



- Since the Act of Union was passed in 1801, Ireland had been part of the UK. All decisions about Ireland were made in Westminster, the British parliament. At the time, Ireland was divided into two main political groups:

Nationalists	Unionists
Irish people who wanted Ireland to have complete <b>independence</b> from Britain.	Those living in Ireland who wanted Ireland to <b>remain part of the UK</b> → mostly in the north east. They believed that <b>'Home Rule meant Rome Rule'</b> i.e. believed that an Irish Catholic-dominated parliament would discriminate against Protestants.
<p><b>Organisations:</b></p> <p>Young Ireland Movement → rising (1848)</p> <p><b>Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB)</b> → its members, the <b>Fenians</b>, attempted a rising in 1867.</p> <p><b>Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP)</b> → consisted of Irish MPs (Members of Parliament) who wanted an Irish parliament in Dublin but still wanted to be part of the UK. Leader: <b>John Redmond</b></p>	<p><b>Organisations:</b></p> <p><b>Unionist Party</b> → led by <b>Edward Carson &amp; James Craig</b>.</p> <p><b>Orange Order</b> → prepared to use force.</p>

- Home Rule:** A policy followed by Irish nationalists that suggested a **parliament in Dublin** that dealt with **domestic affairs**. The **British Parliament** would deal with **foreign affairs**.
- At the beginning of the 20th century, it was common for young Irish people to **emigrate to find work**. To help their children to find jobs, parents encouraged them to speak **English rather than Irish** while also to **imitate** the daily lives of the **English** → known as **anglicisation**.
- New cultural organisations were established to protect the Irish identity:



Organisation	What they did	Leaders
<b>Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoted traditional Gaelic games (hurling, football, handball)</li> <li>Established football &amp; hurling clubs around Ireland</li> </ul>	Michael Cusack, Maurice Davin
<b>Gaelic League</b>	<p>Helped to revive the language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Established a <b>newspaper</b> - An Claidheamh Solais</li> <li>Sent <b>timirí</b> (travelling teachers) around Ireland.</li> <li>Made <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> a national holiday.</li> <li>Organised an annual cultural festival → <b>Oireachtas</b></li> </ul>	Eoin MacNeill, Douglas Hyde
<b>Anglo-Irish Literary Revival</b>	<p>Wrote <b>plays &amp; poetry</b> that celebrated the Irish nation. Yeats &amp; Gregory founded the <b>Abbey Theatre</b> in 1903.</p>	WB Yeats, JM Synge, Lady Gregory



### 1913 Dublin Lockout

Prior to the 1913 Lockout, the **Irish Transport & General Workers' Union** had been established by **Jim Larkin** to **improve employees' working conditions**. There was a **strong opposition** among employers to this union. In 1913, an employer named **William Martin Murphy** demanded for his employees to **leave the union or be fired**. However, Jim Larkin organised a **strike in protest**, leading to Murphy locking the union members out of work. This 'lockout' lasted for **5 months**, during which the employees were **supported by British trade unions & wealthy people**. The workers eventually ended the strike, **left the union & returned to work!**

### Home Rule for Ireland

- There were two main political parties in Britain: 1) **Liberals** → **Herbert Asquith** (supported Home Rule) & 2) **Conservatives/Tories** → Andrew Bonar Law (opposed Home Rule)
- Asquith passed the Home Rule bill in 1912.

Unionist reaction	Nationalist reaction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A document called the <b>Solemn League &amp; Covenant</b> was signed by 400,000 people to show the strong opposition to Home Rule. (Edward Carson)</li> <li>• The <b>Ulster Volunteer Force</b> (UVF) was set up by <b>Edward Carson &amp; James Craig</b> → prepared to oppose Home Rule with force.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up the <b>Irish National Volunteers</b> in response to the UVF</li> </ul>

- Asquith promised to **partition** (divide) Ireland due to the strong opposition. Only the north would remain part of the UK.
- However, he postponed Home Rule when **WW1 broke out**. Edward Carson & John Redmond encouraged the Ulster & Irish volunteers to fight against Germany for the freedom of small countries → they formed the **National Volunteers**.

