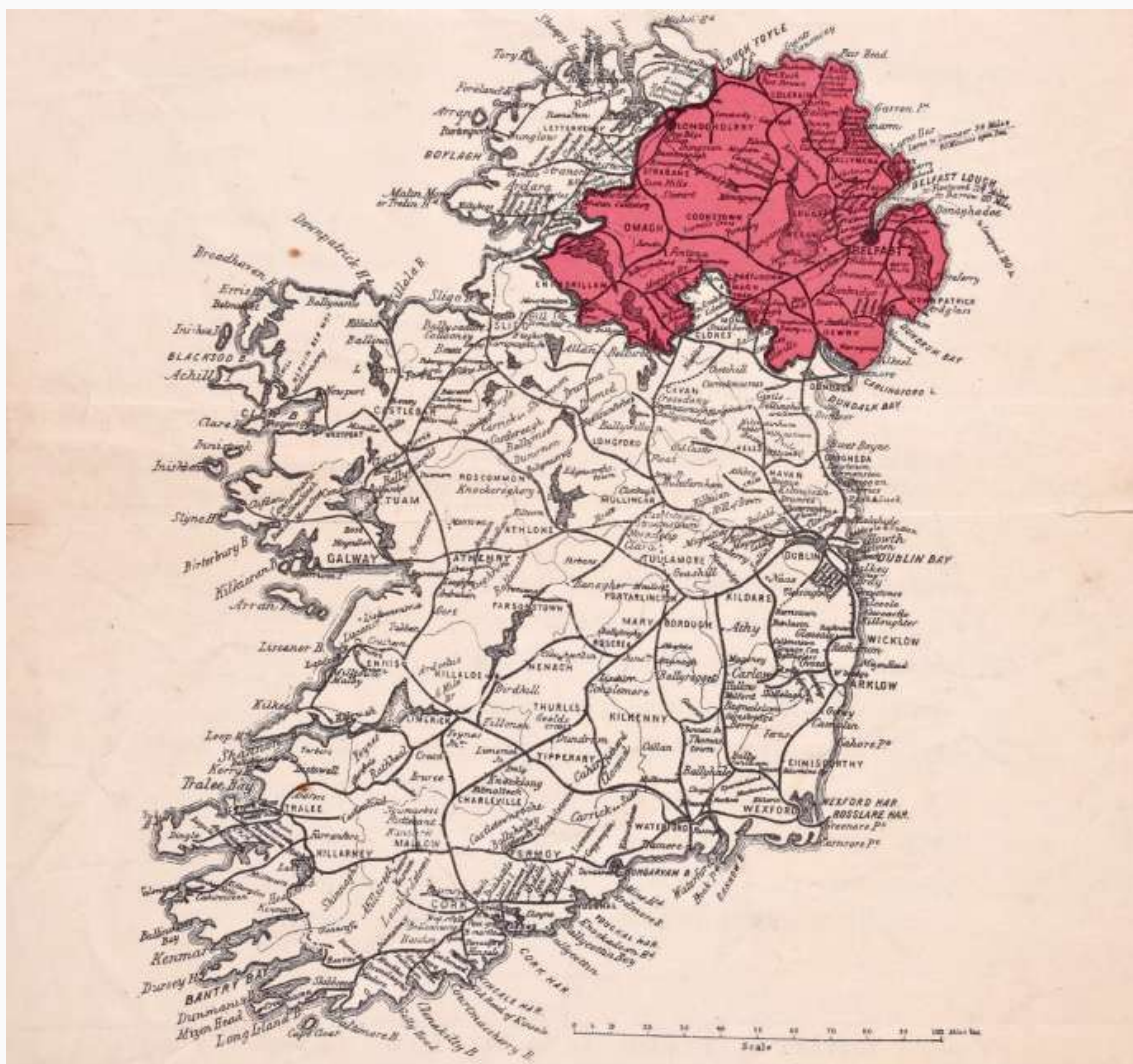


# CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

## Partition

SHOULD THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT BE BLAMED OR PRAISED  
FOR THE PARTITION OF IRELAND?





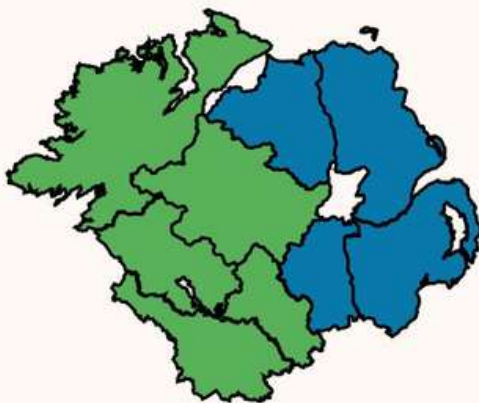
# The British used Partition to create a new, artificial division in Ireland

**Source 1:** Graphic illustrating how Northern Ireland was carved out to create a Protestant majority

Source: Census data

When Northern Ireland was created, three majority-Catholic counties that were historically part of Ulster (the north) were excluded.

