

## A Chronology of Irish History

### **BC**

**C. 7,000**

Evidence of Irelands earliest people-  
Mesolithic hunters-gatherers at Mount  
Sandel, Co. Derry.

**3,500-3000**

Arrival of Neolithic farmers in Ireland-  
construction of megalithic tombs  
commences.

**2,500**

Construction of the passage grave at  
Newgrange (County Meath).

**2,000-1800**

Bronze Age begins in Ireland.

**500-150**

The Celts (iron using farmers and warriors  
from central and western mainland Europe)  
arrive in Ireland.

### **AD**

**431**

Pope Celestine appoints Palladius as the  
first bishop to Irish Christians.

- 432** St. Patrick begins his mission in Ireland.
- C.490** Saint Enda sets up the first Irish monastery on the Aran Islands.
- C. Sixth Century** Start of the Golden Age for the Irish Monasticism.
- 795** Viking raids on Ireland begin with an attack on the monastery on Lambay Island.
- 841** The future city of Dublin is established by Vikings as a longphort on the River Liffey.
- 1002** Brian Boru becomes High King of Ireland.
- 1014** Battle of Clontarf-Brian Boru defeats the Vikings of Dublin and their Leinster allies. After the battle Boru is slain by a fleeing Norseman.
- 1152** Synod of Kells-Diocesan organization of the Irish Church is completed.

- 1169** The Normans arrive in Ireland at the invitation of the exiled King of Leinster Dermot McMurrough.
- 1171** Henry II visits Ireland-He receives submissions from his Norman lords, native kings and the entire Irish clergy at Cashel.
- 1175** Treaty of Windsor- in return for a declaration of loyalty to Henry II, Rory O'Connor is recognized as King of Connacht.
- 1250** Normans control most of the south of Ireland as well as parts of eastern Ulster. By the end of the century Norman expansion in Ireland grinds to a halt.
- 1315-1318** Edward Bruce, the brother of Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, invades Ireland and attempts unsuccessfully to overthrow the English forces in the country.

- 1348** The first Irish cases of Black Death are reported in Howth and Balbriggan.
- 1366** The Statutes of Kilkenny are passed (at a Parliament in Kilkenny) to prevent English settlers in Ireland from adopting native customs.
- 1494** Poynings law enacted at Drogheda.
- 1534** Rebellion of Silken Thomas. It is crushed the following year by Lord Grey's army.
- 1536** Dissolution of the monasteries begun by Henry VIII in an attempt to introduce the Reformation into Ireland.
- 1540** Henry VIII begins his policy of Surrender and Regrant whereby native and old English lords agree to hold their lands according to English law.

- 1541** Henry VIII declared King of Ireland by the Irish Parliament.
- 1550-1557** Plantation of Offaly and Laois is attempted.
- 1561-1567** Rebellion of Shane O'Neill.
- 1569-1583** The two Desmond Rebellions against Queen Elizabeth are crushed.
- 1586** Munster Plantation begins.
- 1588** The Spanish Armada is destroyed in storms off the West Coast of Ireland.
- 1592** Trinity College Dublin is established.
- 1594-1603** The Nine Year War- rebellion by Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell against the Crown.

- 1601** The battle of Kinsale-defeat of the armies of O'Neill, O'Donnell and their Spanish allies by Lord Deputy Mountjoy.
- 1603** Treaty of Mellifont.
- 1607** The flight of the Earls-Ulster chiefs flee to the Continent.
- 1609** The Plantation of Ulster commences.
- 1642-49** The Confederate Wars-Ulster Irish and Old English Lords of the Pale rebellion against the Crown.
- 1649** Oliver Cromwell arrives in Ireland.
- 1652-53** Cromwellian land confiscations.
- 1685** James II accedes to the English throne.
- 1688** James II deposed as King.  
The Siege of Derry commences.

- 1689** The Siege of Derry ended.  
James II lands in Ireland.
- 1690** Battle of the Boyne-James II defeated by  
King William III (William of Orange).  
First siege of Limerick.
- 1691** Battle of Aughrim.  
Second Siege of Limerick.  
The Treaty of Limerick signed-Catholic  
army is allowed to go to the continent and  
Catholic religious privileged are guaranteed.
- 1695-1727** Passing of Penal legislation against  
Catholics.
- 1791** United Irishmen founded in Belfast by  
Wolfe Tone.
- 1796** Arrival of French invasion fleet at Bantry  
Bay with Wolfe Tone.

- 1798** United Irishmen rebellion fails-the Wexford revolt is crushed at Vinegar Hill.  
Arrest and death of Wolfe Tone.
- 1800** Irish Act of Union passed.
- 1803** Attempted rebellion in Dublin by Robert Emmet.
- 1823** Catholic Association founded to campaign for Catholic emancipation.
- 1828** Daniel O'Connell elected to the Westminster House of Commons for Co. Clare.
- 1829** Catholic Emancipation Act passed.  
Catholics can now enter Parliament and hold civil and military offices.



