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# Éirí Amach na Cásca 1916

The Easter Rising — 5th &amp; 6th Class

## Key figures — Príomhphearsana

1

**Pádraig Pearse (1879–1916)**

Poet, teacher, and Irish nationalist. Commander in Chief of the Irish forces during the Easter Rising. Read the Proclamation from the steps of the GPO. Executed May 1916.

2

**James Connolly (1868–1916)**

Trade union leader and socialist. Commandant-General of Dublin during the Rising. Wounded in battle, tied to a chair for his execution because he could not stand.

3

**Countess Constance Markievicz (1868–1927)**

Irish nationalist and suffragette. Second-in-command at St Stephen's Green. Later became the first woman elected to the Westminster Parliament (refused to take her seat).

4

**Éamon de Valera (1882–1975)**

Commanding officer at Boland's Mill during the Rising. His death sentence was commuted. Later became Taoiseach and President of Ireland.

5

**Michael Collins (1890–1922)**

Fought in the GPO during 1916. Later became a key figure in the War of Independence and the negotiation of the Anglo-Irish Treaty.

## Week — 24–29 April 1916

Timeline of events

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EASTER MONDAY 24 APRIL: approximately 1,200 volunteers occupy key buildings in Dublin — the GPO, St Stephen's Green, Four Courts, Boland's Mill.



- THE PROCLAMATION: Pádraig Pearse reads the Proclamation of the Irish Republic from the steps of the GPO. It declares an Irish Republic and lists equality for all citizens.
- BRITISH RESPONSE: the British Army brought in over 16,000 troops and a gunboat (the Helga) shelled parts of Dublin.
- SURRENDER 29 APRIL: after heavy fighting and civilian casualties, Pearse orders an unconditional surrender. Much of central Dublin is in ruins.
- EXECUTIONS: 15 leaders of the Rising were executed between 3–12 May 1916. The executions turned public opinion — which had initially been hostile — in favour of the rebels.
- SIGNIFICANCE: 1916 transformed Irish nationalism. The War of Independence followed (1919–1921) and led to the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922.
- THE GPO: the General Post Office on O'Connell Street remains the symbolic site of 1916 and Irish independence. The original Proclamation is displayed in the National Museum.

