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# Easter Rising 1916: How to Remember the Terrible Beauty Born

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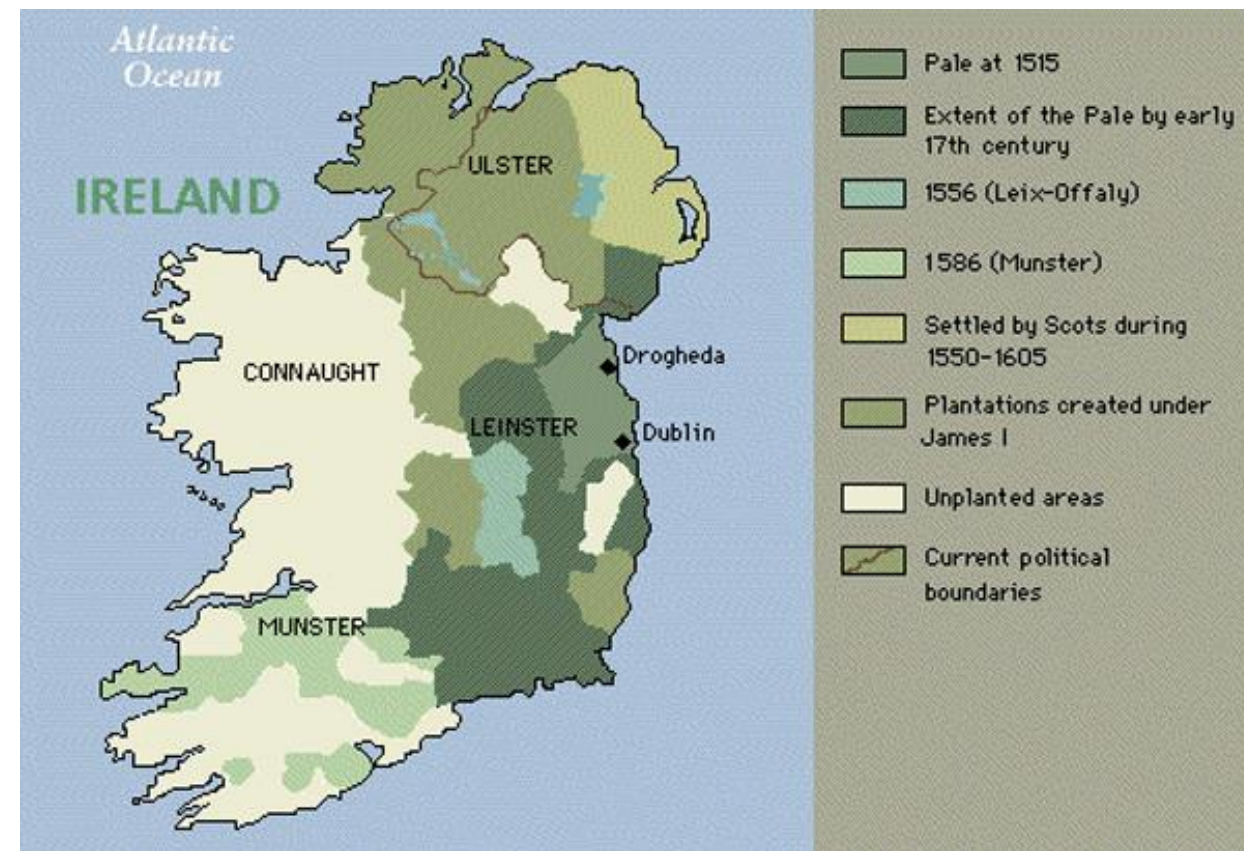
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# The Bloody Irish and the Terrible Beauty: Interpreting the 1916 Easter Rising

## Zachary Becvar

### British Involvement In Ireland



Begins in late 12th Century with High King Rory O'Connor and Henry II. Over the next several centuries, the British government banned Irish culture (Statutes of Kilkenny), made Catholics second-class citizens by not allowing them to hold public office (Penal Laws), dissolved the Irish parliament (Act of Union), failed to address the Great Famine, and held up passage of Home Rule.

### The Course of the Rising: April 24-29 1916

Uprising is planned for 1916 after the funeral of O'Donovan Rossa. A failed attempt to smuggle guns into Ireland on the German freighter *The Aud* causes the Rising to be pushed back from Easter Sunday to Easter Monday.

April 24<sup>th</sup>: General Post Office and several other positions captured by rebels who were members of the IRB, ICA, and Irish Volunteers. P.H. Pearse reads out The Proclamation outside of GPO, declaring an Irish Republic.

April 25<sup>th</sup>: British troops arrive in Dublin. Civilians begin looting due to lack of civil order.

April 26<sup>th</sup>: British take heavy losses fighting in Mount Street Bridge area. The gunboat *Helga* begins to shell Dublin from the River Liffy.

April 27<sup>th</sup>: Massive damage to rebel-held areas from the *Helga* shelling.

April 28<sup>th</sup>: Rebels evacuate the GPO.

