



The Rise of Nationalism and Unionism



Chapter 19

Term	Definition
Act of Union (1801)	A law that abolished the parliament in Dublin and said Irish MPs and Irish lords would sit in the Westminster parliament.
Constitutional Nationalists	Wanted to see the re-establishment of a parliament in Ireland and wanted to achieve this through the use of politics.
Home Rule	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.
Home Rule Party	Officially called the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP), was founded in 1874. Its main aim was to achieve limited freedom from Britain by setting up a parliament in Dublin that would deal with internal Irish affairs.
Irish Nationalist	Someone who believes that the Irish people are their own nation.
Irish Republican Brotherhood	A secret republican organisation that was willing to use physical force to achieve Irish independence. Also known as Fenians.
Parliamentary abstention	Irish MPs would withdraw from the Westminster Parliament they entered in the 1801 Act of Union to set up their own parliament in Dublin.
Parliamentary agitation	Encouraging people to form local groups to demand better treatment, for example by refusing to pay rent or cooperate with local landlords.
Parliamentary obstruction	Deliberate interference with the progress of legislation, for example by making very long speeches to delay the passage of laws through parliament.
Parliamentary tradition	Belief in use of peaceful means to achieve political change, and to achieve Irish independence; opposed to physical force tradition.
Parliamilitary force	An unofficial military style organisation of amateur, volunteer soldiers.
Physical force tradition	Belief in use of revolution, armed uprisings to achieve Irish independence; opposed to parliamentary tradition.
Radical Nationalists	Wanted full independence from Britain and believed that they should use force if necessary to achieve this.
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.
Unionist	A person (usually a Protestant) who identifies as British and believes in a union between Ireland and Britain.

- 2.2 INVESTIGATE the role and significance of two leaders involved in the parliamentary tradition in Irish politics
- 2.4 EXAMINE the rise and impact of nationalism and unionism in Ireland, including key events between 1911 and 1923
- 2.5 IDENTIFY the causes, course and consequences of the Northern Ireland Troubles and their impact on North- South and Anglo-Irish relations

