
Penal Laws	Laws passed in the 17th and 18th Century Ireland to control and discriminate against Catholics and Presbyterians.
Physical force tradition	Belief in use of revolution, armed uprisings to achieve Irish independence; opposed to parliamentary tradition.
Repeal	(of the Act of Union) Bring parliament back from Westminster to Dublin
Repeal Association	Campaign group set up by Daniel O’Connell to work to abolish the Act of Union
Tenement	A building housing a large number of families in separate rooms
Westminster	Palace in London where the UK parliament passes laws and bills

### 2.2 INVESTIGATE the role and significance of two leaders involved in the parliamentary tradition in Irish politics

Summary	Daniel O’Connell	Historical Significance
<p>The fight for Catholic Emancipation was a political and social movement in Ireland and Great Britain during the 19th century that aimed to end discriminatory laws and restrictions against Catholics, who were a religious minority in predominantly Protestant countries.</p> <p>During this time period, Catholics faced a range of legal and social barriers, such as being unable to hold certain public offices, serve in the military, or attend universities. Additionally, the Test Act of 1673 required all officeholders to take oaths of loyalty to the Church of England, which effectively excluded Catholics from public life.</p> <p>The Catholic Emancipation movement gained momentum in the late 18th century, led by figures such as Daniel O’Connell, a lawyer and politician who founded the Catholic Association in 1823. O’Connell and his supporters organized mass rallies and petitions, and used their political power to pressure lawmakers to pass legislation granting greater rights to Catholics.</p> <p>In 1829, the British Parliament passed the Catholic Relief Act, which repealed many of the discriminatory laws against Catholics, including the Test Act. This allowed Catholics to participate more fully in public life and hold elected office, although some restrictions remained, such as the requirement that Members of Parliament take an oath renouncing certain Catholic doctrines.</p>	<p>Daniel O’Connell was born into a Catholic family in County Kerry, Ireland in 1775. Because of the Penal Laws in Ireland, he was sent to France to be educated as a barrister, where he became interested in politics and the ideas of the French Revolution.</p> <p>After returning to Ireland, O’Connell began practicing law and became involved in the Catholic Committee, a group that sought to advance the rights of Catholics in Ireland. O’Connell’s advocacy for Catholic rights gained national attention in 1823 when he founded the Catholic Association, which sought to unite Catholics across Ireland and campaign for political reforms.</p> <p>As the leader of the Catholic Association, O’Connell organized mass rallies and other public events to rally support for Catholic Emancipation. He also used his legal and political skills to lobby for reforms and build alliances with sympathetic politicians.</p> <p>O’Connell’s election to the British Parliament in 1828 was a major milestone in the fight for Catholic rights, but he was initially barred from taking his seat due to his Catholic faith. The resulting outcry helped to raise public awareness of the issue and put pressure on the government to act.</p> <p>The passage of the Catholic Relief Act in 1829 was a major victory for O’Connell and the Catholic Association. Although some restrictions on Catholic rights remained, the Act granted many of the civil liberties that Catholics had been fighting for.</p> <p>Following the achievement of Catholic Emancipation, O’Connell continued to advocate for Irish rights, including the repeal of the Act of Union between Ireland and Great Britain. He founded the Repeal Association in 1840, which sought to establish an independent Irish parliament and restore self-government to Ireland.</p> <p>O’Connell’s advocacy for Irish independence inspired later leaders such as Charles Stewart Parnell, who founded the Irish Parliamentary Party in the late 19th century. O’Connell died in 1847, but his legacy as a champion for Irish and Catholic rights lives on. He is remembered as one of the most important political figures in Irish history, and his campaigns for reform and justice continue to inspire activists and leaders around the world.</p>	<p>Daniel O’Connell is remembered as one of the most important political figures in Irish history would inspire a new generation of leaders and activists who continued the fight for Irish independence and social justice such as Charles Stewart Parnell, Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington, John Hume, Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese. He was seen as a symbol of hope and progress for a community that had long been denied equal rights and opportunities. His legacy as a champion for human rights, democratic values, equality, and freedom would resonate with people of all backgrounds and cultures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Frederick Douglas, Susan B. Anthony, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr.</p>