Historic Ulster



Northern Ireland



■ Protestant majority

■ Catholic majority





# The British used Partition to create a new, artificial division in Ireland

**Source 2:** Extract from 'Minorities, Partition and the Formation of Northern Ireland' by Nadia Dobrianska, 2021

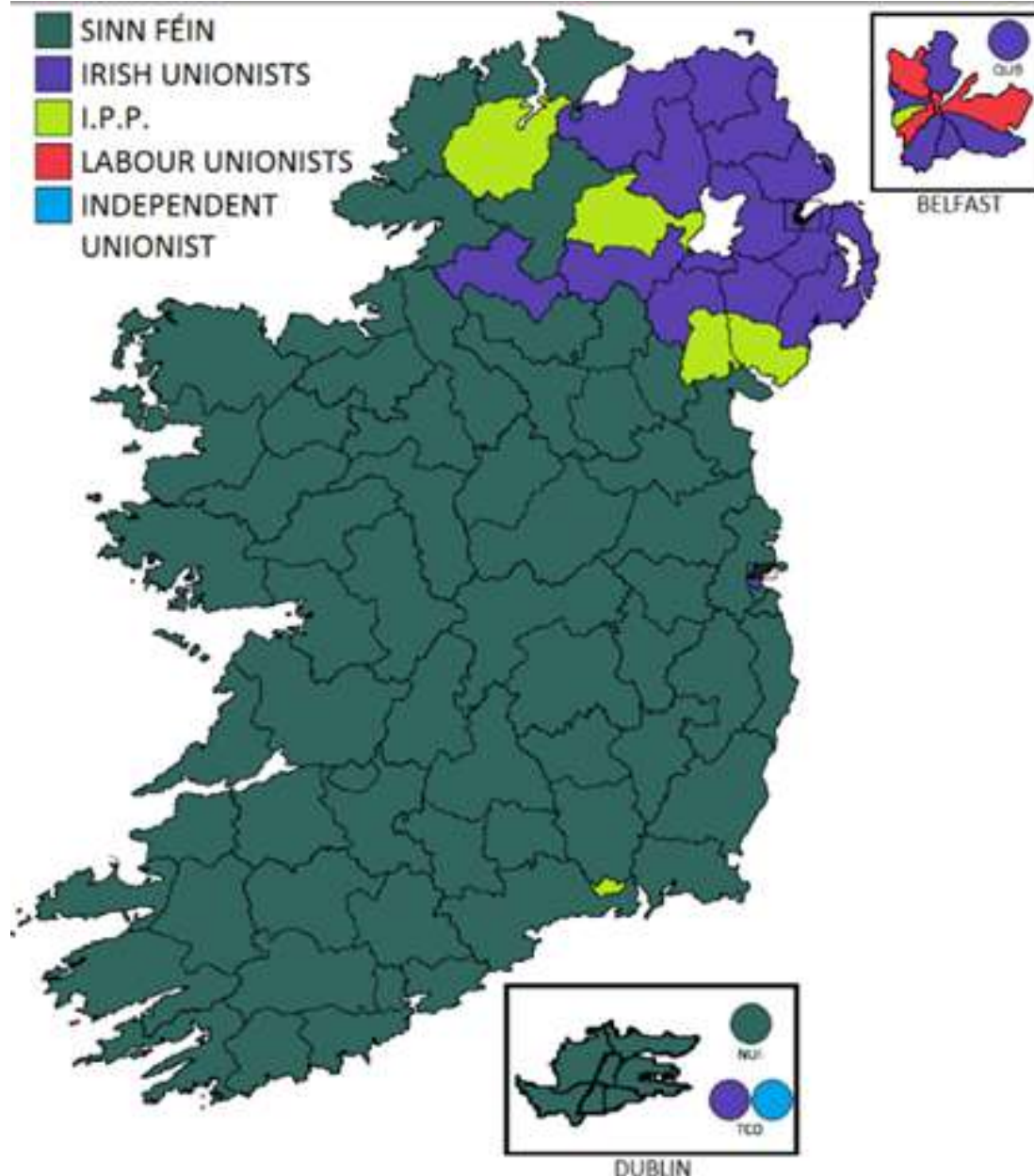
However, partition left behind sizeable minorities of Catholics in the North and Protestants in the South. The Catholic minority accounted for approximately one third of the population of Northern Ireland, while Protestants made up 7% of the population of 'Southern' Ireland. In this respect Ireland was going through a similar process to much of Europe after the First World War.

