New chronology

**Mesolithic and Neolithic periods**

* **c. 16,000 BC During the Last Glacial Maximum, Ireland is covered in ice sheets**
* **c. 12,000 BC A narrow channel forms between Ireland and southwest Scotland [1]**
* **c. 8000 BC Mesolithic hunter-gatherers migrate to Ireland**
* c. 6500 BC Mesolithic hunter-gatherers occupy sites such as that at Mount Sandel in Northern Ireland
* c. 4000 BC Agriculture (including the keeping of livestock, and crop farming) has its beginnings in Ireland, at sites such as the Céide Fields in Mayo
* **c. 3500 BC The Neolithic peoples of the Boyne Valley build a complex of chamber tombs, standing stones and enclosures over a period of hundreds of years. (Newgrange itself is dated to 3300-2900 BC).**

**Bronze and Iron ages**

* c. 2000 BC Bronze Age technologies start to arrive in Ireland, including the moulding of Ballybeg type flat axes, and the beginnings of copper mining at Mount Gabriel in Co. Cork, and Ross Island in Co. Kerry.
* **c. 500 BC During the Iron Age in Ireland, Celtic influence in art, language and culture begins to take hold.**
* **c. 200 BC La Tène influence from continental Europe influences carvings on the Turoe stone, Bullaun, Co. Galway.[4]**
* c. 100 BC Additional works expand the site at Emain Macha (first occupied in the Neolithic period)

**2nd century**

* **c. 140 AD Ptolemy's Geographia provides the earliest known written reference to habitation in the Dublin area, referring to a settlement in the area as Eblana Civitas**

**3rd century**

* **c. 220 AD The Annals of the Four Masters, Foras Feasa ar Éirinn, and other semi-historical (non-contemporary) texts, place Cormac mac Airt as a longstanding High King of Ireland.[5][6] (The Annals date his reign as 226-266, but scholars vary in their assessment of Mac Airt's reign as legend or historical fact)**

**4th Century**

* Rome influenced Ireland more in the fourth century and after. As the Romans lost their grip on Britain, the Irish and Picts began to invade.
* 367 AD The Irish, Picts and Saxons launched a concerted raid on Britain.

**5th century**

* **c.AD350 Christianity reaches Ireland**
* c. 400 Niall Noígíallach is placed by Medieval texts as a legendary Goidelic High King of Ireland (the Annals of the Four Masters dates his reign as 378-405)
* 431 Palladius is sent as the first bishop "to the Irish believing in Christ" by Pope Celestine I
* **432 According to the Annals of Ulster (and other chronicles) Saint Patrick returns to Ireland.**
* 600s – 800s The arts (metal-work, illumination, calligraphy) flowered in the monasteries. Iona and Armagh were the greatest ecclesiastical power-centres. Iona was founded by Columba and Armagh by Patrick.
* **664- The Synod of Whitby was a seventh-century Northumbrian synod where King Oswiu of Northumbria ruled that his kingdom would calculate Easter and observe the monastic tonsure according to the customs of Rome, rather than the customs practised by Iona and its satellite institutions.** The synod was summoned in 664 at Saint Hilda's double monastery of Streonshalh (Streanæshalch), later called Whitby Abbey.
* **700-800 Irish monasticism reaches its zenith.  
  795 Full-scale Viking invasion**.

**9th century**

* **830 Óengus of Tallaght writes the Martyrology of Tallaght, the Prologue of which speaks of the last vestiges of paganism in Ireland**
* **852 Vikings Ivar Beinlaus and Olaf the White land in Dublin Bay and establish a fortress - close to where the city of Dublin now stands**
* 940s – 960s Dublin boomed as a great European trading city. While in Scotland the incomers were farmers and fishermen, in Ireland they were merchants and seamen.
* The Uí Neíll clan was locked in an internal power struggle during this time.
* 956 - 980 Domnall ua Néill was King of Tara, High King of Ireland.
* 976 Brian Boru became king of the Dal Cais, becoming a serious rival to the Uí Neílls. Supported by the Ostmen, he conquered Dublin and Leinster, and then the whole country.
* 1002 Boru demanded that Mael Sechnaill recognise him as King of Ireland.
* 1005  Brian Boru was declared Emperor of the Irish at Armagh.
* 1014  Brian Boru defeated the Vikings at Clontarf. The army he fought contained both Norsemen from Dublin and Leinster Irishmen. Boru was not supported by the other great kings, and he himself was killed by a Danish king named Brodar.

