Uprising and Civil War

- 1. British Government and Home Rule and Conscription
 - Aug. 1914, Redmond commits Irish Volunteers to join with Ulster Volunteers, moment of unity in Westminster
 - b. Blood sacrifice: from initial enthusiasm to disenchantment to large-scale resistance to conscription
 - i. Aug. 1915: 132,454 Irish in British Army (77,511 Catholics, 52,943 Protestants), by April 1916: 150,183 (compare to 1,500 republicans that turned out for Easter Rising)
 - c. as one Home Ruler noted of his service: after Easter 1916, while the rebels would "go down in history as heroes and martyrs, I will go down-if I go down at all-as a bloody British officer."
 - d. Conscription
 - i. pro-Germanism of Roger Casement and others (revolutionaries will look for German aid): "Ireland's opportunity is England's adversity."
 - As late as 1918, Lloyd George's government thinks that conscription can be introduced
 - e. General Election of 14 December 1918 reveals no political support for Home Rule outside Ulster:

Party	Votes	MPs	Candidates	Unopposed	% total UKvote
Unionist	292,722	25	38	-	2.7
Irish Party	238,477	7*	60	1	2.2
Sinn Fein	486,867	73**	102	25	4.5

^{*}includes one Liverpool

- i. lots of IRB intimidation
- ii. voting "5 or 6 times at least" in rural areas
- f. Would return to Home Rule c. Dec. 1920, with Government of Ireland Act, but with proviso of two Irelands
 - i. dead letter in the South
 - ii. as unemployment worsened after the war, Catholic workers would be expelled from shipyards and factories in Ulster, in violent street fighting
 - iii. but six counties-Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh, and Tyrone-embrace the separate Parliaments
- 2. Sinn Féin organizes
 - a. Electoral Victory of Sinn Fein
 - i. at first not over the British but over the Irish Parliamentary Party
 - b. Dáil Éireann, meets Dublin (21 Jan. 1919): appoints de Valera, Griffith, and one other as delegates to Paris Peace Conference (although first two still in prison)
 - i. Feb. 1919, Boland and Collins arrange de Valera's escape from Lincoln gaol
 - ii. Dáil (proscribed in Aug. 1919) meets irregularly through 1921
 - c. de Valera to USA from June 1919 to Dec. 1920
 - i. disturbed to find Irish-Americans more concerned to defeat the League of Nations than to assist newly proclaimed republic
 - ii. raises \$5,000,000 for republican "bonds"
 - d. hunger strikes (Thomas Ashe dies, 1917, because of British bungled attempts at forced feeding)
 - i. Collins's eulogy
- 3. War
 - a. tactics determined by small size and poor "guerrilla country"
 - i. some 5,000 IRA fighters only, but a sympathetic population
 - ii. Collins organizes the 20th century guerilla war
 - iii. from Jan. 1919 with assassination of two RIC, IRA (new name for IV) ambush, assassinate, capture arms dressed in civilian clothes
 - b. government responds by becoming harsher

^{**}several in more than one seat; 69 candidates entered

- i. March 1920, first of some 1,200 Black and Tans (ultimately, some 2,300 former officers as auxiliary police) arrive
- ii. reprisals
- iii. Cabinet adheres to "murder gang" theory about the nationalists
- c. war escalates
 - i. by April 1921, IRA initiating 300 operations/week; by May, 500/week
 - ii. British suffer 1/4 casualties in May, June, and early July 1921 (truce July 11)

	dead	wounded
soldiers/police	230	369
IRA	752	866

iii. or, according to another tally: 18 deaths (1919), 282 (1920, plus 82 in Ulster's sectarian riots), 1,086 (1921), with about half = soldiers/police; or another, at least 1,200 deaths

4. Peace

- a. Truce 11 July; talks between de Valera and Lloyd George begin 14 July
 - Lloyd George prepared to offer Dominion status
 - ii. de Valera wants a treaty of Association
 - iii. stalls on issues of partition and loyalty to Crown
- b. Negotiations continue in October 1921: not de Valera, but Griffith, Collins, 3 others, and Erskine Childers as sec.
 - i. split among Irish
 - ii. split among British?
- c. 6 Dec., Anglo-Irish Treaty, agreement reached
 - Irish Free State, 26-county, dominion status, gov. gen., UK naval facilities; boundary commission
- d. Elections 21 June 1922

Party	votes	seats
Sinn Féin (pro-treaty)	620,283 58%	
antitreaty	133,864 35%	
Labour/indepens/others	247,226 28%*	
majority pro vs. anti	6.5/1	2.5/1
*voted with pro-treaty		

5. Civil War

- a. even before elections, and outside control of de Valera, anti-treaty (republican) extremists take over Four Courts in Dublin in April
 - i. elections mean country is behind pro-treaty Sinn Fein
 - ii. 22 June, British Field Marshall assassinated in London
 - iii. 28 June, Collin decides to dislodge them with guns and cannon fire
- b. Irish Free State Army (formed out of same IRA as their opponents) battles anti-treaty Republicans in gruesome year-long war
 - (5-800 dead officially [probably 1,600 unofficially], 77 executions, 3,000 wounded, 13,000 prisoners [10,000 held without trial])
 - ii. conflict mainly in hills and bogs
 - iii. deaths include Collins and Brugha
 - iv. de Valera (in prison until 1924) sends a note to "legion of the rearguard" to stop fighting; ends 24 May 1923
- c. de Valera held to republican ideal of Pearse and Connolly
 - i. but changes, small only republican rump in IRA and Sinn Fein to keep on the struggle

6. Effects

- a. independence struggle had dissolved into Civil War
 - the dream of Pearse-independent, republican, Gaelic, and united Ireland-had not been achieved.
 - ii. cult of revolutionary violence continues (cult of the gunman)
 - iii. first successful 20th-century war of liberation
 - iv. economy shattered, railways disrupted
 - v. creates new police force (An Garda Síochána) an unarmed force
 - vi. continued process begun with Gladstone of turning tenants into small proprietors

- b. odd polarization not between left and right, but between pro and anti-treaty forces
 - i. protreaty Sinn Fein becomes Cumann na nGaedheal ("Community of Irishmen", 1923-33, then Fine Gael, one of two contemporary parties in Ireland
 - ii. de Valera forms new party, 1926, Fianna Fáil ("warriors of Fál"); takes oath, but says it is just meaningless words), reenters politics and, next year, parliament
- c. Northern Ireland question unsolved
 - i. NI Parliament opened by King George V, 22 June 1921
 - ii. continued sectarian violence (mainly Protestant) in Six counties
 - iii. Boundary Commission, 1925, comes close to actually moving some parts of Southern 26 counties into North; Free State responds by accepting existing boundaries