### A unionist living in Ulster, 1912-14

Hello, my name is Pádraig & as a unionist, I believe that Ireland should **remain part of the United Kingdom**. I strongly **dislike nationalists** who want an independent Ireland. Ulster is currently very successful economically due to ship-building & linen production.

At the moment, nationalists are fighting for Home Rule → they want to have a parliament in Dublin to deal with domestic affairs (like agriculture). They want the British parliament to deal with foreign affairs. However, I believe that Westminster (UK Parliament) should deal with all affairs. As a Protestant, I believe that **Home Rule means Rome Rule** → that a Catholic-dominated Irish parliament would discriminate against **Protestants**.

To prevent the introduction of Home Rule, I have signed a document called the **Solemn League & Covenant** which was organised by **Edward Carson**, leader of the Unionist Party. It has 400,000 signatures so far. I have also joined the **Ulster Volunteer Force** → we are prepared to oppose Home Rule by **force** if necessary. It was set up by **James Craig & Edward Carson**. In response, the nationalists have a party called the **Irish National Volunteers** who are prepared to fight us! We have purchased **weapons** from different parts of Europe.

However, **WW1** has broken out → Germany invaded Belgium. Herbert Asquith has **postponed the introduction of Home Rule** for now. We have been encouraged to **fight alongside Britain** to encourage them to dismiss Home Rule.

I hope that there will never be Home Rule in Ireland!...

### LEAD-UP

- Irish nationalists believed that while Britain were distracted while fighting in WW1, they had the perfect chance to gain full independence: "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity"
- The 5-man IRB Military Council was set up in 1915: **Pádraig Pearse, Thomas Clarke, Seán MacDiarmada, Joseph Plunkett, Éamonn Ceannt** → planned a rebellion for 23rd April 1916. **James Connolly & Thomas MacDonagh** were also involved in its planning.
- **Eoin MacNeill** had to be persuaded to let the Irish Volunteers join the rebellion. Joseph Plunkett forged **The Castle Document** → led MacNeill to believe that the Irish Volunteers were going to be made illegal by the British

- Authorities. MacNeill allowed the Volunteers to join.
- Germany offered a shipload of rifles & machine guns called the **Aud**. A man named **Roger Casement** was sent to bring the ship to Ireland but it was **captured** by the British Navy off the coast of Kerry.
  - MacNeill found out that the Aud had been captured & that the document was fake → he informed the Irish Volunteers to cancel all plans for a rebellion.
  - The leaders knew in advance that the rising would be a failure but hoped that their **blood sacrifice** (heroic deaths) would inspire future generations to fight for an independent Ireland

### THE EASTER RISING

The 1916 Rising was the name given to a nationalist rebellion in Ireland organised by the Irish Republican Brotherhood Military Council. Initially, it had been planned for Easter Sunday but was postponed to Bank Holiday Monday due to the failed arrival of the **Aud**, a ship from Germany carrying weapons.

Taking place in Dublin, the leaders of the Rising were located at the **General Post Office (GPO)**. It began as Pádraig Pearse read out the 'Proclamation of the Irish Republic' on the steps of the GPO. This took the British by surprise &

they soon outnumbered the rebels 20 to 1. The '**Helga**' ship shelled the GPO from the River Liffey, resulting in a fire at the GPO. Pearse moved the rebels onto Moore Street but surrendered on April 29th.

The Rising led to a widespread destruction across Dublin as well as 'looting' (theft). Over 230 civilians were killed. The people of Dublin jeered at the rebels as they were marched to prison → unhappy with destruction caused. All of the rebellion's leaders were shot to death. James Connolly was infamously shot in a chair due to his obtained injuries.

## War of Independence

### Sinn Féin

- A political party set up by **Arthur Griffith** in 1905. He wanted Ireland to gain independence peacefully. The party's popularity grew after the Rising.
- Griffith was arrested as he was thought to have organised the Rising! He became close friends with the leaders in prison.
- Resigned as leader in 1917 → Éamon De Valera

### DÁIL ÉIREANN

- Name given to the Irish Parliament established by Sinn Féin.
- Members were known as TDs → "teachtaí dála"
- Cathal Brugha was temporarily President of Ireland as De Valera was still in prison.
- In April 1919, De Valera became the president. Other government members were **Arthur Griffith** (Vice-President), **Countess Markievicz** (Minister for Labour), **Cathal Brugha** (Defence), **Michael Collins** (Finance).