**12th century**

* 1161 King Dermot’s brother-in-law, Lawrence O'Tool or Lorcán Ó Tuathail,  was appointed archbishop. The Dubliners themselves had killed Dermot’s father and preferred O’Connor to MacMurrough. O’Connor joined forces with Tiernan O’Rourke and **MacMurrough was dethroned.**
* The Pope invested Henry II with the right to rule Ireland, but Henry’s grip on England was still insecure.
* 1166 Rory O’Connor had himself inaugurated king at Dublin. However, Dublin was suited to act as capital to Leinster, ruled by Dermot MacMurrough. **MacMurrough approached Henry for help. Henry authorised his subjects to aid him. MacMurrough promised his Cambro-Norman supporters land and his daughter in marriage**.
* 1169 – 71   **The Cambro-Normans re-conquered all Leinster. Henry II withdrew consent when he saw how successful his invasion was, but Strongbow (earl of Pembroke) made himself lord of Leinster**.
* 1170 (May 1st)  A small party of Normans, Strongbow's soldiers, landed at Baginbun at the invitation of Dermot MacMurrough. They built a vast rampart that survives today. At the time the Irish fought with slings and stones, while the Normans had knights, archers and other technology.
* **Strongbow captured Dublin, married MacMurrough’s daughter and ultimately became king of Leinster. Henry II then arrived to subdue Strongbow, which soon meant conquering the Irish as well**.

* The Norman adventurers who followed Strongbow into Ireland formed alliances with some chieftains in order to attack others, building great castles. They spread all over Ireland apart from western and central Ulster. Their allegiance to Henry was only nominal and they eventually intermarried with the Irish, adopting their ways, laws and language. They English kings tried to stop this assimilation.
* **1171 (17th Oct). Henry II went over to stifle this new Norman kingdom. Strongbow submitted and was allowed to keep Leinster as a fief.** Henry reserved Dublin for himself and received submission from various Irish kings.
* **1175 6 October The Treaty of Windsor consolidates Norman influence in Ireland**

1172 Pope decrees that Hery II of England is feudal lord of Ireland.  
**14th Century**

14th  Century By the beginning of this century, all native rulers were legally subject to some Anglo-Norman baron or earl, or the English king. The expansion of the colonisers continued.  The Anglo-Norman magnates often fought one another.

* **1366 Statues of Kilkenny belatedly forbid intermarriage of English and  
  Irish. Gaelic culture unsuccessfully suppressed**

**15th century**

The Anglo-Irish magnates were more successful during this period than the Irish or the Crown, whose control shrank to four counties including Dublin. This was enclosed by an earthen rampart known as the Pale.

* **1494 1 December Edward Poyning, Henry VII of England's Lord Deputy to Ireland, issued a declaration known as Poynings' Law under which the Irish parliament was to pass no law without the prior consent of the English parliament**.
* 1497 The Annals of the Four Masters refers to a famine which "prevailed through all Ireland".

**16th century**

* By this time most of Ireland was ruled by Gaelic or Gaelicised lords, who rejected the English Crown. The church in these areas was very different to the English one.
* 1515 Sixty counties were ‘inhabited by the King’s Irish enemies’. There were 60 Irish chieftains who gave themselves various titles and 30 English doing the same, all warring against one another without input from the King.
* **1534 11 June Thomas FitzGerald, the 10th Earl of Kildare, publicly renounced his allegiance to Henry VIII of England.**
* **1537 3 February FitzGerald was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn**.
* **1542 The Irish parliament passed the Crown of Ireland Act, which established a Kingdom of Ireland to be ruled by Henry VIII and his successors**.

