

THE WORLD AROUND US — HISTORY · P5–P7

Cúnant Uladh — The Ulster Covenant

Knowledge Organiser — P5–P7

Key vocabulary

1

Home Rule

A proposed measure to give Ireland its own Parliament in Dublin while remaining part of the UK. Strongly supported by Irish nationalists. Strongly opposed by Ulster Unionists, who feared being governed by a Dublin parliament dominated by Catholics.

Example: Three Home Rule Bills: 1886, 1893, 1912 (only the third passed — but was suspended for WWI)

2

The Ulster Covenant (28 September 1912)

A declaration signed by 237,368 Ulster men (and 234,046 women who signed a parallel declaration) pledging to resist Home Rule 'by all means necessary.' Signed on Ulster Day at Belfast City Hall.

3

Sir Edward Carson (1854–1935)

Dublin-born barrister and Unionist leader. Led the campaign against Home Rule. Organised the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). A commanding orator and political strategist.

4

Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF, 1913)

A paramilitary force formed to resist Home Rule by armed force if necessary. 100,000 men, drilling openly. Many were veterans who knew how to use weapons. In 1914, the UVF smuggled 25,000 rifles into Larne — the Larne Gun Running.

5

The Solemn League and Covenant (Scottish)

The Ulster Covenant was deliberately modelled on the Scottish Solemn League and Covenant of 1638 — when Scottish Presbyterians pledged to defend their church. The parallel was intentional.



6

Significance

The Covenant demonstrated that Ulster Unionists would resist Home Rule by force if necessary. It made partition increasingly likely — if all Ireland could not be governed together, Ulster would have to be treated separately.