## SINN FÉIN IN GOVERNMENT

- De Valera travelled to America to attempt to persuade President Woodrow Wilson to support Irish independence but failed. He raised \$4million.
- Introduced **Sinn Féin law courts** → replaced British courts.
- **Irish Volunteers** acted as **policemen** → replaced British Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC)
- **Declared illegal** in late **1919** by Britain. TDs now believed that only violence would make Ireland independent.
- 2 RIC constables were killed in Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary by Irish Volunteers.
- The Volunteers became known as **The Irish Republican Army**, run by **Michael Collins**.

## MAIN EVENTS

1. **Terence MacSwiney**, the Sinn Féin **Lord Mayor of Cork**, went on hunger strike in prison & died after 73 days.
2. **Bloody Sunday**: The **Squad** killed 11 British secret service men. The **Black & Tans** killed 12 spectators & players at a Gaelic football match in Croke Park (November 21st 1920)
3. The Flying Columns ambushed Auxiliaries in Kilmichael, Co. Cork. The centre of **Cork** was burned down by the **Black & Tans**.

## IRA

- Collins set up a network of spies who arranged attacks on RIC constables.
- Used **guerrilla warfare** i.e. attacking & then retreating.
- The guerrilla fighters became known as **Flying Columns** due to the speed of their attacks.
- Collins set up the **Squad** who killed anyone thought to be a British spy/informant.

## BRITISH RESPONSE

- Sent the **Black & Tans** → ex-WW1 soldiers.
- Sent the **Auxiliaries** → ex-army officers
- Imposed **curfews** on towns.
- **Searched houses** for guns & suspected IRA members.
- **Terrorised** the local population



### The Anglo-Irish Treaty, 1921

As the Irish War of Independence continued, the Irish Republican Army ran out of guns & ammunition & decided to **negotiate a truce** with Britain. It was signed on **December 6th, 1921**. The Irish representatives aimed to **gain full independence for Ireland** & a full 32-county Ireland. Meanwhile, the **British wanted Ireland to remain part of the UK** & the **partition** (division) of Ireland → north & south.

In the Treaty, **Southern Ireland** became known as the **Irish Free State**. It would **not** become a **republic** but would control many aspects of government. It would remain part of the **British Commonwealth** & the **King** would remain **Head of the State**. All TDs would have to swear an **Oath of Allegiance** (LOYALTY). Northern Ireland would also remain part of the UK. The **Boundary Commission** was set up to decide **where to partition Ireland**. It was made up of 1 Free State member, 1 Northern Ireland citizen & an independent chairman.

**Arguments for the Treaty:** Much more freedom than Home Rule / easier to achieve independence / IRA didn't have any resources left.

**Arguments against:** King was still Head of State / TDs couldn't be loyal to both the King & the republic / Too many people died for independence.

The Treaty was passed by the Dáil. **De Valera resigned** in protest. **Arthur Griffith** became **President** while **Michael Collins** became **Vice-President**.

A named leader involved in the struggle for Irish independence

Born in **West Cork** in **1890**, **Michael Collins** was an extremely significant leader who fought for Irish independence from Britain. Emigrating to **London** in **1906**, he was a bank & post office worker but he **secretly** became a **member** of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). He **returned** to **Ireland** in **1916** to fight.

He fought for independence in the **General Post Office (GPO)** but the 1916 Easter Rising ultimately failed. He was arrested in **Frongoch Prison Camp (Wales)**. When he returned to Ireland, he was elected as an MP (Member of Parliament) of the political party **Sinn Féin for South Cork**. He was soon **elected** to the first **Dáil** (Irish parliament) as the **Minister for Finance**. The Dáil was later made illegal by British authorities.