LESSON 2

**History/Elizabethan pale-18th c**

* 1565 Sidney became governor. His policy was to dispossess those who attacked the Crown or occupied its land. English settlers would be brought in to live on these dispossessed areas, introducing English law and civility. Ancient titles were revived and bestowed on English adventurers.
* 1569 James Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald launched a rebellion against the English, to be defeated by the combined forces of Thomas Butler (the Earl of Ormonde) and the English under Henry Sidney and Humphrey Gilbert.
* **1570 25 February Pope Pius V issued a papal bull, *Regnans in Excelsis*, declaring Elizabeth I of England a heretic and releasing her subjects from any allegiance to her**.

1579  James FitzMaurice FitzGerald returned from the Continent preaching a crusade. He received such support from Munster and even the Pale that Elizabeth was forced to put up an army of 8000. This resulted in a massive transfer of property from Irish to English ownership

* 1585 Hugh O’Neill became Earl Of Tyrone.
* 1593 Hugh Roe O'Donnell began his rebellion against the English.
* **1594 The Nine Years' War commences in Ulster, as Hugh O'Neill and Red Hugh O'Donnell rebel against Elizabeth I's authority in Ulster.**
* 1595 Rebellion of Hugh O’Neill, earl of Tyrone.
* 1601  (Sept). A great Spanish fleet set sail for Ireland to help Tyrone, 4000 men sent by Philip III,  but O’Neill and O’Donnell were miles away in Ulster. The British deputy Mountjoy, leading 2000 men, besieged the Spaniards, but Tyrone and O’Donnell marched south and besieged Mountjoy. **This was the final battle for Gaelic Ireland. Tyrone lost against Mountjoy at Kinsale.** **He managed to obtain pardon after submitting humbly to him.**

