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The Irish War of Independence (Irish: Cogadh na Saoirse) or Anglo-Irish War was a guerrilla war fought from to between the Irish Republican Army (IRA, the army of the Irish Republic) and the British security forces in Ireland. It was an escalation of the Irish revolutionary period into warfare.

Edit The years between the Easter Rising of and the beginning of the War of Independence in were not bloodless. Thomas Ashe , one of the Volunteer leaders imprisoned for his role in the rebellion died on hunger strike, after attempted force-feeding in In , during disturbances arising out of the anti-conscription campaign, six civilians died in confrontations with the police and British Army and over 1, were arrested. Armistice Day was marked by severe rioting in Dublin, which left over British soldiers injured. Cork, four rifles were seized from the Eyerics barracks in March and men from the barracks were beaten that August. The attacks brought a British military presence from the summer of , which only briefly quelled the violence, and an increase in police raids. Treacy had stated to me that the only way of starting a war was to kill someone, and we wanted to start a war, so we intended to kill some of the police whom we looked upon as the foremost and most important branch of the enemy forces. The only regret that we had following the ambush was that there were only two policemen in it, instead of the six we had expected. As regards the Republican prisoners, we must always remember that this country is at war with England and so we must in a sense regard them as necessary casualties in the great fight. Active service Unite of the Dublin Brigade. The first was Resident Magistrate John C. Milling, who was shot dead in Westport, County Mayo , for having sent Volunteers to prison for unlawful assembly and drilling. Others, notably Arthur Griffith , preferred a campaign of civil disobedience rather than armed struggle. Much of the nationalist campaign involved popular mobilisation and the creation of a republican "state within a state" in opposition to British rule. So far as the mass of people are concerned, the policy of the day is not active but a passive policy. Their policy is not so much to attack the Government as to ignore it and to build up a new government by its side. Its members and barracks especially the more isolated ones were vulnerable, and they were a source of much-needed arms. The RIC numbered 9, men stationed in 1, barracks throughout Ireland. The rate of resignation went up, and recruitment in Ireland dropped off dramatically. Often the RIC were reduced to buying food at gunpoint as shops and other businesses refused to deal with them. By contrast with the effectiveness of the widespread public boycott of the police, the military actions carried out by the IRA against the RIC at this time were relatively limited. In Limerick in April , a general strike was called by the Limerick Trades and Labour Council, as a protest against the declaration of a "Special Military Area" under the Defence of the Realm Act which covered most of Limerick city and a part of the county. Special permits, to be issued by the RIC, would now be required to enter the city. Blackleg train drivers were brought over from England after drivers refused to carry British troops. The strike badly hampered British troop movements until December when it was called off. By early , they were attacking isolated RIC stations in rural areas, causing them to be abandoned as the police retreated to the larger towns. Collapse of the British administration Edit In early April , abandoned RIC barracks were burned to the ground to prevent them being used again, along with almost one hundred income tax offices. This had two effects. Trials by jury could not be held because jurors would not attend. The collapse of the court system demoralised the RIC, and many police resigned or retired. The British Liberal journal, The Nation , wrote in August that "the central fact of the present situation in Ireland is that the Irish Republic exists". An unofficial government policy of reprisals began in September in Fermoy , County Cork, when British soldiers looted and burned the main businesses of the town, after one of their number had been killed in an arms raid by the local IRA. The jury at the inquest into his death returned a verdict of wilful murder against David Lloyd George the British Prime Minister and District Inspector Swanzy, among others. Swanzy was later tracked down and killed in Lisburn, in County Antrim. This pattern of killings and reprisals escalated in the second half of and in The G division men were a relatively small political division active in subverting the republican movement, and were detested by the IRA as often they were used to identify volunteers who would have been unknown to British soldiers or the later Black and Tans. Collins set up the "Squad" , a group

of men whose sole duty was to seek out and kill "G-men" and other British spies and agents. One spy who escaped with his life was F. Digby Hardy , who was exposed by Arthur Griffith before an "IRA" meeting which in fact consisted of Irish and foreign journalists, and then advised to take the next boat out of Dublin. However, in practice, Brugha had only a supervisory role, recommending or objecting to specific actions. While the paper membership of the IRA, carried over from the Irish Volunteers , was over , men, Michael Collins estimated that only 15, men actively served in the IRA during the course of the war, with about 3, on active service at any time. The IRA benefited from the widespread help given to them by the general Irish population, who generally refused to pass information to the RIC and the British military and who often provided " safe houses " and provisions to IRA units "on the run". The proposal was immediately dismissed. Reluctant to deploy the regular British Army into the country in greater numbers, they set up two paramilitary police units to aid the RIC. The " Black and Tans.