Collins formed the **Irish Republican Army (IRA)** to fight for Irish independence. He introduced **guerrilla war tactics** to fight against the British. This involved **attacking** them & quickly **retreating**. He also established the **Squad**, a special group of the IRA who assassinated anyone thought to be against Irish independence. In 1920, this Squad murdered 12 British secret service men. The British responded by killing several spectators & players at a Gaelic football game in Croke Park. This day became known as '**Bloody Sunday**'.

After the Irish decided to call a truce, Collins reluctantly **signed the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921** that divided Ireland into North & South. However, in 1922, he **ordered the shelling of Anti-Treaty IRA men** occupying the Four Courts.

He was **killed** in an **ambush at Béal na mBláth** in **West Cork** in **August 1922**.



Arthur Griffith



Éamon De Valera



James Connolly



Michael Collins



Pádraig Pearse

## Irish Free State

- Ireland's Provisional (temporary) government was led by Arthur Griffith.
- The Anglo-Irish Treaty divided Sinn Féin & the IRA into pro-Treaty & anti-Treaty.
- IRA supporters of the Treaty were known as **Regulars**.
- Anti-Treaty IRA members were known as **Irregulars**.

### The Civil War

- In April 1922, Irregulars led by Rory O'Connor occupied the Four Courts & various other buildings in Dublin as a protest against the Dáil's acceptance of the Treaty.
- Michael Collins was reluctant to attack his former IRA colleagues & waited to take action until after the General Election of 1922.
- Collins was forced to act when General O'Connell of the Free State Army was kidnapped.
- Collins began his attack on the Four Courts, sparking the start of the Irish Civil War.
- The Irregulars in the Four Courts surrendered after two days of fighting.
- The Irregulars in other places were outnumbered & outgunned. They were pushed further south towards Munster by the Regulars.
- The Irregulars soon started to use **guerrilla warfare**, meaning that they attacked & then retreated.
- Michael Collins was killed in an ambush at **Béal na mBláth**, Co. Cork.
- The war ended when **William T Cosgrave** replaced the late Arthur Griffith as President. He introduced the **Special Powers Act** which allowed Irregulars to be arrested, tried & executed.
- The war cost 927 lives.
- The population was deeply divided into pro & anti-Treaty.
- The damage done to roads, railways & cities came to £30 million.

### Cumann na nGaedhael

- After the Civil War, Sinn Féin was split in two. The pro-Treaty supporters formed **Cumann na nGaedhael** (Union of the Irish) while the anti-Treaty supporters were still called **Sinn Féin**.
- Cumann na nGaedhael was led by **William T Cosgrave** & **Kevin O' Higgins**.

ACHIEVEMENTS	PROBLEMS
<p><b>New Constitution &amp; Oireachtas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new constitution was written (rules on how to run the state)</li> <li>• The Oireachtas was established (houses of parliament) → made up of the Dáil &amp; Seanad.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Army Mutiny</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• O'Higgins decided to reduce army numbers from 60,000 to 20,000 to keep peace.</li> <li>• Army officers were arrested when they protested against the plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Police Force</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Garda Síochána was set up to replace the RIC.</li> <li>• Unarmed force.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Law &amp; Order</b></p> <p>The <b>Public Safety Acts</b> were introduced in 1923-24. These allowed the government to arrest &amp; imprison Irregulars.</p>
<p><b>Irish Versions of Currency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ireland still used the same currency as Britain but it issued its own Irish versions of stamps, coins &amp; notes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Assassination of Kevin O'Higgins</b></p> <p>He was assassinated by 3 IRA members on his way to mass.</p> <p>Another <b>Public Safety Act</b> banned membership of numerous organisations.</p>
<p><b>Teaching of Irish</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They insisted that the Irish language was to be taught in schools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Boundary Commission</b></p> <p>Cosgrave was led to believe that Tyrone, Fermanagh, Newry &amp; Derry City would be transferred to the Free State. However, the border between North &amp; South remained as it was.</p>



### Irish Economy

- Was in a poor state at the time due to many years spent fighting.
- The government began to focus on agriculture by establishing...

