

1800



### Act of Union

The Act created the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and abolished the Irish Parliament. From 1801, Irish MPs and peers would attend the Parliament at Westminster.

1829

### Catholic emancipation

The Roman Catholic Relief Act permitted Roman Catholics to sit in the Parliament at Westminster. The campaign for emancipation was led by Daniel O'Connell, who had won a seat in 1828 but had not been allowed to enter the Parliament.

1840s



### Repeal of the Union movement

Daniel O'Connell established the Loyal National Repeal Association. He hoped 1843 would see the re-opening of the Irish Parliament but the British Government remained committed to defending the union.

1845-1849



### Great Famine

The Famine left 1 million dead and started a pattern of emigration that would see Ireland's population halved. It was a defining moment for Irish nationalists, who blamed the Westminster Parliament for failing to respond to the crisis.

1867

### Fenian Rising

Following failed republican uprisings in 1803 and 1848, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), also known as the Fenians, staged a new rising in an effort to end British rule in Ireland. While it, too, failed, the IRB remained in existence, and continued to organise and agitate in Ireland and America in support of its goal.



1870s-1890s

### Home Rule movement

The Home Rule League MPs used obstruction to press their case in the House of Commons and won enough seats to hold the balance of power. A Home Rule Bill was introduced in 1886 but was defeated in the House of Commons. A second Bill in 1893 was passed by the Commons but defeated in the House of Lords.



Apr 1916

### Easter Rising

Irish republicans occupied buildings around Dublin and proclaimed Ireland an independent state. After six days they surrendered. The British authorities quickly tried and executed the leaders, arrested thousands and imposed martial law. Support for an Irish Republic, as opposed to Home Rule, increased.



Sep 1914

### Home Rule Act

This Act granted Home Rule to Ireland, but it was suspended for the duration of the war and then repealed without coming into effect.



Jul 1914

### First World War begins

Nationalist and Unionist leaders initially supported the war and urged their followers to enlist. More than 200,000 Irishmen fought in the war.



### Gaelic revival

Interest in Gaelic culture – language, sports and folklore – was revived. The Gaelic League and Gaelic Athletic Association were established, and distinguishing Irish culture from English became part of the nationalist movement.



Feb 1918

### Representation of the People Act

The Act gave the vote to some women but also to all men aged at least 21 regardless of property. The Irish electorate increased from 700,000 to 2 million.



Apr 1918

### Conscription in Ireland

Desperate for troops, the British Government decided to introduce conscription in Ireland, despite the protests of the Irish MPs. A mass movement against conscription united public opinion in Ireland against the British Empire.



Nov 1918

### First World War ends

The war ended with the armistice on 11 November. Given that the Parliament had been sitting since 1910, a date was quickly set for a general election.



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Dec 1918

### General Election

Sinn Féin pledged to abstain from Westminster, establish a constituent assembly in Ireland and appeal for international recognition of the Republic. The Irish Party sought support for its campaign for domestic self-government. Sinn Féin won 73 seats and the IP only 6. The remaining 26 seats were won by Unionists.

1919



### First Dáil

The first public sitting of Dáil Éireann took place in the Round Room of the Mansion House on 21 January 1919.