Chapter 2 : The Irish War of Independence - History of Ireland - YourIrish

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This was inevitable as the British, in the aftermath of the Easter Rising, resorted to punitive actions against known republicans. These murders had been committed by Capt. Bowen Colthurst of the Royal Irish Rifles. Anti-British feelings were also exacerbated by the reports of atrocities committed by members of the South Staffordshire Regiment in the King Street area of Dublin during the rising and by the imposition of martial law. These feelings were further inflamed by the attempt to bring in conscription when the Germans began their Spring offensive. The rest of the seats were won by 6 Nationalists. As the year progressed there was an escalation of military action against the British administration and its mainly Catholic, armed police force, the RIC. Barracks were attacked throughout the country in a quest to obtain arms. RIC personnel were isolated from the community at large and a magistrate was killed in County Mayo. Initially, the people were opposed to the violence whilst supporting the establishment of the new state, but, as ever, the British reaction was punitive and heavy-handed in the extreme. Workers began to strike in Dublin, Limerick and elsewhere. In the north of the country, as ever, anti-Catholic pogroms were launched in Belfast by unionist gunmen. Indeed, by using his spies, Collins was able to identify and eliminate the RIC detective murder squad known as the G-men. In retaliation the British Army started to imprison people on suspicion and without trial. IRA flying columns bands of up to men were operating in many areas. The British, were persuaded by Winston Churchill to establish a force of approximately 10, ex-army personnel to augment the RIC. They were a brutal band who, given a free-hand by the Lloyd George, went on to terrorise and murder many people, burn homes, villages towns and even the centre of Cork city. Even many within Britain were vexed by their behaviour. They achieved very little except to galvanize Irish resistance to Britain and in reaction, IRA activity increased. In November, Collins issued orders to eliminate a British espionage unit of 14 men working in Dublin. In retaliation British soldiers opened fire at a football match in Croke Park killing 12 innocent people known as Bloody Sunday of In December of the Government of Ireland act was signed with the formation of Northern Ireland in World opinion was against them, their powerful forces in Ireland could not defeat the IRA, a much smaller and poorly armed army of mostly part-time activists. The IRA were also exhausted, they were short on arms and ammunition but had a very effective propaganda machine and so on 11th July both sides called a truce and both sides were to enter into negotiations that would result in the Anglo-Irish Treaty being signed. Sources A History of Ireland in Episodes. The War of Independence. The Anglo-Irish War, The troubles of Oxford Share this:

Chapter 3 : The War of Independence

Ireland (Irish: Éire [ˈeːɾʲə] (listen)), also known as the Republic of Ireland (Poblacht na hÉireann), is a country in north-western Europe occupying 26 of 32 counties of the island of Ireland.

Irish War of Independence You are here: However, six northern counties would remain under British rule. The IRA that fought in this conflict is often referred to as the Old IRA to distinguish it from later organisations that used the same name. The demand for Home Rule was eventually granted by the British Government in 1914, immediately prompting a prolonged crisis within the United Kingdom as Ulster Unionists formed an armed organisation—the Ulster Volunteers—to resist this measure of devolution. In turn, Nationalists formed their own military organisation, the Irish Volunteers. The remaining Irish Volunteers, under Eoin MacNeill, held that they would maintain their organisation until Home Rule had been granted. Within this Volunteer movement, another faction, led by the separatist Irish Republican Brotherhood, began to prepare for a revolt against British rule. The Easter Rising The plan for revolt was realised in the Easter Rising of 1916, in which the Volunteers, now explicitly declaring a republic, launched an insurrection whose aim was to end British rule and to found an Irish Republic. By now, support for the British war effort was on the wane, and Irish public opinion was shocked and outraged by some of the actions committed by British troops, particularly the murder of Francis Sheehy-Skeffington and the imposition of wartime martial law. Secondly, the British, in the face of the crisis caused by the German Spring Offensive in April 1918, attempted to introduce conscription into Ireland combined with Home Rule outlined at the Irish Convention. This further alienated the Irish electorate and produced mass demonstrations during the Conscription Crisis of 1918. By the time of the November election, alienation from British rule was widespread. Republicans argued that the conflict of 1916 and indeed the subsequent Irish Civil War was the defence of this Republic against attempts to destroy it. The years between the Easter Rising of 1916 and the beginning of the War of Independence in 1919 were not bloodless. Thomas Ashe, one of the Volunteer leaders imprisoned for his role in the rebellion died on hunger strike, after attempted force-feeding in 1917. In 1918, during disturbances arising out of the anti-conscription campaign, six civilians died in confrontations with the police and British Army and over 1,000 were arrested. Armistice Day was marked by severe rioting in Dublin, which left over 100 British soldiers injured. However, there was as yet no co-ordinated armed campaign against the British presence in Ireland. Treacy had stated to me that the only way of starting a war was to kill someone, and we wanted to start a war, so we intended to kill some of the police whom we looked upon as the foremost and most important branch of the enemy forces. The only regret that we had following the ambush was that there were only two policemen in it, instead of the six we had expected. This is widely regarded as the beginning of the War of Independence, and the men acted on their own initiative to try to start a war. As regards the Republican prisoners, we must always remember that this country is at war with England and so we must in a sense regard them as necessary casualties in the great fight. The delay allowed a balancing of the military and political realities. Violence spreads Volunteers began to attack British government property, carried out raids for arms and funds and targeted and killed prominent members of the British administration. The first was Resident Magistrate John C. Milling, who was shot dead in Westport, County Mayo, for having sent Volunteers to prison for unlawful assembly and drilling. They mimicked the successful tactics of the Boers, fast violent raids without uniform. Others, notably Arthur Griffith, preferred a campaign of civil disobedience rather than armed struggle. The violence used was at first deeply unpopular with the Irish people and it took the heavy-handed British response to popularise it among much of the population. During the early part of the conflict, roughly from 1916 to the middle of 1918, there was a relatively limited amount of violence. So far as the mass of people are concerned, the policy of the day is not active but a passive policy. Their policy is not so much to attack the Government as to ignore it and to build up a new government by its side. Its members and barracks especially the more isolated ones were vulnerable, and they were a source of much-needed arms. The RIC numbered 9, men stationed in 1, barracks throughout Ireland. This proved successful in demoralising the force as the war went on, as people turned their faces from a force increasingly compromised by association with British government repression. The rate of resignation went up, and recruitment in Ireland dropped off