<b>Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided loans to farmers to improve their produce.</li> <li>• Tax cuts encouraged farmers to produce more food to feed the population &amp; to export the surplus to Britain.</li> </ul>
<b>Shannon Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building a hydroelectric power station on the River Shannon at Ardnacrusha.</li> </ul>
<b>Carlow Sugar Company</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produced sugar from local sugar beet</li> </ul>
<b>Electric Supply Board (ESB)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributed electricity throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>

- While there was a slight increase in industry employment during these years, over 50% of the population still relied on agriculture as their main source of income.
- The numbers of Irish people emigrating to America continued to rise as they tried to escape the poverty in Ireland.

### Political Developments

- In 1923, Cumann na nGaedhael won the general election.
- In 1926, Éamonn de Valera proposed to the Sinn Féin ardfheis (annual conference) that the party could take its seats in the Dáil if the Oath of Allegiance was removed. His proposal was rejected & he resigned from Sinn Féin.
- He then established a new party called **Fianna Fáil**.
- William T Cosgrave introduced the **Electoral Amendment Act** in 1927 after the assassination of Kevin O' Higgins. It stated that all elected TDs had to take the Oath of Allegiance or else give up their seats in the Dáil. De Valera & Fianna Fáil decided to take the Oath & enter the Dáil.

#### **Why did the Cumann na nGaedhael government become unpopular?**

<b>Great Depression</b>	Caused an increase in unemployment & emigration.
<b>Irish Industry</b>	Ireland had not yet developed much industry & continued to rely heavily on agriculture.
<b>Fianna Fáil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Was good at organising its support.</li> <li>• De Valera set up <b>The Irish Press</b> so that the party's views could be spread easily in this newspaper.</li> </ul>
<b>Teachers</b>	In an attempt to save money, Cumann na nGaedhael reduced teachers' salaries, making them unpopular amongst teachers.
<b>Public Safety Acts</b>	Were unpopular. The party was blamed for them.

## De Valera & Fianna Fáil in Power

- In 1932, Fianna Fáil (under de Valera), won the general election & formed a government with the Labour Party.
- De Valera immediately set out his aims:
  - To **dismantle** the **Anglo-Irish Treaty**.
  - To introduce **tariffs** (taxes) on imported goods so that it'd be cheaper to buy Irish produce.
  - To build **new houses** for people living in tenements.
  - To give **better pensions** to poor people.
- In 1931, Britain passed the **Statute of Westminster**. This allowed any country which was part of the British commonwealth to pass any law without British interference.
- De Valera used this to his advantage to dismantle the treaty.
  - He **removed** the **Oath of Allegiance**.
  - He **removed** the **power** of the **Governor-General**, the King's representative in Ireland.
  - He **removed** all **references** to the **king** in the **constitution**.
- In 1937, de Valera wrote a new Irish Constitution called **Bunreacht na hÉireann**.
  - The country was to be called **Ireland/Éire**.
  - **Irish & English** were to be the official **languages**.
  - The **president (uachtarán)** was head of the country.
  - The Prime Minister was called the **Taoiseach**.



## The Army Comrades Association (Blueshirts)

- In 1932, a group of former army officers established an organisation called the Army Comrades Association (ACA).
- They were initially set up to campaign for army pensions but soon began to offer protection against IRA attacks on Cumann na nGaedhael meetings.
- Its men had previously fought against de Valera in the Civil War & were hostile to the new government. Membership grew quickly.
- Its members began to wear a uniform in imitation of Italian & German fascist groups & therefore, became known as the **Blueshirts**.
- When the Garda Commissioner, **Eoin O' Duffy**, was dismissed by de Valera & Fianna Fáil, he was invited to become the leader of the Blueshirts.
- He renamed the organisation **The National Guard** & modelled himself on Italy's Mussolini. He called for a huge march on Leinster House.
- The government issued an order which banned the march & the wearing of the uniform while armed police were sent onto the streets to prevent the march from taking place.
- O' Duffy soon called off the march.
- Soon, the **National Guard** joined **Cumann na nGaedhael** to form a new party called **Fine Gael**.



