

Timeline of Irish history from 00 AD until now

Century AD	Year AD	Event
0		<p>Celtic speaking people with their own culture and legal system. "Tuatha" ruled by chieftains who were selected by the group – no primogeniture. No writing – knowledge transmitted orally.</p> <p>Regular feuds between chieftains.</p> <p>Romans did not attempt to invade Ireland but there was trade between Ireland and Rome via Britain and other routes</p> <p>Raided Britain for slaves and other stuff/</p>
400s		<p>Ireland converted to Christianity</p> <p>Monastic system set up in co-operation with local chieftains</p> <p>Was untouched by the turmoil in Europe and monasteries, education literature, abroad.</p> <p>Set up monasteries throughout Europe – Iona, Lindisfarne, St. Gall, Bobbio.</p> <p>Island of Saints and Scholars</p>
700		<p>Attacks by Vikings started in 792. Initially raids to acquire wealth, from monasteries, farmers etc.</p> <p>They then started settling in Ireland, created towns which Irish did not have, including Dublin, Wexford, Waterford, Cork. Ultimately assimilated.</p>
1000	1014	<p>Brian Boru established himself as High king of Ireland. Died at battle of Clontarf fighting other chiefs.</p> <p>Strife between chieftains continued.</p>
1100	1166	<p>Rory O'Connor claimed title of High King.</p> <p>Ejected Diarmud McMurrugh from Leinster because McMurrugh had kidnapped the wife of another chieftain.</p> <p>McMurrugh sought the help of Henry II who authorised him to find help among Normans.</p> <p>McMurrugh engaged Strongbow with the promise of land and the hand of his daughter. His was the beginning of invasion of Ireland by the Normans, subsequently the English.</p>
	1172	<p>Henry had authority from the Pope to clean up the Church in Ireland, and appointed himself Lord of Ireland. Normans gradually took over land from the Irish. Some Irish chieftains submitted to the king.</p>
1200	1297	<p>Normans built towns and castles and introduced new agricultural practices. Gradually intermarried with the Irish and many became Irish speaking.</p> <p>Nonetheless, two cultures existed – Irish and Norman, different languages, laws, customs, and Irish were generally considered as barbarians (as with most colonists)</p> <p>Irish Parliament set up</p>
1300	1312	<p>Edward Bruce invaded Ireland and started a rebellion with support from some Irish chieftains.</p>
	1348	<p>The rebellion failed, but there was a gradual reduction in land occupied by Normans</p> <p>Black death reached Ireland. Affected Anglo-Normans who lived in towns than Irish who didn't. Estimate one third million</p>
	1366	<p>Statutes of Kilkenny forbade Anglo-Normans in Ireland from speaking Irish, marrying Irish people, playing Irish sports and riding horses bareback. Had very little effect</p>
1400	1494	<p>Norman territory shrank to the Pale.</p> <p>When Henry VII came to power, Yorkist imposters were supported by some Anglo-Irish Lords.</p> <p>Henry VII finally handed power to the earl of Kildare, as ruler of Ireland.</p> <p>Poyning's Law reduced power of Irish parliament.</p>
1500	1502	<p>Henry VIII came to power and wanted more control over Ireland but couldn't afford the required army.</p>
	1533	<p>He appointed himself head of the church in England</p>
	1534	<p>Earl of Kildare's son started a rebellion. Called Henry an apostate. Rebellion was defeated, and Kildare lost power</p>
	1536	<p>The Church of Ireland was declared as the official church of Ireland</p>
	1541	<p>Plantation of land occurred regularly – land taken from occupants and given to English settlers.</p> <p>Henry was declared King of Ireland</p> <p>Irish and old English (descendants of original Norman settlers) remained loyal to Rome</p> <p>New English (more recent arrivals) were Protestants.</p> <p>The large majority of people in Ireland remained Catholic – why?</p>