dramatically. Often the RIC were reduced to buying food at gunpoint as shops and other businesses refused to deal with them. By contrast with the effectiveness of the widespread public boycott of the police, the military actions carried out by the IRA against the RIC at this time were relatively limited. Other aspects of mass participation in the conflict included strikes by organised workers in opposition to the British presence in Ireland. Special permits, to be issued by the RIC, would now be required to enter the city. Train drivers were brought over from England after drivers refused to carry British troops. The strike badly hampered British troop movements until December when it was called off. The British government managed to bring the situation to an end when they threatened to withhold grants from the railway companies, which would have meant that workers would no longer have been paid. Violent attacks by the IRA also steadily increased, however. By early , they were attacking isolated RIC stations in rural areas, causing them to be abandoned as the police retreated to the larger towns. Collapse of the British administration In early April , abandoned RIC barracks were burned to the ground to prevent them being used again, along with almost one hundred income tax offices. This had two effects. In Juneâ€”July , assizes failed all across the south and west of Ireland. Trials by jury could not be held because jurors would not attend. The collapse of the court system demoralised the RIC, and many police resigned and retired. Secondly, the Inland Revenue ceased to operate in most of Ireland. Thus, by mid , the Irish Republic was a reality in the lives of many people, enforcing its own law, maintaining its own armed forces and collecting its own taxes. The British forces, in trying to re-assert their control over the country, often resorted to arbitrary reprisals against republican activists and the civilian population. An unofficial government policy of reprisals began in September in Fermoy, County Cork, when British soldiers looted and burned the main businesses of the town, after one of their number had been killed in an arms raid by the local IRA. Arthur Griffith estimated that in the first 18 months of the conflict, British forces carried out 38, raids on private homes, arrested 4, suspects, committed 1, armed assaults, carried out indiscriminate shootings and burning in towns and villages, and killed 77 people including women and children. The jury at the inquest into his death returned a verdict of wilful murder against David Lloyd George the British Prime Minister and District Inspector Swanzy, among others. Swanzy was later tracked down and killed in Lisburn, in County Antrim. This pattern of killings and reprisals escalated in the second half of and in IRA organisation and operations Michael Collins was the main driving force behind the independence movement. The G division men were a relatively small political division active in subverting the republican movement, and were detested by the IRA as often they were used to identify volunteers who would have been unknown to British soldiers or the later Black and Tans. However, in practice, Brugha had only a supervisory role, recommending or objecting to specific actions. While the paper membership of the IRA, carried over from the Irish Volunteers, was over , men, Michael Collins estimated that only 15, men actively served in the IRA during the course of the war, with about 3, on active service at any time. The proposal was immediately dismissed. Martial law The British responded to the escalating violence in Ireland with increasing use of force. Reluctant to deploy the regular British Army into the country in greater numbers, they set up two paramilitary police units to aid the RIC. Seven thousand strong, they were mainly ex-British soldiers demobilised after World War I. First deployed to Ireland in March , most came from English and Scottish cities. While officially they were part of the RIC, in reality they were a paramilitary force. In July , another quasi-military police body, the Auxiliaries, consisting of 2, former British army officers, arrived in Ireland. The Auxiliary Division had a reputation just as bad as the Tans for their mistreatment of the civilian population but tended to be more effective and more willing to take on the IRA. The policy of reprisals, which involved public denunciation or denial and private approval, was famously satirised by Lord Hugh Cecil when he said: In addition, the powers of military court martials were extended to cover the whole population and were empowered to use the death penalty and internment without trial. This act has been interpreted by historians as a choice by Prime Minister David Lloyd George to put down the rebellion in Ireland rather than negotiate with the Republican leadership. As a result, violence escalated steadily from that summer, and sharply after November until July It was in this period that a large-scale mutiny broke out among the Irish Connaught Rangers, stationed in India. Two were killed whilst trying to storm an armoury and one was later executed. A number of events dramatically escalated the conflict in late Then, on 21 November , there was a day of dramatic bloodshed in Dublin. The

Squad shot 19 people, killing 14 and wounding 5. They consisted of British Army officers, police officers and civilians. Fourteen civilians were killed, including one of the players, Michael Hogan and a further 65 people were wounded. Later that day two republican prisoners, Dick McKee, Peadar Clancy and an unassociated friend, Conor Clune who had been arrested with them, were killed in Dublin Castle. This day became known as Bloody Sunday. These actions marked a significant escalation of the conflict. In response, counties Cork, Kerry, Limerick, and Tipperary "all in the province of Munster" were put under martial law on 10 December. On December 11, the centre of Cork was burnt out by British forces, who then shot at firefighters trying to tackle the blaze, in reprisal for an IRA ambush in the city on 11 December which killed one Auxiliary and wounded eleven. Peak of violence, December July During the following eight months until the Truce of July , there was a spiralling of the death toll in the conflict, with 1, people including the RIC police, British military, IRA volunteers and civilians, being killed in the months between January and July alone. In addition, 4, IRA personnel or suspected sympathisers were interned in this time. Between 1 November and 7 June twenty four men were executed by the British. On 1 February, the first execution under martial law of an IRA man took place. Cornelius Murphy of Millstreet, Cork was shot in Cork city. On 28 February, six more were executed, again in Cork. Twenty British soldiers were killed or injured, as well as two IRA men and three civilians. Most of the actions in the war were on a smaller scale than this, but the IRA did have other significant victories in ambushes, for example at Millstreet in Cork and at Scramogue in Roscommon, also in March and at Tourmakeady and Carowkennedy in Mayo in May and June. Equally common, however, were failed ambushes, the worst of which, for example at Upton and Clonmult in Cork in February , saw three and twelve IRA men killed respectively and more captured. Fears of informers after such failed ambushes often led to a spate of IRA shootings of informers, real and imagined. The biggest single loss for the IRA, however, came in Dublin. Symbolically, this was intended to show that British rule in Ireland was untenable. However, from a military point of view, it was a catastrophe in which five IRA men were killed and over eighty were captured.