## The Economic War

- Prior to the Economic War in Ireland, **Irish farmers** were forced to pay **land annuities** to the British. These were **annual repayments** of loans provided by the British government to Irish farmers for the **purchase of land** from British landlords.
- As soon as **Éamon de Valera** came to power in Ireland, he **cancelled** these **land annuities** as he believed that Irish people shouldn't have had to pay for land that had been 'stolen' from them by the British in the first place.
- The **British responded** harshly by imposing a **high tax on Irish cattle imports into Britain**. This led to **Irish farmers suffering financially** due to Britain being their only foreign market.
- The people of Ireland were now extremely unhappy. They used the slogan, "**Burn everything British but their coal**". De Valera was also unhappy & placed a **5% tax** on British goods coming into Ireland.
- The war drew to a close with the **1938 Anglo-Irish Agreement** when land annuities were written off after a once-off payment of £10 million. Both governments decided to reduce the taxes on each other's goods.



## The Emergency (WW2 in Ireland)

- The Emergency was the name given to WW2 in Ireland.
- During the war, Ireland remained neutral as the majority of its population did not want to fight on Britain's side while Ireland was still partitioned.
- During the Emergency, the **Emergency Powers Act 1939** was passed by the Dáil to ensure Ireland's neutrality. Farmers were ordered to grow crops to feed the population. The media was also strictly censored so as not to offend either side during the conflict.
- In practice, Ireland's neutrality was very one-sided, leaning towards the Allies. Weather reports were secretly given to Britain while the British RAF was allowed to use Irish air space, not the German Luftwaffe.
- Ireland was not well defended & was vulnerable to invasion. In 1941, German planes landed on North Strand, Dublin, killing 34 people. This bombing was a mistake. Adolf Hitler apologised & paid for its rebuilding.
- The Irish feared invasion & increased army numbers from 19,000 to 42,000.
- The **Local Defence Force (LDF)** was set up & had over 148,000 members.
- At this time, food & raw materials were not as accessible as they had previously been. Seán Lemass was appointed as **Minister of Supplies** by Éamon de Valera to deal with this issue.
- He introduced **rationing** to ensure that everyone got an equal share of goods such as tea/butter/sugar.
- He set up **Irish Shipping Limited** to import goods into Ireland from abroad.
- He appointed inspectors called **glimmer-men** who checked that people did not use more than their ration of gas & electricity.
- He ensured that **petrol** was only available to doctors & priests.



### Results:

1. Neutrality convinced Irish people that they were really independent from Britain.
2. Ireland was spared the destruction & great loss of life that the rest of Europe suffered from.
3. The Irish economy was affected due to rationing which continued even after the Allied victory.
4. It deepened the division between North & South.
5. Ireland was not allowed to join the United Nations until 1955.

### The First Inter-Party Government

- After the Emergency, there was high unemployment in Ireland. Many people emigrated due to rationing of food & clothes.
- Fianna Fáil, who had been in government for 16 years, were blamed for this.
- While Fianna Fáil won the most seats in the 1948 General Election, the other parties decided to form a **coalition government** — they joined together to achieve a majority within parliament to form a government.
- Fine Gael's **John A. Costello** was appointed as Taoiseach.
- The Labour Party's **William Norton** became Tánaiste.
- Clann na Poblachta's **Seán McBride** was appointed as Minister for External Affairs.

The coalition government had many achievements:

- It declared Ireland a republic in April 1949.
- It set up the **IDA — Industrial Development Authority** — which established new industries in Ireland & also attracted foreign companies to set up in Ireland.
- Meanwhile, its **Minister for Health** — Noel Browne — eradicated tuberculosis in Ireland by setting up sanatoria (special hospitals), introducing the BCG vaccine & introducing new mobile x-ray units to detect TB. The number of deaths from TB dropped from 3,000 per year to 300.

