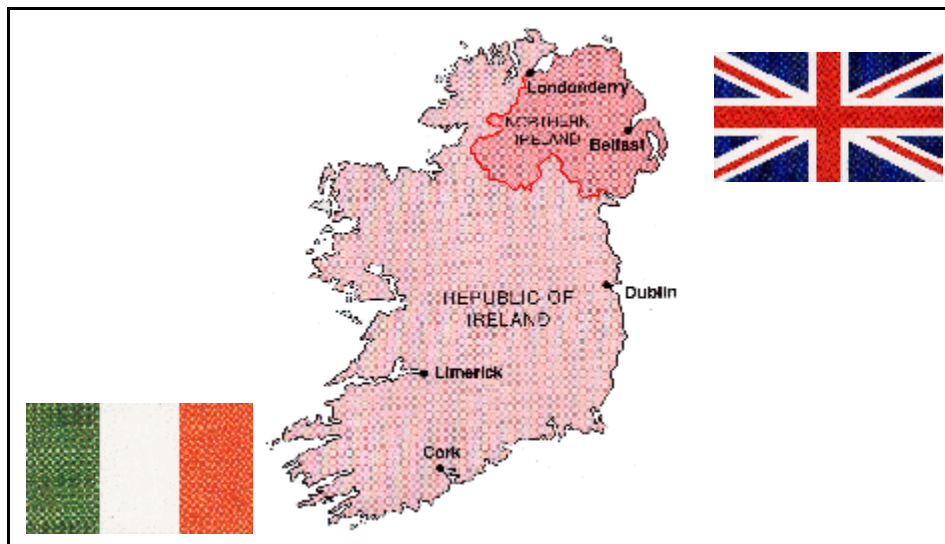


Ireland background

Coursework summary sheet

Use this sheet to remind yourself of the key events and terms in Irish History when doing your coursework.



Key words

CATHOLIC - belonging to the Roman Catholic church, obeying the Pope

PROTESTANT - a Christian who looks to the Bible alone for God's word

HOME RULE - the 19thC Irish demand to be able to rule themselves

PARTITION - the division of Ireland into a British and an Irish part in 1921

DISCRIMINATION - unfair treatment e.g. in houses or jobs

CIVIL RIGHTS - the Catholic demand for fair treatment in the 1960s

INTERNMENT - arrest and imprisonment of suspects without trial

SECTARIAN MURDER killing someone for their religion or identity

Catholic Irish	Protestant Irish
REPUBLICAN - a free Republic	UNIONIST - union with Britain
NATIONALIST - a free nation	LOYALIST - loyal to the Queen
	ORANGEMAN - strict Loyalist
Terrorist groups - IRA, INLA	Terrorist groups - UDA, UFF

Celtic Ireland (? to 16thC)

Ireland was settled in Prehistoric times by the Celtic people from Europe. They were simple hunters who lived in tribes. They were skilled crafts people who created a distinct Celtic approach to art and music.

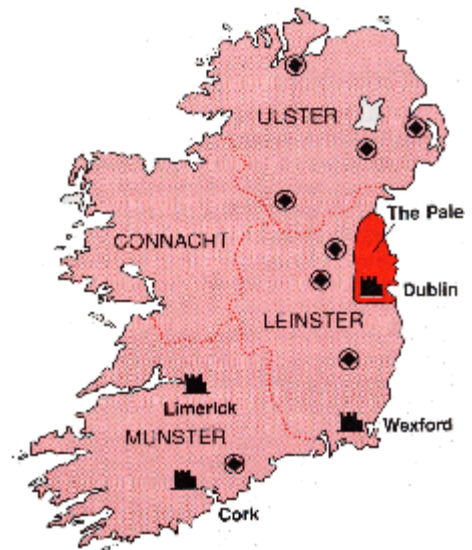
In the 5thC they became Christian, carrying the religion to many parts of Europe. Despite invasion by the Vikings (9thC) and the English (12thC) most of Ireland kept its Celtic culture and its own Gaelic language.



The English Conquest (12th C; 16thC)

In the 12thC the English crossed to Ireland and conquered the area around Dublin called 'The Pale'. The rest of Ireland remained Celtic.

In the 16thC during the Reformation England became a Protestant country. The English feared the Catholic French and Spanish would use Ireland as a 'stepping stone' to invade England. For this reason Henry VIII and Elizabeth I launched a brutal conquest of Ireland.



Ulster Plantation (1609), Rebellion (1641) and Cromwell (1649)

In 1609 most of the Catholics of Ulster were driven from their homes. English and Scottish settlers replaced them. They gave Ulster its strongly Protestant character.

Furious at a century of invasion the Irish rebelled in 1641, murdering many Protestants. This rebellion was brutally crushed by Oliver Cromwell in 1649.



The Siege of Derry and Battle of the Boyne (1688-90)

When King James II was removed from the English throne for being a Catholic he tried to get his crown back by first winning over the Irish. When he tried to capture the city of Derry the Protestants inside cried 'No Surrender'. In 1690 he was beaten at the Battle of the Boyne by the new Protestant king, William of Orange. 'King Billy' became a hero of the Protestant 'Orangemen'.



The Famine and Home Rule

For the next 150 years the Catholics of Ireland (who made up 90% of the population) were treated as second class citizens. When the Potato Famine struck in 1845 a million died and another 1½ million emigrated.

Demands for Home Rule grew. The Fenians used terrorism against the British. Parnell tried to fight for Home Rule peacefully in Parliament. All three Home Rule bills failed, however.



The Easter Rising, War and Partition (1916-1922)

While Britain was distracted by World War I a group of Irish rebels tried to seize power in Dublin in 1916. The Easter Rising failed and the ring leaders were shot. Yet it inspired thousands of young Irishmen to take up arms against Britain in the War of Independence (1918-21). When this reached stalemate Britain agreed a compromise with the Irish. $\frac{3}{4}$ of Ireland was given its freedom; Ulster (Northern Ireland) stayed British. Ireland had been partitioned.



The Orange State: Northern Ireland 1922-72

In Ulster the Protestants outnumbered the Catholics 2:1. This meant that most politicians were Protestant. The Catholics claimed they were discriminated against for 50 years finding it harder to get jobs and houses. They also claimed the RUC (police) and B-Specials (special police) picked on them. In the 1960s a generation of young Catholics began to demand Civil Rights in protest marches; Protestants grew fearful and also marched. Serious rioting began in 1968.



The 'Troubles' (1968-1998)

By August 1969 Ulster was on the edge of civil war. The British Army was sent in to keep the two sides apart. Soon, however, the army was being seen by Catholics as an army of occupation. The IRA stepped up its terrorist campaign. The army's response on Bloody Sunday, 1972 only made things worse. For 25 years Ulster was torn apart by violence from Republican and Loyalist terrorist groups.



The Peace Process (1998-Today)

In 1998 all sides in the Northern Ireland conflict reached an agreement to find a peaceful solution to their differences - the Good Friday Agreement. Most of the violence ended. Yet making the settlement last has proved difficult after centuries of mistrust. Issues such as the handing over of terrorist weapons and changes in the police force have continued to cause trouble. Five years after the agreement finding common ground in a new Assembly had not been successful.