Chapter 4 : Republic of Ireland - Wikipedia

The Irish War of Independence was a guerrilla conflict between the British state and its forces in Ireland and Irish republican guerrillas in the Irish Volunteers or Irish Republican Army. The war is usually said to have run between and , but violence both preceded these dates and continued afterwards.

Names of the Irish state The state, comprising 26 of the 32 counties of Ireland , was "styled and known as the Irish Free State". Section 2 of the Republic of Ireland Act states, "It is hereby declared that the description of the State shall be the Republic of Ireland. Home-rule movement Main article: This was firstly through widespread agrarian agitation via the Irish Land League , that won land reforms for tenants in the form of the Irish Land Acts , and secondly through its attempts to achieve Home Rule , via two unsuccessful bills which would have granted Ireland limited national autonomy. These led to "grass-roots" control of national affairs, under the Local Government Act , that had been in the hands of landlord-dominated grand juries of the Protestant Ascendancy. However, the Unionist movement had been growing since among Irish Protestants after the introduction of the first home rule bill, fearing discrimination and loss of economic and social privileges if Irish Catholics achieved real political power. In the late 19th and early 20th century unionism was particularly strong in parts of Ulster , where industrialisation was more common in contrast to the more agrarian rest of the island, and where the Protestant population was more prominent, with a majority in four counties. Asquith introduced an Amending Bill reluctantly conceded to by the Irish Party leadership. This provided for the temporary exclusion of Ulster from the workings of the bill for a trial period of six years, with an as yet undecided new set of measures to be introduced for the area to be temporarily excluded. Revolution and steps to independence Easter Proclamation , Though it received the Royal Assent and was placed on the statute books in , the implementation of the Third Home Rule Act was suspended until after the First World War which defused the threat of civil war in Ireland. This commenced on 24 April with the declaration of independence. After a week of heavy fighting, primarily in Dublin, the surviving rebels were forced to surrender their positions. The majority were imprisoned but fifteen of the prisoners including most of the leaders were executed as traitors to Britain. This included Patrick Pearse , the spokesman for the rising and who provided the signal to the volunteers to start the rising, as well as James Connolly , socialist and founder of the Industrial Workers of the World union and both the Irish and Scottish Labour movements. These events, together with the Conscription Crisis of , had a profound effect on changing public opinion in Ireland. The Declaration was mainly a restatement of the Proclamation with the additional provision that Ireland was no longer a part of the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland exercised its right under the treaty to leave the new Dominion and rejoined the United Kingdom on 8 December It did so by making an address to the King requesting, "that the powers of the Parliament and Government of the Irish Free State shall no longer extend to Northern Ireland. The country had a governor-general representing the monarch , a bicameral parliament, a cabinet called the "Executive Council", and a prime minister called the President of the Executive Council. Pro-treaty forces, led by Michael Collins , argued that the treaty gave "not the ultimate freedom that all nations aspire to and develop, but the freedom to achieve it". British supplies of artillery, aircraft, machine-guns and ammunition boosted pro-treaty forces, and the threat of a return of Crown forces to the Free State removed any doubts about the necessity of enforcing the treaty. The lack of public support for the anti-treaty forces often called the Irregulars and the determination of the government to overcome the Irregulars contributed significantly to their defeat. Although the constitution established the office of President of Ireland , the question over whether Ireland was a republic remained open. Diplomats were accredited to the king, but the president exercised all internal functions of a head of state. At the time, a declaration of a republic terminated Commonwealth membership. This rule was changed 10 days after Ireland declared itself a republic, with the London Declaration of 28 April Ireland did not reapply when the rules were altered to permit republics to join. The country signed the Lisbon Treaty in Ireland became a member of the United Nations in December , after having been denied membership because of its neutral stance during the Second World War and not supporting the Allied cause. However, in his successor, Georges Pompidou , was not opposed to British and

