



## **Political developments in Ireland 3**

**History – Junior Cert**

**Quick Notes**

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As the anti-treaty Sinn Féin refused to enter the Dáil and the Labour Party has only a few representatives, Cumann na nGaedhael governed unopposed. In 1923, O'Higgins who was made Minister for Home Affairs, set up the Garda Síochána to replace the RIC. Other measures were undertaken to achieve a more peaceful Ireland e.g. Curragh Mutiny in 1924. Small farmers were also given more land and the Agricultural Credit Corporation was set up to provide low-interest loans to farmers. The ESB was set up in 1927. The anti-treaty group, led by De Valera, soon realised that they would have little influence outside the Dáil, so in May, De Valera founded a new political party known as Fianna Fáil (Soldiers of Destiny). The aims of the party were to establish a 32-county republic, restore the Irish language and make Ireland independent. Support for Fianna Fáil grew as O'Higgins was murdered and the Wall Street Crash proved Cumann na nGaedhael not able to cope with the difficulties. In the 1932 general election, Fianna Fáil won 72 seats and Cumann na nGaedhael won 56. Fianna Fáil now formed a government, and Eamon de Valera was finally leader of Ireland, 16 years after the 1916 Rising. When in power, De Valera abolished the Oath of Allegiance and the senate, introduced the External Relations Act and introduced a new constitution called Bunreacht na hÉireann in 1937. The main opposition to Fianna Fáil came from Cumann na nGaedhael, still led by Cosgrave and in 1933, the Army Comrades Association or Blueshirts, was set up to protect Cumann na nGaedhael members from attacks by the IRA. In September of that year, Cumann na nGaedhael, the ACA and the Centre party merged to become Fine Gael. The Economic War in 1932, caused Ireland to suffer and unemployment rose but the Anglo-Irish agreement ended the economic war. When war broke out in 1939, Ireland declared itself as neutral and a state of emergency was declared. The end of World War 2 in 1945, did not mean the end of the emergency, as rationing continued. In 1948, Fianna Fáil was replaced by an inter-party government made up of Fine Gael, Labour, Clann na Poblachta and Clann na Talmhan. Costello of Fine Gael was Taoiseach.

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