Although Catholics in the North and Protestants in the South differed in many ways, they faced similar challenges of how to deal with partition and the formation of Northern Ireland. During the revolutionary period many faced violence and intimidation. Catholics were severely afflicted during the so-called 'Belfast troubles'. Protestants in border counties and in the South faced boycotts, intimidation and violence. Significantly, both minorities were opposed to the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 and the partition of Ireland.



# Partition was the only way to respect the wishes of both communities

**Source 3:** Results of the 1918 election in Ireland, including a landslide victory for the nationalist Sinn Féin party in Catholic areas







## Partition was the only way to respect the wishes of both communities

**Source 4:** The composition of the boundary commission that would set the border of Northern Ireland, as defined in the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921

...a Commission consisting of three persons, one to be appointed by the Government of the Irish Free State, one to be appointed by the Government of Northern Ireland, and one who shall be Chairman to be appointed by the British Government shall determine in accordance with the wishes of the inhabitants, so far as may be compatible with economic and geographic conditions the boundaries between Northern Ireland and the rest of Ireland



# Partition continued Britain's policy of elevating Protestants over Catholics

**Source 5:** Extract from 'The Ulster Volunteer Force in police uniform' by Seán Bernard Newman, 2021

The stipulation that a professional RIC constable accompany 'B' Class patrols to maintain discipline was rarely enforced. Led by their own elected officers, the 'B' Class lacked discipline and, as an exclusively Ulster unionist paramilitary force, regularly wreaked havoc and carried out atrocities in the feverishly sectarian climate of 1920s Northern Ireland. They proved a potent and effective weapon in the Ulster Unionist government's quest to make the border permanent and to suppress any nationalist challenge—real or imagined—from within the state.



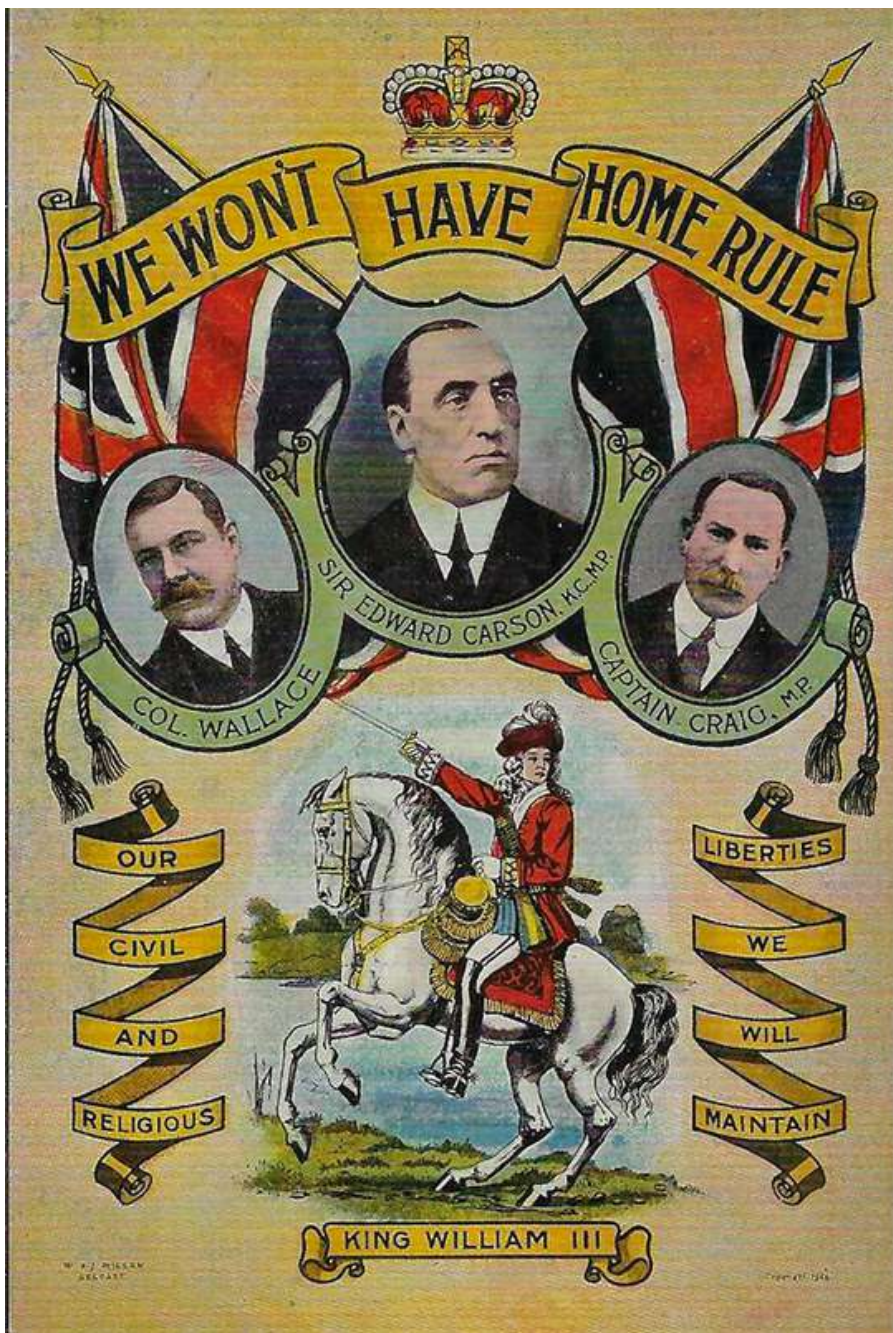
# The British Government chose free trade over Irish lives