Irish membership. Negotiations began and in the Treaty of Accession was signed. However, since , Ireland has experienced increased economic activity. A peace settlement for Northern Ireland, known as the Good Friday Agreement , was approved in in referendums north and south of the border. As part of the peace settlement, the territorial claim to Northern Ireland in Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution of Ireland was removed by referendum. The island is bounded to the north and west by the Atlantic Ocean and to the northeast by the North Channel. The western landscape mostly consists of rugged cliffs, hills and mountains. The central lowlands are extensively covered with glacial deposits of clay and sand, as well as significant areas of bogland and several lakes. River Shannon , which traverses the central lowlands, is the longest river in Ireland at kilometres or miles in length. The west coast is more rugged than the east, with numerous islands, peninsulas , headlands and bays. Hedgerows , which are traditionally used to define land boundaries, are an important substitute for woodland habitat, providing refuge for native wild flora and a wide range of insect, bird and mammal species. Southwestern areas experience the most rainfall as a result of south westerly winds, while Dublin receives the least. Sunshine duration is highest in the southeast of the country. The sunniest months are May and June, which average between 5 and 6. The extreme southeast gets most sunshine, averaging over 7 hours a day in early summer. December is the dullest month, with an average daily sunshine ranging from about 1 hour in the north to almost 2 hours in the extreme southeast. The sunniest summer in the years from to was , according to measurements made at the Phoenix Park in Dublin; was the dullest. Politics of the Republic of Ireland Ireland is a constitutional republic with a parliamentary system of government. The Oireachtas is the bicameral national parliament composed of the President of Ireland and the two Houses of the Oireachtas: Higgins The President serves as head of state , and is elected for a seven-year term and may be re-elected once. The President is primarily a figurehead , but is entrusted with certain constitutional powers with the advice of the Council of State. The office has absolute discretion in some areas, such as referring a bill to the Supreme Court for a judgment on its constitutionality. Higgins became the ninth President of Ireland on 11 November Most Taoisigh have served as the leader of the political party that gains the most seats in national elections. It has become customary for coalitions to form a government, as there has not been a single-party government since Taoiseach Leo Varadkar The Seanad is composed of sixty members, with eleven nominated by the Taoiseach, six elected by two universities, and 43 elected by public representatives from panels of candidates established on a vocational basis. The Government is constitutionally limited to fifteen members. According to the Constitution of Ireland , parliamentary elections must be held at least every seven years, though a lower limit may be set by statute law. It is supported by a number of independents including Shane Ross and former Senator Katherine Zappone. Ireland has been a member state of the European Union since , but has chosen to remain outside the Schengen Area. Citizens of the United Kingdom can freely enter the country without a passport due to the Common Travel Area , which is a passport-free zone comprising the islands of Ireland, Great Britain, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. However, some identification is required at airports and seaports. Local government Government Buildings The Local Government Act [64] is the founding document of the present system of local government, while the Twentieth Amendment to the constitution of provided for its constitutional recognition. The twenty-six traditional counties of Ireland are not always coterminous with administrative divisions although they are generally used as a geographical frame of reference by the population of Ireland. The Local Government Reform Act provides for a system of thirty-one local authorities - twenty-six county councils, two city and county councils and three city councils.

Chapter 5 : Ireland gained independence 66 years ago today, | blog.quintoapp.com

The Irish War of Independence (Irish: Cogadh na Saoirse, also known as the Anglo-Irish War or Tan War) was a guerrilla war mounted against the British government in Ireland by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Origins of the conflict[edit] Home Rule Crisis[edit] Main article: The demand for Home Rule was eventually granted by the British Government in , immediately prompting a prolonged crisis within the United Kingdom as Ulster unionists formed an armed organisation – the Ulster Volunteers UVF – to resist this measure of devolution , at least in territory they could control. In turn, nationalists formed their own paramilitary organisation, the Irish Volunteers. The Volunteer movement split, a majority leaving to form the National Volunteers under Redmond. The remaining Irish Volunteers, under Eoin MacNeill , held that they would maintain their organisation until Home Rule had been granted. Within this Volunteer movement, another faction, led by the separatist Irish Republican Brotherhood , began to prepare for a revolt against British rule in Ireland. Easter Rising The plan for revolt was realised in the Easter Rising of , in which the Volunteers launched an insurrection whose aim was to end British rule. By now, support for the British war effort was on the wane, and Irish public opinion was shocked and outraged by some of the actions committed by British troops, particularly the murder of Francis Sheehy-Skeffington and the imposition of wartime martial law. This further alienated Irish nationalists and produced mass demonstrations during the Conscription Crisis of . During the course of the war, two British divisions, the 5th and the 6th , were based in Ireland with their respective headquarters in the Curragh and Cork. During the course of the war, about a quarter of Ireland was put under martial law, mostly in Munster; in the rest of the country British authority was not deemed sufficiently threatened to warrant it. When, in September , Redmond encouraged the Volunteers to enlist in the British Army, a faction led by Eoin MacNeill broke with the Redmondites, who became known as the National Volunteers , rather than fight for Britain in the war. Between –21 the IRA claimed to have a total strength of 70,, but only about 3, were actively engaged in fighting against the Crown. Thomas Ashe , one of the Volunteer leaders imprisoned for his role in the rebellion, died on hunger strike, after attempted force-feeding in . In , during disturbances arising out of the anti-conscription campaign, six civilians died in confrontations with the police and British Army and over 1, were arrested. Armistice Day was marked by severe rioting in Dublin, which left over British soldiers injured. Cork, four rifles were seized from the Eyeries barracks in March and men from the barracks were beaten that August. The attacks brought a British military presence from the summer of , which only briefly quelled the violence, and an increase in police raids. Initial hostilities[edit] Police wanted poster for Dan Breen , one of those involved in the Soloheadbeg Ambush in Treacy had stated to me that the only way of starting a war was to kill someone, and we wanted to start a war, so we intended to kill some of the police whom we looked upon as the foremost and most important branch of the enemy forces. The only regret that we had following the ambush was that there were only two policemen in it, instead of the six we had expected. As regards the Republican prisoners, we must always remember that this country is at war with England and so we must in a sense regard them as necessary casualties in the great fight. Volunteers began to attack British government property, carry out raids for arms and funds and target and kill prominent members of the British administration. The first was Resident Magistrate John C. Milling, who was shot dead in Westport, County Mayo , for having sent Volunteers to prison for unlawful assembly and drilling. Others, notably Arthur Griffith , preferred a campaign of civil disobedience rather than armed struggle. Much of the nationalist campaign involved popular mobilisation and the creation of a republican "state within a state" in opposition to British rule. So far as the mass of people are concerned, the policy of the day is not active but a passive policy. Their policy is not so much to attack the Government as to ignore it and to build up a new government by its side. Its members and barracks especially the more isolated ones were vulnerable, and they were a source of much-needed arms. The RIC numbered 9, men stationed in 1, barracks throughout Ireland. Often, the RIC were reduced to buying food at gunpoint, as shops and other businesses refused to deal with them. By contrast with the effectiveness of the widespread public boycott of the police, the military actions carried out by the IRA against the RIC at this time were relatively limited. In Limerick in