	1579-83	Rebellion in Munster. Spanish troops landed in Kerry. Rebellion defeated, leaders' land confiscated and given to settlers,
1600	1593-1603	Nine years rebellion . Irish chieftains from Ulster opposing English rule. After defeat, the chieftains fled Ireland. Land confiscated.
	1607	Major plantation of Ulster. All the best land was granted to settlers mainly from Scotland, many of whom were Presbyterians. Catholics excluded from public office and the army
	1641	Countrywide rebellion , both Irish and Old English rule. Catholics in Ulster attacked Protestant settlers and committed many atrocities. Rebellion was defeated.
	1649	Cromwell came to Ireland and exacted revenge by slaughtering thousands including civilians and made a further plantation all Catholic landowners were dispossessed. Some were sent to the colonies as slaves, the rest to Connaught which has the poorest land. Export of cattle, meat and cheese to Britain banned to protect British farmers.
	1689	Protestant William of Orange invited to invade Britain and displace Catholic James II who fled to France and got support from displaced Old English to invade Ireland and start another
	1690	rebellion . Defeated by William at the Battle of the Boyne on 12 th July 1690.
	1699	English conquest of Ireland was now complete Export of Irish wool anywhere banned.
1700	1700	90% of Irish land was owned by Protestants.
	1707	Penal laws against Catholics introduced by Irish Parliament. Some also applied to dissenters. Excluded from parliament, voting, professions. Not allowed to have a lease of longer than 31 years, a horse worth more than £5. Property to be divided among all sons, not eldest. Not allowed to teach. Not allowed to be educated abroad. Heavy taxes were imposed on Irish exports of linen, cotton, beer, glass, paper, hats.... Ruling class, known as the Ascendancy (10% of the population), flourished. Church of Ireland, loyal to the crown. Many fine buildings constructed. Everyone had to pay tithes to the established church Many dissenters from Ulster (200,000?) emigrated to America.
	1775-1789	Agrarian violence led by secret societies against enclosure, tithes, unfair rents, forced labour. The American war of independence, and then the French revolution led to some of the ruling class pressing for self-determination for Ireland - known as the United Irishmen. Some wanted an inclusive Ireland, others not.
	1798	Rebellion . French soldiers landed in Cork. Defeated and the leaders executed.
1800	1801	Act of Union. The Irish parliament was abolished, and Ireland became part of the UK.
	1803	Rebellion – also defeated and the leaders executed.
	1823	Many of the penal laws had been abolished but Catholics could not sit in parliament Daniel O'Connell set up Catholic Association to gain Catholic Emancipation – the right to sit in Parliament. Collected a penny a month from supporters which raised large amount of money and large membership.
	1826	He stood for parliament and was elected. Rules were changed for fear of another rebellion.
	1830	O'Connell now started the Repeal movement to give Ireland its parliament back. Monster meetings were held all over the country. Meetings were banned and he was imprisoned. Meanwhile, Ulster Protestants were less than enthusiastic about an Irish parliament which would have a majority of Catholics. This was the start of the Unionist movement opposed to government from Dublin
	1831-6	Tithe war – large scale peaceful protests against confiscation of goods and cattle for non-payment of tithes support by O'Connell. Up to 250,000 reported to have attended a meeting. Law was changed so tithes were collected through rent and abolished in 1869
	1845-50	The potato famine. Many of the poorest farmers relied on potatoes to feed themselves. A new potato disease spread from Europe and destroyed the crop for five years in a row. Laissez faire policies prevented large scale relief. About a million died of starvation and disease and a million more emigrated to Britain and the US, many dying on board "coffin ships". All the while, food was being exported from Ireland to pay rents.
	1848	Rebellion – Young Ireland, a repeal organisation, inspired by the Paris revolution. Very small, and defeated, but achieved iconic status. Leaders not executed.
	1858	Fenian Brotherhood or Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) set up jointly in Dublin and New York. Involved many of the Irish who had fled the famine. Believed in armed revolution to achieve an Irish republic. Collected large amounts of money in the US.
	1867	Rebellion by the Fenian Brotherhood. Small and unsuccessful. Led to first attacks in Britain.

