



The Catholic Emancipation Act, also known as the Roman Catholic Relief Act, was approved by the United Kingdom (UK) Parliament on 24 March 1829 and gained Royal Assent on 13 April 1829. It was the culmination of the nation's Catholic Emancipation process. Ireland repealed the Test Act of 1673 and the remaining Penal Laws that had been in effect since the Disenfranchising Act of the Irish Parliament of 1728.

INITIAL RELIEFS

The Quebec Act of 1774 eased some limitations on Roman Catholics in Canada. It was termed as one of the Intolerable Acts and, in October 1774, was criticised in the Petition to the King, a petition sent to George III in October 1774 by the First Continental Congress of the Thirteen Colonies. The Intolerable Acts were a set of five punitive legislations enacted in 1774 by the British Parliament in response to the Boston Tea Party. This American political and mercantile protest happened on 16 December 1773.

The first Relief Act, known as the Papists Act, was passed in Great Britain and separately in Ireland in 1778; subject to an oath renouncing Stuart's claims to the throne and the civil jurisdiction of the pope, it allowed Roman Catholics to own property and inherit the land. Reactions to this included rioting in Scotland in 1779 and the Gordon rioting in London on 2 June 1780.



An Act of 1782 provided more aid by establishing Roman Catholic schools and bishops. The Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1791 provided for the free practice of Catholicism but with significant restrictions to make Catholicism less apparent in the communities where it was practised.

The Irish Parliament passed the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1793, granting Catholics the right to vote. Because the electoral franchise was primarily controlled by property at the time, this remedy provided votes to Roman Catholics who owned land worth £2 per year. They also began to acquire access to several middle-class professions that had previously been closed to them, such as the legal profession, grand jurors, universities, and lesser posts in the army and court.

ACTS OF UNION 1800

The measures of Union 1800 were simultaneous measures passed by the Parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland that merged the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, which were previously in personal union, to become the merged Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The legislation went into effect on 1 January 1801, and the first meeting of the combined Parliament of the United Kingdom was held on 22 January 1801.

1 INTERPRETATION. Below is an edited verse from a ballad sheet: O'Connell's New Song on Catholic Emancipation. The original version is held in the National Archives. This ballad is told from the perspective of Daniel O'Connell and dates from the time of Catholic Emancipation (1829). Provide your analysis of the text by answering the corresponding questions. (X marks)

"I have roll'd up a mill-stone against a steep mountain,
By the assistance of O'Gorman Mahon and Sheil,
Back'd by John Lawless of the Order of Liberators,
And the praise-worthy champion brave Thomas Steel.
When we had it at the pinnacle we were sure of being victorious,
We had 7 million Catholics to roll it down headforemost
Going to the City of London we heaved it on before us
It being the conditions of Erin go Bragh."

QUESTIONS:

1. In your opinion, what is this ballad referring to in the first line?
2. 'We had 7 million Catholics to roll it down headforemost'. This line refers to support for the Catholic Association. How did the Catholic Association become a mass movement?

1 COMPLETION. Complete the mind map with the objectives of the Catholic Emancipation. (X marks)