April, a general strike was called by the Limerick Trades and Labour Council, as a protest against the declaration of a "Special Military Area" under the Defence of the Realm Act, which covered most of Limerick city and a part of the county. Special permits, to be issued by the RIC, would now be required to enter the city. Blackleg train drivers were brought over from England, after drivers refused to carry British troops. The strike badly hampered British troop movements until December, when it was called off. Collapse of the British administration[edit] In early April, abandoned RIC barracks were burned to the ground to prevent them being used again, along with almost one hundred income tax offices. The collapse of the court system demoralised the RIC and many police resigned or retired. The British Liberal journal, The Nation, wrote in August that "the central fact of the present situation in Ireland is that the Irish Republic exists". The ambushers were a unit of the No 2 Cork Brigade, under command of Liam Lynch, who wounded four of the other soldiers and disarmed the rest before fleeing in their cars. The jury at the inquest into his death returned a verdict of wilful murder against David Lloyd George the British Prime Minister and District Inspector Swanzy, among others. Swanzy was later tracked down and killed in Lisburn, County Antrim. This pattern of killings and reprisals escalated in the second half of and in The G Division men were a relatively small political division active in subverting the republican movement and were detested by the IRA as often they were used to identify volunteers, who would have been unknown to British soldiers or the later Black and Tans. Collins set up the "Squad", a group of men whose sole duty was to seek out and kill "G-men" and other British spies and agents. One spy who escaped with his life was F. Digby Hardy, who was exposed by Arthur Griffith before an "IRA" meeting, which in fact consisted of Irish and foreign journalists, and then advised to take the next boat out of Dublin. While the paper membership of the IRA, carried over from the Irish Volunteers, was over, men, Michael Collins estimated that only 15, were active in the IRA during the course of the war, with about 3, on active service at any time. The IRA benefitted from the widespread help given to them by the general Irish population, who generally refused to pass information to the RIC and the British military and who often provided "safe houses" and provisions to IRA units "on the run". The proposal was immediately dismissed. A group of "Black and Tans" and Auxiliaries in Dublin, April The British increased the use of force; reluctant to deploy the regular British Army into the country in greater numbers, they set up two paramilitary police units to aid the RIC. Deployed to Ireland in March, most came from English and Scottish cities. While officially they were part of the RIC, in reality they were a paramilitary force. In response to IRA actions, in the summer of, the Tans burned and sacked numerous small towns throughout Ireland, including Balbriggan, Trim, Templemore and others. In July, another quasi-military police body, the Auxiliaries, consisting of 2, former British army officers, arrived in Ireland. The Auxiliary Division had a reputation just as bad as the Tans for their mistreatment of the civilian population but tended to be more effective and more willing to take on the IRA. The policy of reprisals, which involved public denunciation or denial and private approval, was famously satirised by Lord Hugh Cecil when he said: It replaced the trial by jury by courts-martial by regulation for those areas where IRA activity was prevalent. This act has been interpreted by historians as a choice by Prime Minister David Lloyd George to put down the rebellion in Ireland rather than negotiate with the republican leadership. It was in this period that a mutiny broke out among the Connaught Rangers, stationed in India. Two were killed whilst trying to storm an armoury and one was later executed. October–December [edit] British soldiers and relatives of the victims outside Jervis Street Hospital during the military enquiry into the Bloody Sunday shootings at Croke Park A number of events dramatically escalated the conflict in late Then, on 21 November, there was a day of dramatic bloodshed in Dublin. The Squad shot 19 people, killing 14 and wounding 5. These consisted of British Army officers, police officers and civilians. The dead included members of the Cairo Gang and a courts-martial officer, and were killed at different places around Dublin. Fourteen civilians were killed, including one of the players, Michael Hogan, and a further 65 people were wounded. The official account was that the three men were shot "while trying to escape", which was rejected by Irish nationalists, who were certain the men had been tortured then murdered. These actions marked a significant escalation of the conflict. In response, Counties Cork, Kerry, Limerick, and Tipperary – all in the province of Munster – were put under martial law on 10 December under the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act; this was followed on 5 January in the rest