	1873	Policeman killed and a bomb attack in Clerkenwell which killed 17, injured 140.
	1879	Home Rule party set up. Charles Stuart Parnell became leader in 1880, and it was renamed as the Irish Parliamentary party and then the Nationalist Party.
	1885	Land league set up to defend the rights of tenant farmers and ultimately reclaim land ownership. Led by Michael Davitt and Parnell. Large public gatherings, and non-violent action such as Boycotting (word originate here).
	1886	Irish Parliamentary party have balance of power .
	1889	Mass rallies in Ulster protesting against home rule. Protestant-Catholic riots in Belfast killed at least 31. First Irish Home Rule bill defeated
	1893	Parnell discredited by divorce scandal and IPP splits Second Home Rule bill defeated. Gaelic League started to bring about the revival of Irish language, Non political but supported by Fenians. Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) encouraged playing of Irish games and banned what were seen as English games. Supported by Fenians
1900	1903	Land Act – provide government money to enable tenants in Ireland to buy their land – result of Land League efforts.
	1905	Sinn Fein (ourselves) founded. Political party aimed at having a national legislature in Dublin. Not a military organization.
	1910	Ulster Unionist Council formed to unite Protestants in Ulster
	1912	Nationalists under John Redmond hold the balance of power after General election. Home rule bill passed by the House of Commons Ulster Covenant signed by half a million men – opposed home rule, and swore to refuse to recognise it if it was set up.
	1913	Ulster Volunteer Force set up – imported 25000 rifles and a million round of ammunition without any opposition. Openly supported by some Conservatives and military. Irish Volunteers set up in Dublin. Landed arms at Howth outside Dublin, but were opposed by military, and three people were killed by them
	1914	WWI broke out. Leader of Nationalist party agreed suspension of Home Rule bill and committed Irish Volunteers to the war effort. 210,000 Irish served in the war and 35,000 were killed
	1916	IRB and some Irish volunteers started a rebellion , known as the Easter Rising. Proclaimed a republic. Took over the centre of Dublin. Lasted five days. 485 killed, over 2600 injured. Much damage done at the city. Most were civilians, with about 150 soldiers and police killed. Public opinion was hostile as so many families had members fighting on the front, but the execution of 14 of the leaders over 9 days, one of whom was brought out on a stretcher to be shot. Large numbers of people were arrested. This completely reversed public opinion.
	1918	Bill to enforce conscription in Ireland was passed. Two million people signed a pledge to oppose this. A general one-day strike was called. Nationalist MPs withdrew from Westminster. Sinn Fein replaced the Nationalists. Conscription was not enforced. Sinn Fein won 83 out of 105 seats (and elected the first woman MP) in the General Election. Sinn Fein MPs set up their own parliament (Dail Eireann) in Dublin, and declared independence. Also set up an administration system.
	1919	War of Independence started when two policemen were shot by the IRA (formerly the Irish volunteers). A fierce guerrilla war ensued. Government of Ireland Act passed. This set up two parliaments, one in Dublin for 26 of Ireland's 32 counties, and the other in Belfast for the 6 of Ulster's 9 counties. An election was held. The 6 counties were chosen to ensure a Protestant majority. The border is 310 miles long with 270 crossing points.
	1920	Elections were held in May. The Belfast Parliament assembled in June but was boycotted by Nationalists. The Dublin parliament was also boycotted and the Dail continued to run.
	1921	A truce was established, and peace talks started. A treaty was signed which set up the "Irish Free State" as an independent dominion within the British Empire. This required members of Parliament to take an oath of allegiance to the king. It gave Northern Ireland the right to opt out, which it immediately did. Dail narrowly passed the treaty bill, but it was bitterly opposed by some of its members because of the requirement to take an oath of allegiance to the king. Civil war broke out. Exact deaths not known – 1500-4000. Ended in 1923. Shaped the Irish political system until today.
	1922	Sectarian riots in Belfast killed 460 people

		<p>The Royal Ulster Constabulary force was set up and its members were predominantly Protestant. 10% Catholics, and none in higher positions.</p> <p>Proportional representation, which was imposed by the Government of Ireland Act, was abolished in local elections and boundaries were gerrymandered to ensure unionist majorities.</p> <p>Serious discrimination in the allocation of council houses.</p> <p>No Catholics in higher positions in civil service or local government.</p> <p>Jobs in shipyards exclusively Protestant.</p> <p>Basil Brooke, later prime minister of Northern Ireland boasted that he never had, and never would employ a Catholic.</p> <p>Special Powers Acts passed in NI. Sweeping powers including internment without trial Exclusively used against Nationalists.</p> <p>B-Specials</p> <p>The Nationalists' aim was a united Ireland and were seen as the enemy by the Unionists</p>
1923		The Irish Free State set up a customs border to enforce a different tax and customs regime. Most of the crossing points did not have checkpoints. The UK also had customs barriers later.
1937		A new constitution changed the name of the state to Ireland. This laid claim to the whole of the Island. No reference to the British crown.
1939-45		WWII. Ireland remained neutral. Churchill considered taking it over, including offering the return of Northern Ireland as a bribe.
1939-40		IRA considered themselves to be the legitimate government of Ireland, opposed partition, declared war on Britain, and conducted a bombing and sabotage campaign in Britain to 300 bombs, 10 deaths, 100 injuries. British and Irish government took action – internment and execution.
1942-44		IRA launched further attacks in Northern Ireland. 9 killed.
1945		Welfare state came to NI- free education including University, NHS, improved benefits system
1948		Ireland declared itself a republic and left the Commonwealth.
1956-60		IRA conducted a bombing campaign in Northern Ireland. Twelve people died.
1966		Irish Civil Rights organization set up in Northern Ireland, copied from the American Civil Rights movement, set up to end discrimination against Catholics. Organised demonstrations and marches. Northern Irish government accused it of being a front for the IRA.
1968		Civil rights march in Derry banned, but went ahead. Attacked by RUC and was seen all over the world – didn't go down well.
1969-1998		IRA campaign in Northern Ireland, spilled over into Britain. British Army brought in. Sectarian violence from Ulster Volunteer Force, and other Protestant militants. Over 3600 people were killed.
1993		Military check points were introduced on the main border crossing points which were the subject of many IRA attacks. All non-guarded crossing points were closed down. Customs controls were no longer when the EU single market was introduced but military checkpoints continued
1998		Good Friday agreement more or less ended the conflict. Irish constitution altered so does not claim Northern Ireland. United Ireland to only be formed with the express consent of the Irish people. Government of Northern Ireland to be shared between the two sides.
2000	Now	No customs posts or military check points on the border. The only way you can tell which part of Ireland you are in is by looking at the road markings or the road signs. Northern Ireland is still highly segregated, many areas separated by Peace Walls between Protestants and Catholics areas. Still occasional sectarian violence, getting worse.....