### The Mother & Child Scheme

- Noel Browne was the Minister for Health in the First Inter-Party Government.
- He had achieved great success by building **sanatoria** (hospitals) to eradicate the fatal **tuberculosis**.
- In the 1950s, Ireland had a very high mortality (death) rate among children.
- Noel Browne wanted to give free medical care to all mothers & their children under 16yrs.
- The scheme was strongly opposed by the Catholic Church. It believed that the state should not interfere in private family matters.
- Meanwhile, doctors believed that the scheme would result in the end of doctor-patient privacy.
- Taoiseach John A. Costello told Browne to drop the scheme.
- In protest, he resigned from government.

### Seán Lemass as Taoiseach

- Lemass succeeded Éamon de Valera as Taoiseach & as leader of Fianna Fáil after de Valera's resignation.

#### **(New Programme for Economic Expansion)**

- The Irish economy was in difficulty. There was high unemployment, great emigration & little industry. Lemass decided to introduce this new programme with the help of **T.K. Whitaker** (Secretary of Department of Finance).
- It provided grants to farmers & businesses to produce more goods more efficiently.
- It offered low tax rates on profits made by foreign businesses in Ireland — encouraged the businesses to stay in Ireland.
- Shannon Town & Airport were built to help to bring development to the area.
- The **Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement** allowed free trade between the UK & Ireland.



#### **(Improvements in Education)**

- Lemass & Minister for Education **Donogh O'Malley** realised that economic success depended on a well-educated workforce. They believed that highly-skilled people were needed to fill jobs created by foreign businesses in Ireland. There was one problem — most children tended to leave school before their Junior Cert exam & they were not suited to highly-skilled jobs.
- O'Malley offered free secondary school education to all students as well as free transport to/from school.
- He provided grants to build new schools/improve old schools.
- He opened new comprehensive schools & Regional Technical Colleges.
- More children were able to attend school & complete their education.

### (Social Change)

- People began to buy televisions as they became wealthier.
- Ireland's first national TV service **Telefís Éireann** was soon launched — new ideas were spread easily while political & church leaders were challenged on live TV.

### (Catholic Church)

- The **Second Vatican Council** set about modernising the church.
- Mass was allowed to be said in the vernacular (local language) instead of in Latin.
- Irish people also began to question the Church's teachings.

### (Northern Ireland)

- Lemass met with Northern Ireland's prime minister **Terence O' Neill** — this was the first meeting ever between an Irish Taoiseach & a Northern Ireland prime minister.
- They discussed how they could co-operate in areas such as tourism & agriculture.

### Ireland & the EEC

- When Jack Lynch replaced Seán Lemass as Taoiseach, he began to negotiate Ireland's membership of the EEC (European Economic Community). Ireland became a member of it in 1973.

There were many benefits to Irish people from the EEC:

- Irish citizens could travel freely all across the EEC.
- Ireland became part of a free trade area for its produce.
- The income of farmers almost doubled due to the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**.
- The **European Structural Fund** gave money to the poor parts of Ireland to build better infrastructure (roads, railways, etc.)



There were also many disadvantages of Ireland's membership:

- European fishermen were allowed to fish in Irish waters. Using better equipment, they caught far more fish than Irish fishermen, reducing Irish fish stocks.
- There were job losses in Irish industries as people bought imported goods at a cheaper price than Irish goods due to the absence of tariffs.

### **What was the Anglo-Irish Agreement?**

A political treaty between Ireland & Britain that gave the Republic of Ireland a say in the running of Northern Ireland.

### The Celtic Tiger

- In the 1980s, the Irish economy was once again in difficulty. Unemployment levels & emigration rose due to the lack of jobs. No government was able to solve Ireland's economic problems.
- To deal with the deficit in Ireland's budget, a number of governments made severe cutbacks in government spending.
- They introduced an agreement between the government, employers & trade unions — **Social Partnership**. This gave small wage increases to workers in return for lower taxes.
- Foreign companies began to arrive in Ireland & created jobs. Computer companies like Intel created many jobs.
- The companies were attracted to Ireland due to its low tax rates & its well-educated workforce.
- Employment increased while emigration dropped.
- Ireland's economy grew faster than any other European country in the space of 5 years. The economy grew at over 9% each year.
- People were no longer forced to emigrate. People began to come to Ireland in search of work.
- Ireland became richer & prices started to rise — especially the prices of houses.