of Munster and in Counties Kilkenny and Wexford in the province of Leinster. Aftermath of the burning of Cork by British forces On 11 December, the centre of Cork City was burnt out by the Black and Tans, who then shot at firefighters trying to tackle the blaze, in reprisal for an IRA ambush in the city on 11 December which killed one Auxiliary and wounded eleven. December – July [edit] During the following eight months until the Truce of July , there was a spiralling of the death toll in the conflict, with 1, people including the RIC police, army, IRA volunteers and civilians, being killed in the months between January and July alone. In addition, 4, IRA personnel or suspected sympathisers were interned in this time. Between 1 November and 7 June twenty-four men were executed by the British. Cornelius Murphy of Millstreet , Cork was shot in Cork city. On 28 February, six more were executed, again in Cork. Twenty British soldiers were killed or injured, as well as two IRA men and three civilians. Most of the actions in the war were on a smaller scale than this, but the IRA did have other significant victories in ambushes, for example at Millstreet in Cork and at Scramogue in Roscommon, also in March and at Tourmakeady and Carowkennedy in Mayo in May and June. Equally common, however, were failed ambushes, the worst of which, for example at Upton and Clonmult in Cork in February , saw three and twelve IRA men killed respectively and more captured. Fears of informers after such failed ambushes often led to a spate of IRA shootings of informers, real and imagined. The biggest single loss for the IRA, however, came in Dublin. Symbolically, this was intended to show that British rule in Ireland was untenable. However, from a military point of view, it was a heavy defeat in which five IRA men were killed and over eighty captured. However, it did not, as is sometimes claimed, cripple the IRA in Dublin. The Dublin Brigade carried out attacks in the city in May and 93 in June, showing a falloff in activity, but not a dramatic one. However, by July , most IRA units were chronically short of both weapons and ammunition, with over 3, prisoners interned. A general election for the Parliament of Southern Ireland was held on 13 May. Under the terms of the Government of Ireland Act , the Parliament of Southern Ireland was therefore dissolved, and executive and legislative authority over Southern Ireland.

Chapter 6 : Irish War of Independence - Timeline Index

The Irish Free State, comprising four-fifths of Ireland, is declared, ending a five-year Irish struggle for independence from Britain.

For more detailed articles on the war see the Irish Story archive on the War of Independence. The war is usually said to have run between and , but violence both preceded these dates and continued afterwards. A third strand of the conflict lay in the northern province of Ulster, which was majority unionist or pro-British and which opposed Sinn Fein. This led to violence between the majority Protestant unionists and the mainly Catholic Irish nationalist minority in the north. Home Rule versus Republic In , as a result of a political deal between the Irish Parliamentary party and the Liberal Party at Westminster, the British government introduced a Bill for Home Rule, or limited autonomy for Ireland within the United Kingdom as Irish nationalists had been demanding since the s. However, this was opposed by Ulster Unionists, who formed their own militia, the Ulster Volunteers to oppose Irish self-government. Irish nationalists in response formed a rival militia, the Irish Volunteers to ensure Home Rule was passed. Tensions between the two sides were eased by the outbreak of the First World War , when both sides agreed to support the British war effort. However, in , a more radical Irish nationalist element in the Irish Volunteers, largely directed by the Irish Republican Brotherhood, unhappy with support for Britain in the war and believing that Home Rule fell too far short of Irish independence, launched an insurrection known as the Easter Rising in Dublin, proclaiming an Irish Republic. See the Easter Rising, an overview. The rebellion was put down within a week with about deaths, but the British reaction, executing the leaders and arresting 3, nationalist activists antagonized Irish public opinion. However, British policy was inconsistent. In , in a bid to restart negotiations on Home Rule, all of the prisoners from the Easter Rising were released. Many of them joined the Sinn Fein party and led a very popular campaign against the introduction of conscription into Ireland for the Great War. Several hundred republicans were arrested in under charges of conspiring with Germany. More were detained under legislation banning public parades. In December , Sinn Fein decisively won the Irish vote in the General Election taking 73 seats out being a majority everywhere except Ulster and declared an Irish Republic. This is commonly presented as the opening shots of the war but there had been deaths in and only 17 more people were killed in . Alongside the limited armed campaign there was significant passive resistance including hunger strikes by prisoners many of whom were released in March and a boycott by railway workers on carrying British troops. Violence intensified in early . Much of the Sinn Fein political leadership had been arrested. Eamon de Valera, the President of the Republic, had gone to America to raise funds. The RIC withdrew from its smaller stations into fortified barracks in towns and the abandoned posts were systematically burnt by the IRA around the country on the night of Easter Sunday . By the summer of , many RIC men were resigning their commissions and in many localities the IRA were in the ascendant. At the same time, in the summer of , Sinn Fein won local government elections across most of Ireland and took over functions of government from the state such as tax collection and law enforcement. To put down this insurgency, the British government under Lloyd George proposed autonomous governments in Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland and also deployed new corps of paramilitary police from Britain, the Black and Tans and Auxiliary Division, made up largely of war veterans from the First World War. Lloyd George also passed the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, giving special powers to the police and military. Escalation British troops search suspects in Dublin, This triggered a grave escalation of the conflict as the new forces carried out reprisals on the civilian population for IRA attacks “ in the summer of burning extensive parts of the towns of Balbriggan and Tuam for example. Up to people were killed and hundreds of Catholic homes burnt out. Another 7, Catholics were expelled from their jobs in the Belfast shipyards. The autumn and winter of saw a new ruthlessness on both sides. On November 21, IRA units in Dublin launched a mass assassination attack on British Intelligence officers, killing 14 men, of whom at least 8 were Intelligence Officers. A week later a patrol of 17 Auxiliaries was wiped out in an IRA ambush at Kilmichael in Cork and shortly after that much of Cork city centre was destroyed in a fire set by Crown forces. By the end of some people had been killed. There were attempts to call a truce in December but