**17th century**

* 1606 Scottish Protestants Montgomery and Hamilton founded a private settlement in Ulster. For a century it attracted flocks of Scottish settlers.
* **1607 14 September The *Flight of the Earls*: The departure from Ireland of Hugh O'Neill, 2nd Earl of Tyrone and Rory O'Donnell, 1st Earl of Tyrconnell.** Since submitting to the Crown in 1603 Tyrone had kept possession of lands, despite the resentment of those who had fought him
* **1609 *Plantation of Ulster* by Scottish Presbyterians began on a large scale.**
* **1641 22 October *Irish Rebellion of 1641*: Phelim O'Neill led the capture of several forts in the north of Ireland.**) Great Catholic-Gaelic rebellion. The rebels declared their loyalty to the Crown but assaulted the settlers. Terrible atrocities were reported. On Portadown Bridge, 100 Protestants were stripped, thrown into the water and murdered.
* 1642 *Irish Confederate Wars*: The Irish Catholic Confederation was established, under the nominal overlordship of Charles I of England, with its capital at Kilkenny.
* **1646 28 March The Supreme Council of the Irish Catholic Confederation signed an agreement with a representative of Charles I, which procured some rights for Catholics in return for their military support of the royalists in England**.
* The members of the Supreme Council were arrested. The General Assembly renounced the agreement with England.
* **1647 A more favorable agreement was reached with Charles's representative, which promised toleration of Catholicism, a repeal of Poynings' Law, and recognition of lands taken by Irish Catholics during the war.**
* 1649 Oliver Cromwell had defeated King Charles I in England, but there were still strong Royalist armies allied with Irish Catholic rebels in Ireland. **In 1649 Cromwell came to Ireland, striking first at Drogheda**.
* **1685 James II became a Catholic king of England** Richard Talbot, a favourite of James II, became Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. He began restoring public office to Catholics and to mobilise a Catholic army. He planned a primarily Catholic parliament at Dublin. Protestants in Britain and Ireland were alarmed.
* 1688 **A Catholic-dominated Irish parliament revoked the Cromwellian land settlement. Derry and Enniskillen, Protestant towns, denied James’ authority.** Late in the autumn of 1688, rumours began to spread that Irish Catholics loyal to James II were massacring Protestants. A Catholic regiment was to be sent to Londonderry to relieve the old garrison. The people of Londonderry thought it unwise to have Catholic troops protect them. However, establishment figures demanded that the troops be let in, but **thirteen apprentice boys locked the door against King James’ troops on 7th December 1688.**
* 1689 (April). The siege began, reaching its full intensity for six weeks in the summer. **The Protestant soldier in command of the garrison, Robert Lundy (‘Lundy’ now means a weak Protestant),** wanted to surrender, but the citizens opposed him and he was forced to flee. William of Orange’s ships arrived to relieve the city but withdrew.
* (May). William’s ships reappeared. James’ men had put a wooden boom across the river Foyle and the relief ships decided not to proceed. 30,000 Protestants were stuck in Derry, starving and plagued by mortar fire. **Thousands died of starvation and disease. The inhabitants of Derry responded to a demand to surrender with ‘No Surrender!’ which has been their watchword since.**
* (28th July). British ships in the Foyle broke the boom and relieved Derry.