- 1840** Repeal Association founded to campaign against the Act of Union.
- 1842** The Nation newspaper is founded by the Young Ireland group-Thomas Davis, John Blake Dillon and Charles Gavan Duffy.
- 1843** Prohibition and cancellation of Repeal meeting at Clontarf.
- 1845-49** The Great Famine- potato crops fails for four years in a row. Millions starve or are forced to emigrate.
- 1848** Rebellion led by the radical wing of the Young Ireland movement fails.
- 1858** Irish Republican Brotherhood (Fenians) founded in Dublin by James Stephens.
- 1867** Fenian Rebellion Fails.

- 1869** Gladstone disestablishes the Church of Ireland.
- 1870** Isaac Butt founds the Home Government Association.  
Gladstone's first Land Act is passed.
- 1879-1882** The Land War.  
  
Irish National Land League founded.
- 1881** Gladstone's Second Land Act passed.
- 1882** Kilmainham treaty between Parnell and Gladstone.  
  
The chief secretary Lord Cavendish and under-secretary Thomas Burke are murdered in the Phoenix Park by the Invincibles.
- 1884** GAA established in Thurles.
- 1885** Ashbourne Land Act is passed.

- 1886** First Home Rule Bill defeated in the House of Commons.
- 1890** Split in the Home Rule Party over the Parnell divorce case.
- 1891** Death of Parnell.
- 1892** Second Home Rule bill defeated in the House of Lords.
- 1893** The Gaelic League founded to foster Irish language and culture.
- 1898** Local Government Act passed.
- 1903** Wyndham Land Act Passed.
- 1905** Sinn Féin founded by Arthur Griffith.
- 1911** Parliament Act-House of Lords loses its power of veto on legislation.

- 1912** Third Home Rule Bill introduced in Parliament. It was due to become law by 1914.  
Ulster Solemn League and Covenant is signed.  
Irish Labour Party founded.  
Titanic sinks on its maiden voyage.
- 1913** Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), Irish Citizen Army and Irish National Volunteers founded.
- 1914** Outbreak of World War 1. Irish Parliamentary leader John Redmond urged the Volunteers to fight for the British against Germany.
- 1915** Lusitania is sunk off the Irish coast.
- 1916** Easter Rising. in Dublin on Easter  
Executions of the 15 rebel leaders takes place between 3-12 May.

- 1918** Sinn Féin win a majority of seats in the General Election.
- 1919** First Dáil meets in the Mansion House, Dublin.
- 1919-21** War of Independence.
- 1920** Government of Ireland Act establishes two subordinate Irish parliaments (in Dublin and Belfast).  
Black and Tans and Auxiliaries arrive.  
Bloody Sunday-Collins' unit kills 14 British intelligence officers-British forces retaliate by opening fire on a crowd at a football match in Croke Park.
- 1921** Anglo-Irish Treaty signed in London.
- 1922** The Irish Free State (Saorstát Éireann) comes into existence.  
Michael Collins killed.

- 1922 – 23** Civil War in the Free State between pro and anti-Treaty sides.
- 1925** The report of the Boundary Commission report is shelved- the border between the Free State and the Northern Ireland remains intact.
- 1926** Fianna Fáil party founded by Eamon de Valera.
- 1931** The Statue of Westminster passed.
- 1937** A new constitution (Bunreacht na hEireann) was approved by a referendum.
- 1938** Agreements with Britain ends the Economic War (begun in 1932).  
Dr. Douglas Hyde became first President of Ireland.

- 1939** Outbreak of the Second World War (known in the Free State as the Emergency.) The 26 counties remained neutral.
- 1941** Dublin and Belfast bombed by the German airforce.
- 1949** The Irish Republic is proclaimed.
- 1955** Ireland becomes a member of the United Nations.
- 1963** John F Kennedy, visits the Republic.
- 1967** Civil Rights Association established In Northern Ireland to campaign for equal rights for the Catholic Community.
- 1969** Commencement of the troubles in Northern Ireland.
- 1971** 'Bloody Sunday', Derry - 14 unarmed civilians are shot dead by the British Army

- 1972** Northern Ireland parliament abolished, beginning of direct rule from Great Britain.
- 1973** On 1 Jan, Ireland becomes a member of the European Economic Community (EEC).
- 1985** Anglo-Irish Agreement signed.
- 1990** Mary Robinson becomes President of Ireland.
- 1993** Single European Act comes into force leading to even closer ties with the rest of the E.U.
- 1998** The Good Friday Agreement is signed.  
The Omagh bombing left 29 dead.
- 2001** Irish voters reject the treaty of Nice.
- 2002** Ireland joined the Euro Zone.