

THE WORLD AROUND US — HISTORY · P6–P7

Éirí Amach na Cásca — The Easter Rising

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The Easter Rising 1916

1

Background

Ireland was part of the United Kingdom. The Home Rule movement sought self-government for Ireland; Unionists in Ulster opposed Home Rule. The First World War (1914-1918) delayed Home Rule legislation.

2

The rebellion (24-29 April 1916)

A small group of Irish nationalists (around 1,600 fighters) seized key buildings in Dublin, including the General Post Office (GPO). They proclaimed an Irish Republic.

3

Patrick Pearse and James Connolly

Pearse: schoolteacher and writer, leader of the Irish Volunteers. He read the Proclamation outside the GPO. Connolly: socialist trade unionist, leader of the Irish Citizen Army.

4

British response

British forces shelled Dublin's centre and the rebels surrendered after six days. Around 485 people died (more than half were civilians). Large parts of central Dublin were destroyed.

5

The executions

15 leaders of the Rising were executed by firing squad, including Pearse and Connolly (who was severely wounded and tied to a chair to be shot). The executions shocked Irish public opinion and transformed views of the rebels.



6

Long-term impact

The Rising changed Irish public opinion in favour of independence. Sinn Féin won the 1918 general election; the War of Independence (1919-21) followed; partition created Northern Ireland in 1921.

