

Online Irish History Course

Anglo Irish Treaty and Civil War in Ireland

Thursdays 7:30 to 9 pm / May 12, 19, 26 & June 2, 2022



Michael Collins



Arthur Griffith



Eamon DeValera

The **Anglo-Irish Treaty** was an agreement signed in London on 6 December 1921 between the government of the of the *United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland and representatives of the *Irish Republic* that concluded the Irish War of Independence.

It provided for the establishment of the *Irish Free State* within a year as a self-governing dominion within the "community of nations known as the British Empire", a status "the same as that of the Dominion of Canada". It also provided *Northern Ireland*, which had been created by the Government of Ireland Act 1920, an option to opt out of the *Irish Free State*, which it exercised.

The Irish delegates were Arthur Griffith, Edmund Duggan, Michael Collins, Robert Barton, and George Gavin Duffy.

Éamon de Valera called a cabinet meeting to discuss the treaty on 8 December 1921, where he came out against the treaty. The cabinet decided by four votes to three to recommend the treaty to the Dáil on 14 December. The contents of the treaty divided the Irish Republic's leadership, with the President of the Republic, Éamon de Valera, leading the anti-treaty minority.

The main dispute was centred on the status as a dominion (as represented by the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity) rather than as an independent republic, but partition was a significant matter for dissent. The Dáil voted to approve the treaty but the objectors refused to accept it.

Civil War

The split over the treaty led to the Irish Civil War (1922–23). In 1922, its two main Irish signatories, Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins, both died. Collins was killed by anti-treaty republicans in an ambush at Béal na Bláth in August 1922, ten days after Griffith's death from heart failure which was ascribed to exhaustion.

To enroll please email seanmurphy630@gmail.com Course fee is \$80