* **1690 William of Orange landed in Ireland and defeated James II at the Boyne on July 1st.   (July).** William's army moved towards Dublin, pushing James' forces onto the defensive. There was stern resistance to the Williamite army, but it ended in **in defeat at Aughrim on 12th July**.
* **All Catholic armies surrendered at Limerick under Patrick Sarsfield. His troops were exiled to serve Louis XIV and were known as ‘Wild Geese**’. Following William III’s victory, the ‘penal laws’ regulated against Catholics, denying them the right to vote, buy land, be a lawyer, join the army or navy or hold any office of state.

**18th century**

* ***1740 Extreme winters in successive years result in poor harvests, causing a largescale famine in which between 310,000 and 480,000 die.***
* Second half 18th C)   In the absence of political rights, a network of agrarian secret societies emerged, known as the ‘Whiteboys’. The first people to talk of an Irish nation were recent Protestant settlers and converts to Protestantism. They were known as the Protestant Ascendancy and they were highly aspirational.
* **1760 February *Battle of Carrickfergus*: A French invasion.**
* 1778 ‘Patriotic’ and other discontents joined a military volunteering movement, which the government reluctantly recognised. Pressure from these Volunteers and ‘patriot’ rhetoricians as well as threats of non-cooperation from the Irish House of Commons helped repeal commerce restrictions and then make constitutional concessions in 1782.The British government relaxed penal laws against Catholics in order to secure the support of the majority and allow Catholics to join the army
* **1782 After agitation by the Irish Volunteers, the Parliament of Great Britain passed a number of reforms - including the repeal of Poynings' Law - collectively referred to as the Constitution of 1782.**
* 1791 The United Irishmen had begun as a debating society, French-influenced, middle class and Presbyterian. William Drennan, an ‘aristocratic democrat’, wrote their prospectus. The most famous United Irishman was Kildare Protestant Theobald Wolfe Tone, a pro-Catholic campaigner. It was he who steered the United Irishmen into a ‘French Revolutionary’ movement with links to the Defenders1793 Catholics gained the vote and civil rights. The liberalisation of land laws only heightened tensions with the secretive ‘Defenders’ becoming more openly political. Politicians split on Catholic emancipation (their right to sit in parliament or hold high office).
* 1795 The Orange Society was founded, taking its name from William of Orange. They were a reorganisation of an agrarian/working class secret society called the ‘Peep O’Day Boys. The first Orange lodges appeared; their role was to oppose the Defenders. Defender ideology spread, encouraged by resistance to tax.
* 1796 December *Expédition d'Irlande*: Attempted French invasion. 1796 The United Irishmen had become a secret society who preached violence. Wolfe Tone persuaded the French to send a fleet to Ireland in December to help found an Irish Republic. The fleet was battered by harsh weather.
* 1798 24 May *Battle of Ballymore-Eustace*: A miscarried surprise attack on the British garrison at Ballymore in County Kildare was counterattacked and defeated.
* **22 August *Irish Rebellion of 1798*: One thousand French soldiers landed at Kilcummin in support of the rebellion.**
* 27 August *Battle of Castlebar*: A combined French-Irish force defeated a vastly numerically superior British force at Castlebar.
* *Irish Rebellion of 1798*: The Republic of Connacht was proclaimed at Castlebar. First United Irishmen rebellion