April 29<sup>th</sup>: To avoid any further loss of life or property damage, P.H. Pearse and rebels surrender to British forces.

Leaders of the Rising are court-martialed and sentenced to be executed. Soldiers are transported to POW camps in England and Wales.

### The Irish Response

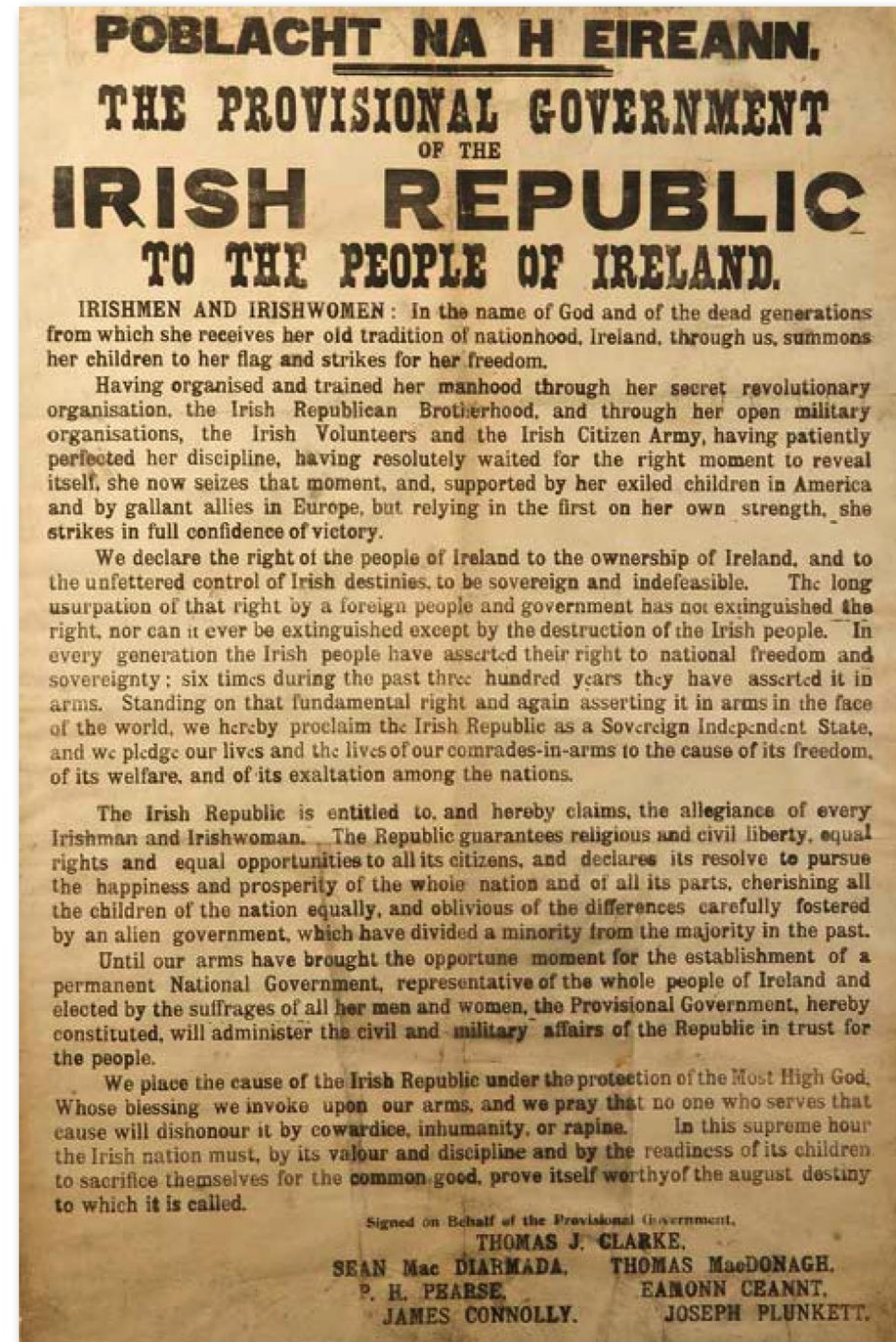
1798- Theobald Wolf Tone leads uprising of United Irishmen

1860s- Irish Republican Brotherhood, Clan na Gael formed

1880s- Dynamite War led by Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa

1913- General Strike, Irish Civilian Army founded

1914- Howth gun running



### Aftermath of the Rising

British actions to punish the leaders of the Rising lost initial public support as leaders were executed from May 3-12. The British also faced criticism for brutality in putting down the Rising, including the execution of Francis Sheehy Skeffington and the fighting in North King Street. British actions were largely viewed in the context of involvement in WWI and fighting Germany.



### Changing Views 100 Years On

Ireland became a Free State in 1922. The Rising was constantly politicized by different factions, all claiming the legacy of 1916 after achieving independence. As politicization increased over time, some politicians started to wonder if the Rising should be celebrated at all.

The Centenary celebrations restored the humanity of the story of the Rising and highlighted the sacrifices made by the rebels.



Image Sources

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