this was prevented by Hamar Greenwood, the Chief Secretary for Ireland who insisted that the IRA surrender its weapons first. In the first 6 months of 1920, around 1,000 people were killed in the fighting. The violence was most intense in Dublin city, south Munster and Belfast, although there was some guerrilla activity in most areas. County Cork saw almost 100 people killed in actions like the Upton ambush and Dublin 1920, while at the other end of the spectrum County Cavan saw only 9 deaths and Wicklow 7 See here. In addition some 5,000 republicans were imprisoned. Martial or military law was declared in the province of Munster. The IRA retaliated by stepping up shootings of informers real and alleged, eventually extending attacks to off-duty British personnel and burning the property of loyalists. When the British began executing prisoners the IRA also began shooting captured British soldiers and police. By the summer of 1920, the IRA was very short of ammunition and weapons and many fighters had been imprisoned, notably in the raid on the Customs House in Dublin. British forces claimed they were on the verge of defeating them but the guerrillas had also improved their bomb making capabilities, were still inflicting casualties and no immediate end was in sight to the conflict. The fighting was brought to an end however, on July 11, 1921, when a truce was negotiated between British and Irish Republican forces so that talks on a political settlement could begin. In the north, though, the second half of 1921 was more violent than the first with extensive fighting between republicans and loyalists, Catholics and Protestants, especially in Belfast. Many of their activists believed at first that it was just a temporary end to hostilities. Much of the IRA was unhappy with the settlement though and this eventually led to civil war among nationalists in 1922, before the new Irish Free State government was established. See Overview of the Irish Civil War. Violence did not totally end with the truce in the south of Ireland. British troops remained in garrisons until the spring of 1922 and the final 6,000 soldiers did not leave until December 1922. This culminated in a failed IRA offensive in May 1922, in which the guerrillas fought a number of sizable engagements with British troops at the villages of Pettigo and Beleek in Fermanagh, but overall failed to coordinate their actions and were imprisoned in large numbers by the Northern government. Loyalists, in a number of cases with the help of the RIC and the Ulster Special Constabulary launched attacks on Catholic areas of Belfast in reprisal. The IRA in Belfast also carried out killings of Protestants, including bombing the trams taking workers to the shipyards. Results If taken from up mid 1920, the conflict produced in the region of 2,000 deaths. Its political results were the creation of the substantially independent Irish Free State since 1922, the Republic of Ireland and fully independent and Northern Ireland, which remained part of the United Kingdom. The Irish Free State and later Republic was the first fully independent functional Irish state in recorded history. The memory of the War of Independence was tarnished by the subsequent civil war but it was openly celebrated up to the 1980s as marking the foundation of the Irish state. After the outbreak of the Northern Ireland conflict in 1968, public memory began to be more critical with more focus on the killing of civilians and the lack of democratic endorsement of the IRA campaign. However since end of the Northern conflict after the late 1990s, more positive views of the period are again in the ascendant in nationalist Ireland – though aspects of it continue to be bitterly debated. More features on the War of Independence here.

Chapter 7 : History of Ireland - The War of Independence and Partition

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Sinn Fein attended these meetings and attempted to have Ireland included in this redrawing. They argued that Ireland should be granted independence through the treaty. However the leaders in Europe largely ignored Sinn Fein and they returned home again empty-handed. With the Third Home Rule Bill under discussion now for 7 years, with no implementation, the IVF decided that they had waited long enough and that they would have to take action to increase the pace. They also hoped that by becoming a formidable military force, they could persuade the government to introduce complete Independence rather than the proposed Home Rule solution. In they renamed themselves the Irish Republican Army IRA which really signalled the start of a new phase in their history. On 21 January, the IRA shot dead 2 Irish policemen in county Tipperary, and this marked the beginning of what is now known as the War of Independence. However the British clamped down hard in response and soon a guerrilla war was underway in counties Cork and Tipperary. With the post-war British army in a shambles, they were only willing to send over groups of ex-First World War soldiers to fight. These attacks helped to create and then strengthen local support for the IRA. In the IRA, led by a Corkman named Michael Collins, concluded that the war was not having the desired effect and decided to intensify the war. In reprisal, a group of Black and Tans fired randomly into a crowd of civilians at a Gaelic football match at Croke Park, Dublin. Not to be confused with another Bloody Sunday much later. Meanwhile, despite the conflict, the government decided to press ahead with Home Rule and passed the Government of Ireland Act in 1920. This gave Ireland 2 Parliaments each with a Prime Minister, one for the Unionists and one for the Nationalists, but kept both Parliaments answerable to the overall UK parliament in London. The first elections for the Northern Ireland parliament were held in May and the Unionists got 40 of the 52 seats. It first met in Belfast in June. The 4 Unionists were the only ones who attended the new Parliament. Finally stalemate was reached and a truce was signed between the IRA and the British on 11 July. After 4 months of negotiations a treaty was hammered out which Michael Collins signed on behalf of the IRA. However he did not fully consult his colleagues, many of whom were horrified that he had accepted partition. This is why he is now regarded by some as a traitor and this probably contributed to his assassination a short time later. The new Act created an Ireland which was much more independent than it would have been under pure Home Rule, and certainly much more independent than the bit of Ireland ruled by the Northern Ireland government. This is a similar status to that which Canada has today. Britain would also have a representative in Ireland and would keep some naval bases in Irish waters. To oversee that the 2 Irish states got along, a Council of Ireland was set up to manage relations. The British believed that the 2 Parliaments would soon settle their differences and agree to unite, and the Council of Ireland was to oversee this reunification as well. However, in the end, the Council of Ireland never met.

Chapter 8 : Why doesn't Ireland celebrate an 'independence day'? : ireland

The Irish Independence Film Collection Promo The period was one of the most turbulent in Irish history, with WW1, the Easter Rising, the War of Independence, the Irish Civil War all taking place.

Chapter 9 : Irish War of Independence – essential facts – Ireland Calling

The IRA, under Collins, continued to fight on for more independence, and made regular attacks on Protestants in Northern Ireland too. Finally stalemate was reached and a truce was signed between the IRA and the British on 11 July