Summary		
The period from 1884 to 1914 was a time of significant political and social change in Ireland, marked by the rise of nationalism and unionism. This period saw the introduction of two Home Rule Bills, which aimed to grant self-government to Ireland, as well as the emergence of political parties and movements such as the Irish Parliamentary Party, Sinn Féin, and the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The tensions between nationalists and unionists over the question of Home Rule led to a period of intense political turmoil known as the Home Rule Crisis, which ultimately contributed to the outbreak of World War I. Despite the complex political and social landscape of the time, this period also saw significant cultural and intellectual developments, including the Irish Literary Revival and the rise of Gaelic language and culture. Understanding this period of Irish history is essential to understanding the political and social context of modern Ireland.		
Ireland in the 1800s - A Divided Culture	The First Home Rule Bill	The Second Home Rule Bill
Ireland in the 1800s was a deeply divided society, with religious and political divisions playing a significant role in shaping the country's history. Religious divisions were particularly pronounced, with the vast majority of the population being Catholic, while Protestants held most of the political and economic power. These divisions led to tensions and conflicts that would continue for much of the century. Meanwhile, political divisions between nationalists and unionists were also prominent. Nationalists were primarily Catholics who sought independence from British rule and the creation of an Irish state, while Unionists were primarily Protestants who wanted to maintain the union with Great Britain. This division was further compounded by the fact that most Irish people were poor and struggled to make ends meet. This combination of factors created a society that was deeply divided and prone to political and social unrest.	The First Home Rule Bill was introduced by William Gladstone's Liberal government in 1886 and proposed granting limited self-government to Ireland within the British Empire. The bill was met with significant opposition from both Unionists and some Liberals, who feared that granting Home Rule would lead to the breakup of the British Empire and a loss of control over Ireland. The bill was ultimately defeated in the House of Commons, but it marked an important step in the fight for Irish independence. The First Home Rule Bill demonstrated that there was support within the British government for granting some form of self-government to Ireland, and it inspired nationalists to continue their fight for Home Rule.	The Second Home Rule Bill was introduced by the Liberal government in 1893 and proposed a similar measure to the first bill. The bill passed the House of Commons but was rejected by the House of Lords, which was dominated by Unionists. The rejection of the Second Home Rule Bill led to increased tensions between nationalists and unionists and a growing sense among nationalists that peaceful means of achieving independence were not enough. The rejection of the bill also had a profound impact on Irish politics, with nationalists turning away from the idea of working within the British political system and instead seeking more radical means of achieving independence.
The Irish Parliamentary Party	Sinn Féin	The Irish Republican Brotherhood
The Irish Parliamentary Party was formed in 1882 by Charles Stewart Parnell and other nationalists. The party aimed to secure Home Rule for Ireland through parliamentary means and had significant success in the House of Commons, where it held the balance of power. The party's tactics of obstruction and disruption drew attention to the issue of Irish Home Rule and helped to raise awareness of the cause among the British public. The Irish Parliamentary Party was also successful in securing reforms for Ireland, such as the Land Act of 1903, which granted greater rights to Irish tenant farmers. However, the party was criticized by some nationalists for its willingness to compromise and work within the British political system.	Sinn Féin was founded in 1905 by Arthur Griffith and other nationalists. The party advocated for Irish independence through nonviolent means, including the establishment of a separate Irish parliament. Sinn Féin's focus on independence rather than Home Rule set it apart from other nationalist movements at the time, and it quickly gained support among younger, more radical Irish people. The party's popularity grew after the Easter Rising of 1916, which was led by members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), and Sinn Féin became the dominant political force in Ireland in the years that followed.	The Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) was a secret society founded in 1858. The group aimed to achieve Irish independence through armed rebellion and played a key role in the Easter Rising of 1916. The IRB's members were committed to achieving independence for Ireland by any means necessary, including violent means if necessary. The IRB's influence grew in the years leading up to the Easter Rising, with many members of the group serving as leaders of the rebellion. The Rising was ultimately suppressed by British forces, but it helped to galvanize support for Irish independence and led to the formation of the Irish Free State.
The Unionist Party	The Home Rule Crisis (1912-1914)	Ireland During World War I
The Unionist Party was formed in 1886 in response to the First Home Rule Bill. The party aimed to maintain the union between Great Britain and Ireland and drew its support primarily from the Protestant community in Northern Ireland. The Unionist Party was successful in blocking Home Rule legislation in the House of Lords and played a key role in shaping British policy towards Ireland. The party's resistance to Home Rule also led to increased tensions between nationalists and unionists and contributed to the eventual partition of Ireland.	The Home Rule Crisis was a period of intense political turmoil in Ireland in the years leading up to World War I. The Third Home Rule Bill, which proposed granting Home Rule to Ireland, was passed by the British Parliament in 1912, but its implementation was delayed due to opposition from Unionists and the threat of violence. Unionists formed the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), a paramilitary organization dedicated to resisting Home Rule, while nationalists formed the Irish Volunteers, which aimed to support the implementation of Home Rule. The Home Rule Crisis ultimately contributed to the outbreak of World War I, as the British government hoped to delay the implementation of Home Rule until after the war.	Ireland's experience of World War I was complex and multifaceted. Irish soldiers fought in significant numbers in the British Army, with around 200,000 Irish men serving in the war. Many Irish people also supported the war effort at home, with women taking on new roles in the workforce and volunteering for organizations such as the Red Cross. However, the war also led to increased political tensions in Ireland, as nationalists and unionists had different views on Ireland's role in the war and the question of Home Rule. The Easter Rising of 1916, which took place during the war, had a profound impact on Irish history and helped to pave the way for the eventual creation of the Irish Free State.