**19th century**

**1801 1 January Acts of Union 1800 passed. The Kingdom of Ireland is annexed to Great Britain. 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is formed**

**Lesson 3**

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* **1803 23 July *Second United Irishmen rebellion*: The Irish nationalist Robert Emmet attempted to seize Dublin Castle**.
* 1817  A severe famine took place. 1823
* The Catholic Association was formed by Daniel O’Connell. It was financed by the ‘Catholic Rent’. The proposed government veto on appointing priests helped create a split with the aristocratic leadership, but it was O’Connell and his elite of Catholic lawyers who mobilized mass politics. They wanted rights, not concessions. There were mass demonstrations and an ‘alternative parliament’ in Dublin
* 1828  Daniel O’Connell. His achievements were to allow Catholics to sit in Parliament and to campaign against the Union. As part of his first campaign for Catholic Emancipation he built up a mass organization including Catholic clergy and middle-class supporters. People could join his Catholic Association for a penny a month, and it soon attracted large sums. O’Connell had a horror of popular violence, but he stressed the physical power that lay in the mass support behind him.
* **1829 24 March *Catholic Emancipation*: The Catholic Relief Act 1829 was passed, which allowed Catholics to sit in Parliament**.
* 1830s   The Young Ireland movement of this decade was led by Protestant nationalists who were often anti-English. The Young Irelanders published an extreme Repealer newspaper, The Nation, which used Irish history to argue that Ireland could become ‘a nation once again’. A cult of ‘dying for Ireland’ emerged, with an emphasis on rebellion. The Protestant establishment as well as the British government were threatened.
* 1831 3 May *Tithe War*: A force of one hundred and twenty armed police forcibly took possession of cattle belonging to a Roman Catholic priest in lieu of his compulsory tithe to the Anglican Church of Ireland.
* 1836 *Tithe War*: The passage of the Tithe Commutation Act 1836 reduced the amount of the tithe and changed the manner of payment, which largely ended the unrest
* 1841     Daniel O’Connell of the Catholic Association held Monster Meetings for the Repeal of the Union and the restoration of the Irish Parliament which would be dominated by the Catholic majority.
* **1845 *Great Irish Famine*: A potato blight destroyed two-thirds of Ireland's staple crop and lead to an estimated 1 million deaths and emigration of a further 1 million people.**
* 1845  (11th Sept) First report of disease in the potato crop. It was caused by a fungus. England was also affected, but people were not dependent on potatoes there.
* 1848 Ballingarry, County Tipperary: beginning of violent action with the Battle of the Widow MacCormack’s Cabbage Garden. It was led by William Smith O’Brien, a Harrow-educated Protestant he had gravitated towards a sub-group known as ‘Young Ireland’. They preached a common nationality embracing Catholics and Protestants. John Mitchel, the son of an Ulster Presbyterian Minister, founded a newspaper called ‘The United Irishmen’, preaching republicanism and rebellion.
* After Mitchel’s arrest, Smith O’Brien became the militant leader He began inciting Tipperary to revolt. A warrant was issued for his arrest. A party of the Irish constabulary moved on Ballingarry but found barricades and many people, some armed. The constables took refuge in Widow MacCormack’s house – her five children were at home. The police started smashing furniture to make a barricade and, after shots from the mob, fired out of the house killing two people before more police arrived. This was known as ‘the battle of Widow MacCormack’s cabbage garden’, but in 1916 Patrick Pearse was to list it amongst the six rebellions. James Stephens, a lieutenant of O’Brien, escaped to France where he took part in resistance to Louis Napoleon. With his experience, Stephens was to begin thinking of forming a new professional modern secret society to help establish an Irish Republic. The Young Ireland movement faded after the failed Rising, but its ideas remained, exported to America. Future Irish politics would owe more to the church and agrarian secret societies than to the class-oriented politics of more industrialised societies.
* 1850s   In this decade, the word ‘Fenian’ was first used for an Irish Republican organisation. It came from ‘Fianna’, legendary warrior heroes. Fenianism also emerged. ‘Fenian’ was the name for the Irish Republican Brotherhood, a secret society emerging in the late 1850s.
* 1858 (17th March). James Stephens formed what would become the Irish Republican Brotherhood. He and his fellow conspirators swore an oath to fight for Ireland as an Independent Democratic Republic.
* 1865 John Devoy, Stephens’ aid in Ireland, had been undermining British soldiers with a new secret oath and by drilling civilians in secrecy. He had 85,000 men in Ireland, and trained soldiers were beginning to return from America. After a betrayal by a spy, the staff of the Irish People were arrested, Stephens two months after the rest. People relaxed after the fear of rebellion, but with insider help Stephens escaped. Tension rose again, but in reality Stephens’ 85,000 men were not well armed or controlled. Stephens persuaded his Irish-American comrades to postpone the rebellion.
* **1867 5 March *Fenian Rising***
* 1869 Charles Stewart Parnell, a Protestant landowner from County Meath, became active in politics. He came from the tradition of pre-Union Protestant independenceHe was soon known as an extremist amongst the otherwise gentlemanly supporters of Home Rule. By the late 1860s, threats were being made against landsharks who took the property of evicted tenants, and landlords who evicted tenants over grazing.
* 1870 A Land Act gave evicted tenants compensation for expenditure on their holdings. This symbolically implied the end of the Protestant Ascendancy. The land market had virtually closed after the Famine. In the new system, tenants and leaseholders chose their own successors. The Land Act gave this strength.
* 1879 Famine loomed, but a massive charitable operation staved it off.
* 1880 Parnell visited America and gave speeches about Irish nationalism. In the same year, he began an adulterous affair with Katherine O’Shea, wife of an Irish member of parliament.
* By now the Land League had taken on a Home Rule aspect. Until then, the Home Rule body had been very loosely organised.
* 1886 The First Home Rule bill failed to pass through Commons. Parnell had made a speech appearing to sincerely accept the Home Rule Bill as the final settlement of the Irish Question.
* 1889 Mrs O’Shea came into her inheritance, and her husband filed for divorce.
* 1893    Second Home Rule Bill passed Commons but rejected by the Lords.

