



Revolution: Ireland
History – Junior Cert
Quick Notes

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Since the time of the plantations, Ireland was under the complete control of Britain. So, inspired by the people of France and America, the people of Ireland began to form secret societies with the aim of winning Ireland's independence. The main reasons for revolution were poverty and lack of representation. One of the secret societies formed were the United Irishmen and its leader was a Protestant lawyer, called Theobald Wolfe Tone. In October 1791, Tone set up the United Irish men in Belfast with Samuel Nielson, Thomas Russell and Henry Joy McCracken. In 1793, Catholics were given the right to vote. The same year, Britain and France went to war. Tone wrote to the French, seeking help. In 1795, the UI was banned. Members took a secret oath promising to fight for an independent Irish republic. Lord Edward Fitzgerald was given the task of organising the rebellion. In December 1796, the French agreed to send a fleet led by General Lazare Hoche but bad weather forced the French to abandon their landing at Bantry Bay. In 1797, the British government carried out raids on the UI in Ulster. A wave of terror was unleashed by General Gerard Lake and many leaders were arrested. Lord Fitzgerald was shot and died two weeks later. In May 1798, there were a series of small uprisings in Leinster. They were a disaster, except the rebellion that took place in Wexford which was led by Fr John Murphy from Boolavogue.

In June 1798, government troops led by General Lake defeated Wexford rebels at Vinegar Hill. Harvey was executed, and Fr Murphy was killed a few days later. In June 1798, the British crushed the Ulster rebellion and the leaders Henry Joy McCracken (Antrim) and Henry Munroe (Down) were executed. In August 1798, General Humbert landed in County Mayo with 1,000 soldiers. They defeated the British troops at Castlebar, but were overcome by British forces in County Longford. In October 1798, a second French force attempted to land in County Donegal but they were attacked by the British. Tone committed suicide before execution. He died on 19 November 1798. There were certain consequences to the Irish rebellion – The Act of Union was passed in 1800 which abolished the parliament in Dublin, Robert Emmet attempted to start a rebellion in Dame Street in July 1803 but the rebellion was a disaster and Emmet fled but he was executed at Thomas Street. In 1823, O'Connell founded the Catholic Association with the aim of gaining Catholic emancipation, which is the right of Catholics to become MPs. In 1840, O'Connell founded the Repeal Association which sought to repeal the Act of Union and restore the Dublin parliament. He

organised 'monster meetings' and gained huge support. In January 1847, he made last appearance in the Commons. He went on pilgrimage to Rome but died on the way in Genoa. In 1798, Rising also inspired the rebellions of the Young Irelanders and the Irish republican Brotherhood.

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