

13.4 Chronology of Irish History: 1845 to 1949

Instructions: Examine the chronology of Irish history from 1845 to 1949 and answer questions 1-5.

Questions

1. What was the immediate result of Irish revolts against British authority between 1848 and 1916?
2. Why were cultural movements key to growing Irish nationalism?
3. Why did the treaty establishing the Irish Free State lead to civil war?
4. In your opinion, how did the Great Irish Famine precipitate Irish nationalist movements and British efforts at reform?

1845. Potato blight first reported in September. The potato harvest fails again in 1846, 1848, and 1849. The population of Ireland falls from 8,175,124 (1841) to 6,552,385 (1851), a decrease of nearly 20 percent, due to famine-related deaths and emigration. Evictions continue through the end of the century.
1848. Young Irelanders stages a short, unsuccessful uprising. Leaders transported to prison in Tasmania
1867. Unsuccessful rebellion by members of the Fenian brotherhood.
1870. Movement for Home Rule for Ireland begins. This movement is pledged to use constitutional (non-violent) means to achieve their goal of legislative independence for Ireland.
1877. Bad harvests; economic depression returns for three years.
1879. Land League founded to prevent evictions and ensure fair rents. Their ultimate goal was for Irish ten-ants to own their land. The Land League has strong support from the Irish in America.
1884. Gaelic Athletic Association founded to promote Irish games. It is the first of a number of cultural organizations that encourage Irish pride and nationalism. Prime Minister William Gladstone introduces Home Rule Bill for Ireland in the House of Commons. It is defeated.
1893. Gladstone introduces a second Home Rule for Ireland Bill. It passes in the House of Commons, but is defeated in the House of Lords. The Gaelic League is founded to encourage the use of the Irish language.
- 1899 Irish literary theatre founded. It is the formal beginning of the Irish Literary Revival.
1903. Wyndham Land Act made it easier for tenants to purchase land. About 9 million acres were transferred from landlords to former tenants.
1912. Ulster Unionists sign Covenant to resist Home Rule. ^[1]_[SEP]
1913. Lock-out of Dublin transport workers by employers. A bitter strike lasts six months. ^[1]_[SEP]The third Home Rule Bill passes in the House of Commons and it is again defeated in the House of Lords. ^[1]_[SEP]
1914. The Home Rule Bill passes in the House of Commons. It receives the King's approval, but he suspends its start until the end of World War I. ^[1]_[SEP]
1916. Easter Rising insurrection in Dublin is defeated. Much of central Dublin is destroyed. Sixteen leaders are executed; rank and file sent to prison in Britain.
1919. Irish War of Independence begins. It is a guerrilla war between local units of the Irish Republican Army and the British authorities. The British bring in extra units including the notorious Black and Tans.
1921. Anglo-Irish truce on July 11. Treaty negotiations follow. Ireland offered Free State status for 26 counties. Six counties in the north will remain part of United Kingdom. ^[1]_[SEP]
1922. The Treaty is ratified in a general election in June 1922. A civil war begins between the Irish Free State government and the Republicans over the terms of the treaty: an oath of office to the king and the partition of the six counties of Northern Ireland (Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Tyrone) which would continue to be part of the United Kingdom. Irish Free State Constitution is approved. ^[1]_[SEP]
1923. Irish Free State survives the civil war which ends in May. ^[1]_[SEP]
1925. Shannon scheme is approved, a hydroelectric project to develop an Irish power source that would help to electrify rural Ireland.
1932. Eamon DeValera leads the Fianna Fáil party in the Dáil Eireann (Irish parliament) after the party defeats the government in a general election. The transition of power was carried out without incident.
1937. New Irish constitution replaces first Free State constitution. ^[1]_[SEP]
1938. Douglas Hyde becomes the first President of ^[1]_[SEP]Ireland.
1939. World War II begins Sept. 1. Irish Free State remains neutral. Northern Ireland is part of the Allied forces.
1941. Germans bomb Dublin and the eastern counties in 1941. German raids on Belfast kill more than 700.
1945. World War II ends.
1949. Republic of Ireland declared in April.