

JC History – Ireland 1911 to 1923

Commonwealth



Grouping of countries that had been colonies of the British Empire.

Dominion



A country in the Commonwealth that rules itself but retains the British monarch as head of state.

Anglicisation



The spread of English language and culture.

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Cultural nationalism



Cultural nationalism attempted to stop Irish culture being replaced by English culture. The GAA and the Gaelic League were organisations set up in the late 19th century to stop the spread of Anglicization.

Home Rule



Moderate nationalists voted for MPs belonging to the Home Rule party which sought to establish a parliament in Ireland. This parliament would look after Irish 'home affairs' like health and education while leaving 'foreign' affairs like trade and war to Britain.

UVF



The Ulster Volunteer Force was set up to train men to resist Home Rule by violence, if necessary.

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Irish Volunteers



Formed in 1913 and led by Eoin McNeil. The nationalists were worried that the unionist reaction would force the British government back to Ireland after the Third Home Rule bill. Their aim was to ensure Home Rule would be granted.

Ulster Covenant



Unionists organised protests as a reaction to the Third Home Rule Bill. They got people to sign the Solemn League and Covenant which became known as the Ulster Covenant. It was a pledge stating that unionists would use any means necessary to oppose Home Rule, including violence.

Partition



Dividing a country into two parts.

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Irish Citizen Army



James Connolly founded the Irish Citizen Army to protect workers from the attacks by the police during the 1913 Lockdown. They were asked to join the Easter Rising with James Connolly.

Proclamation



The Proclamation was read out by Patrick Pearse on the steps of the GPO on Easter Monday, 24 April 1916. The Proclamation declared the creation of a republic.

Guerrilla Warfare



This involved the IRA using hit-and-run tactics against the British forces. This meant ambushing British convoys and escaping into the countryside which the members knew well. They wore no uniform so they wouldn't be recognised.

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Flying columns



Formed towards the end of the 1920s by the IRA. These were groups of up to 30 full-time Volunteers. They moved from place to place to help local commanders set up ambushes.

Irregulars



A large anti-Anglo Irish Treaty group. At first they were set up at the Four Courts. Later, they retreated to Munster where they set up the Munster Republic.

Free State Army



They were pro-Anglo Irish Treaty.

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The Government of Ireland Act 1920



The Act created Northern Ireland. It would remain as part of the United Kingdom and would be represented by 12 MPs in Westminster. Local affairs such as education and local government would be controlled by a Northern Ireland parliament.

Sectarianism



The unionist government in Northern Ireland discriminated against the Catholic population.

Gerrymandering



Rearranging the borders of local electoral wards. This ensured that the unionists had the majority of government seats, even where the majority of voters were nationalists.