



FACT FILE

Let's know more about the Irish Partition!



Image showing the partition of the island

The Irish Partition refers to the split of Ireland into two parts, one of which is a member state of Great Britain (Northern Ireland) and the other of which is a self-governing state (Southern Ireland, called The Irish Free State, today known as the Republic of Ireland). The Irish Partition took place on 3 May 1921 under the Government of Ireland Act 1920 following years of discussion and fighting for Home Rule in Ireland. Despite plans to keep both parts of Ireland within the United Kingdom, the southern part of the country seceded in 1922 during the Irish War of Independence, and the northern part opted to retain its ties with the United Kingdom.



Irish Movement and the Home Rule Crisis

National Movement

- ❑ The Acts of Union 1800 abolished the Irish Parliament in Dublin and brought about the unification of the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland, which resulted in the formation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in the year 1801.
- ❑ For centuries, Irish people have fought against British control. Before the outbreak of World War I, Irish nationalists, the vast majority of whom were Catholic, protested this authority in a variety of peaceful and violent ways. The goal of Irish nationalists was to free Ireland from British rule.

- Throughout the early 19th century, several attempts to destabilise Anglo-Irish ties and overthrow the Act of Union were made.
- Beginning in the 1870s, Irish nationalists led by Isaac Butt advocated for Home Rule in Ireland. The Home Rule movement was the leading political campaign of Irish nationalism, advocating for Ireland's autonomy within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
- A bill proposing Home Rule for the British Isles was introduced three times in the House of Commons.

The first attempt at enacting a Home Rule bill did not occur until 1886. It was at this time that the **Government of Ireland Bill 1886**, commonly known as the **First Home Rule Bill**, was presented in the House of Commons by the Liberal government headed by Prime Minister William Gladstone and the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP). Due to opposition from unionists in Britain and Ireland, this effort failed.



On 8 April 1886, Gladstone spoke during a discussion on the Irish Home Rule Bill



In February 1893, a **Second Home Rule bill** was introduced and made it past the House of Commons. After three days of deliberation, the House of Lords voted 410 to 41 against the Second Home Rule Bill and rejected it.

1 TERMINOLOGY Write the meaning or brief description of the following terms based on your understanding of the resource.

Irish Home Rule

Government Act 1920

Ulster Plantation

Irish Free State

1 COMPARISON Provide the differences between Northern and Southern Ireland to see the comparison.



Ulster Banner



Ireland