**20th century**

* 1904 Sinn Féin was formed by Arthur Griffith, an ex-Fenian, in order to exploit local authorities (ignoring other state institutions) rather than seek revolution or legislative reform. Before the First World War it failed to win any seats. Griffith, contributor to the newspapers The United Irishmen and Sinn Féin (‘Ourselves Alone’), had previously encouraged the setting up of an Irish Parliament.
* 1908 Patrick Pearse, a poet and teacher, founded St Enda’s school at Rathfarnham to teach the Irish-Ireland spirit. Many of its pupils were to join the IRB.
* 1909  The Irish Transport and General Workers’ Union was formed, led by Jim Larkin and James Connolly.
* 26 August *Dublin Lockout*: The ITGWU went on strike.
* 1914 18 January *Dublin Lockout*: The Trades Union Congress (TUC) rejected a call by the ITGWU to go on strike in their support. The strikers quit the union and returned to work.
* **18 September *Government of Ireland Act*, offering Irish Home Rule, passed but application simultaneously postponed for the duration of World War I**
* 1915 Death of Jeremiah O’Donovan Rossa. His body was returned to Ireland by neo-Fenians and given a great funeral to awaken public memories of the Fenians. Pearse said of him, ‘they have left us our Fenian dead’.
* **1916 24 April *Easter Rising*: The Irish Republican Brotherhood led an action which seized key government buildings in Dublin, and issued the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.**
* 1916  (March 17th). The minority Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army paraded around Dublin.The plan for the Rising was to take over strong-points in Dublin centre in order to command the site of army barracks and approach routes into the city. Arms were being shipped from Germany, accompanied by Sir Roger Casement, former British Consulate figure and Irish Nationalist. He was immediately arrested (April 21st).
* 1917 – 1919 The rebels’ plan was to get popular support for republicanism in order to win American backing for Irish representation at the peace conference. Electoral contests were to be used to demonstrate republican popularity, although candidates would ‘abstain’ from taking up their seats. They had most success in the south.
* 1917 The Parliamentary Party under John Redmond and John Dillon was still dominant. Collins formed a group with the non-violent pre-war Sinn Féin of Arthur Griffith and put up the father of Rising martyr Joseph Plunkett in a by-election, to a resounding victory.
* **29 April *Easter Rising*: The leader of the uprising ordered his followers to surrender.**
* 1918 18 April Acting on a resolution of Dublin Corporation, the Lord Mayor convenes a conference at the Mansion House to devise plans to resist conscription.
* 14 December A general election returns a majority for Sinn Féin.
* **1919 21 January The First Dáil of the Irish Republic meets and issues a Declaration of Independence from the UK.**
* **21 January *Irish War of Independence*: Volunteers of the Army of the Irish Republic kill two members of the Royal Irish Constabulary in what is considered to be the first act of the War of Independence**.
* **1921 3 May Northern Ireland is established**.
* **1921 6 December *Irish War of Independence*: The War of Independence ends** when negotiations between the British government and representatives of the de facto Irish Republic conclude with the signing of **the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the creation of the Irish Free State**
* **1922 28 June *Irish Civil War*: Bombardment by Michael Collins of Anti-Treaty forces occupying the Four Courts marks the start of the Irish Civil War**
* **1923 24 May *Irish Civil War*: IRA Chief of Staff Frank Aiken orders volunteers to dump arms - effectively ending the Civil War.**
* **1937 29 December The Constitution of Ireland comes into force replacing the Irish Free State with a new state called "'Éire', or, in the English language, 'Ireland'"**
* 1949 August The Republic of Ireland Act is signed by the President of Ireland abolishing the remaining roles of the British monarch in the government of the Irish state.
* 1955 14 December Ireland joins the United Nations along with 16 other sovereign states.
* **1969 August Troops are deployed on the streets of Northern Ireland, marking the start of the Troubles.**
* 1972 March The Parliament of Northern Ireland is prorogued (and abolished the following year).
* 1973 1 January Ireland joins the European Community along with Britain and Denmark.
* 1973 June The Northern Ireland Assembly is elected.
* 1974 1 January A power-sharing Northern Ireland Executive takes office, but resigns in May as a result of the Ulster Workers' Council strike. The Assembly is suspended and later abolished.
* **1985 15 November The governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom sign the Anglo-Irish Agreement**.
* 1990 3 December Mary Robinson becomes the first female President of Ireland.
* 1995 Ireland enters the Celtic Tiger period which marks great economic growth for Ireland - which continues until 2007.
* **1998 April The Belfast Agreement is signed. As a result, the Northern Ireland Assembly is elected, to which powers are devolved in 1999 and a power-sharing Executive takes office.**
* 1999 Ireland yields its official currency the Irish pound and adopts the Euro.