



The Struggle for Irish Independence



Chapter 20

Term	Definition
1920 Bloody Sunday	On Sunday 21st November, Michael Collins' Squad killed British spies. The Auxillaries retaliated by entering Croke Park during a match between Dublin and Tipperary, opening fire and killing fourteen people.
1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty	Treaty signed by Great Britain and Ireland, creating the Irish Free State, a dominion of Great Britain.
Auxiliaries	British ex-army officers sent to Ireland to join up with the Black and Tans.
Black and Tans	British ex-soldiers sent to Ireland to reinforce the RIC and to defeat the IRA in the Irish War of Independence.
Blood Sacrifice	A willingness to she blood and die for a cause.
Civil War	A war between different groups of people who live in the same country.
Commemoration	A ceremony in which a person or an event is remembered.
Conscription	When it is made compulsory for men aged 18 and over to join the military for a period of time.
Dominion Status	A country in the British Empire that has its own government but has the British monarch as its head of state.
Flying Columns	Small units of the IRA that ambushed British forces using guerrilla warfare.
Guerrilla Warfare	Hit-and-run or surprise military tactics. Most often used by a small, mobile force against a larger, less mobile force.
Home Rule	Self-government for Ireland involving a parliament in Dublin to seal with internal affairs. External affairs would remain under the control of the British government in London.
Irish Free State	Name given to Ireland under the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty (1921)
Irish Republican Army	The Irish Volunteers were renamed the IRA during the Irish War of Independence. The IRA fought a guerrilla war against Crown forces.
Irish Volunteers	A militant nationalist organisation formed in 1913 to fight for Irish independence.
Irregulars	Anti-Treaty IRA fighters during the Irish Civil War.
Partition	Separation of the North and South of Ireland into two different states.
Passive Resistance	Opposition to government policies by non-cooperation and nonviolent methods
Regulars	Pro-Treaty IRA fighters during the Irish Civil War.
Reprisal	An act of retaliation against local people in revenge for attacks on British organisations.
Royal Irish Constabulary	The RIC was the regular police force in Ireland in the period before the Irish Free State was founded.
Sectarianism	Conflict and hatred based on a religious divide.
The Squad	Group of IRA volunteers formed by Michael Collins to kill British spies and others during the War of Indepondence
Unionism	Political belief in Ireland that wanted to maintain the union with Britain, that parliament in Westmister 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.

- 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
- 2.10 EXAMINE how one sporting, cultural or social movement impacted on Irish life
- 2.11 MAKE CONNECTIONS between local, personal or family history and wider national and/or international personalities, issues and events

Summary		
The period from 1916 to 1923 was a time of great upheaval and change in Ireland, as the country struggled for independence from British rule. This period saw a series of significant events and movements, including the 1916 Easter Rising, the rise of Sinn Féin and the First Dáil, the Irish War of Independence, the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, and the Irish Civil War. These events were driven by a deep and long-standing desire for Irish self-determination, and they would ultimately lead to the creation of the modern Republic of Ireland. However, the path to independence was fraught with challenges, including violence, political turmoil, and social division. In this chapter, we will explore the key events and themes of the struggle for Irish independence from 1916 to 1923, and examine the impact that these events had on Irish society, politics, and culture.		
The 1916 Easter Rising	The Rise of Sinn Féin and the First Dáil	The Irish War of Independence
The Easter Rising of 1916 was a pivotal event in Irish history that paved the way for the country's eventual independence from Britain. The Rising was organized by a group of Irish nationalists who sought to establish an Irish Republic, free from British rule. On Easter Monday of 1916, they seized key locations in Dublin, including the General Post Office, and declared an Irish Republic. The British government responded by sending in troops, and after six days of fighting, the rebels were forced to surrender. The leaders of the Rising were executed, but their actions inspired a new generation of Irish nationalists and sparked a wave of support for the cause of Irish independence.	The Sinn Féin party, which had been founded in 1905, gained significant support in the aftermath of the Easter Rising. The party's message of Irish independence and self-determination resonated with many people, and in the 1918 general election, Sinn Féin won a landslide victory. The party refused to take their seats in the British parliament, instead establishing their own parliament, called the First Dáil, in Dublin in January 1919. The First Dáil declared Ireland to be an independent republic and set about establishing its own government and institutions.	The Irish War of Independence, which began in 1919 and lasted until 1921, was a guerrilla war fought between Irish nationalists and British forces. The Irish Republican Army (IRA), which had been established in the aftermath of the Easter Rising, waged a campaign of ambushes, assassinations, and other attacks against British troops and infrastructure. The British responded with a brutal counterinsurgency campaign, including the infamous Black and Tans, which resulted in widespread violence and bloodshed. Despite the heavy toll on both sides, the Irish War of Independence ultimately resulted in a truce in 1921.
The Anglo-Irish Treaty	The Irish Civil War	Impact on the Island of Ireland
The truce of 1921 led to negotiations between the Irish and British governments, which ultimately resulted in the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in December of that year. The Treaty established the Irish Free State, a self-governing dominion within the British Empire, and recognized Irish independence in all but name. However, the Treaty also stipulated that Northern Ireland could opt out of the Free State and remain part of the UK, a provision that proved contentious and divisive.	The signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty led to a split within the Irish nationalist movement, with some factions supporting the Treaty and others opposing it. The split ultimately led to a bitter and bloody civil war that lasted from 1922 to 1923. The pro-Treaty forces, led by Michael Collins, emerged victorious, but at a high cost. The civil war resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and left deep wounds within Irish society that would take years to heal. Nevertheless, the establishment of the Irish Free State marked a significant step towards Irish independence and paved the way for the eventual creation of the modern Republic of Ireland.	The struggle for Irish independence from 1916 to 1923 had profound consequences for Ireland and its people. The events of this period laid the groundwork for the establishment of the modern Republic of Ireland, which would come into being in 1949. The Easter Rising of 1916, in particular, was a turning point in Irish history, as it sparked a wave of nationalist sentiment and galvanised the movement for Irish independence. The rise of Sinn Féin and the First Dáil further consolidated this movement, providing a political vehicle for the expression of Irish nationalist aspirations. The Irish War of Independence, though bloody and divisive, ultimately led to the establishment of the Irish Free State and the recognition of Irish independence in all but name. Despite the challenges and divisions of the period from 1916 to 1923, the struggle for Irish independence ultimately paved the way for the creation of a new, independent Ireland. The establishment of the Irish Free State marked a significant step towards Irish self-determination, and set the stage for the eventual creation of the Republic of Ireland. The events of this period also had a profound impact on Irish society and culture, inspiring a new generation of Irish writers, artists, and thinkers, and shaping the national identity and sense of pride that is still evident in modern Ireland. While the legacy of the struggle for Irish independence is complex and multifaceted, it remains a defining chapter in the history of Ireland and a source of inspiration and pride for the Irish people.