**Source 6:** Extract from 'The Politics of enmity 1789-2006' by Paul Bew, 2007

[The] Sept 1969 Cameron Commission Report' on origins of the civil-rights crisis was strongly critical of Northern Irish government.' The conclusions...that certain at least of the grievances fastened upon by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, in particular those which are concerned with allocation of houses, discrimination in local authority appointments, limitations on local electoral franchise...were justified..."



# Britain could not abandon loyal Protestants to hostile Catholic rule



**Source 7:**  
Unionist poster showing Unionist politicians affirming their dedication to the Union, their opposition to Home Rule, and their determination to preserve Protestants' liberty, 1912





# Britain could not abandon loyal Protestants to hostile Catholic rule

**Source 8:** The Ulster Covenant signed by over 500,000 Irish Unionists, rejecting Home Rule in all forms, 1912



## Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant.

Being convinced in our consciences that Home Rule would be disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster as well as of the whole of Ireland, subversive of our civil and religious freedom, destructive of our citizenship and perilous to the unity of the Empire, we, whose names are underwritten, men of Ulster, loyal subjects of His Gracious Majesty King George V., humbly relying on the God whom our fathers in days of stress and trial confidently trusted, do hereby pledge ourselves in solemn Covenant throughout this our time of threatened calamity to stand by one another in defending for ourselves and our children our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom and in using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland. ¶ And in the event of such a Parliament being forced upon us we further solemnly and mutually pledge ourselves to refuse to recognise its authority. ¶ In sure confidence that God will defend the right we hereto subscribe our names. ¶ And further, we individually declare that we have not already signed this Covenant.

The above was signed by me at \_\_\_\_\_  
"Ulster Day," Saturday, 28th September, 1912.

— God Save the King. —



# Britain caused violence, then used Partition to excuse itself of the consequences

**Source 9:** British Prime Minister David Lloyd George standing over what appears to be a rather unpleasant 'Home Rule' creation





# Britain caused violence, then used Partition to excuse itself of the consequences

Too long a sacrifice  
Can make a stone of the heart.  
O when may it suffice?  
That is Heaven's part, our part  
To murmur name upon name,  
As a mother names her child  
When sleep at last has come  
On limbs that had run wild.  
What is it but nightfall?  
No, no, not night but death;  
Was it needless death after all?  
For England may keep faith  
For all that is done and said.  
We know their dream; enough  
To know they dreamed and are dead;  
And what if excess of love  
Bewildered them till they died?  
I write it out in a verse—  
MacDonagh and MacBride  
And Connolly and Pearse  
Now and in time to be,  
Wherever green is worn,  
Are changed, changed utterly:  
A terrible beauty is born.

**Source 10:**

Extract from the poem 'Easter, 1916' by Irish poet William Butler Yeats





# Partition prevented further violent conflict

**Source 11:** Conflict deaths in the Troubles of 1920-1922 in Belfast, areas with more than 50 (light red), 100 (medium red), 150 (dark red) deaths per km<sup>2</sup>







## Partition prevented further violent conflict

**Source 12:** Birth of the Irish Republic, Walter Paget, depicting the violence of the Easter Uprising instigated by Republicans in 1916





# Supposedly liberal Britain took away Ireland's self- determination via Partition



**Source 13:**  
Military  
recruitment  
poster used in  
Ireland, 1915





# Supposedly liberal Britain took away Ireland's self-determination via Partition



### Source 14:

Sinn Fein poster comparing Ireland's situation to that of Poland, 1918



## No serious alternatives to Partition were suggested

**Source 15:** Extract from 'From Partition to Brexit: The Irish Government and Northern Ireland' by Donnacha Ó Beacháin, 2019

...the [Irish] Government's position was weakened while the civil war was in progress for, as Kevin O'Shiel noted, it could hardly seek to attain more territory until its jurisdiction was effectively under control and at peace. The majority of northern nationalists had supported the Treaty, and placed all their hopes in the Free State's successful handling of the Boundary Commission...

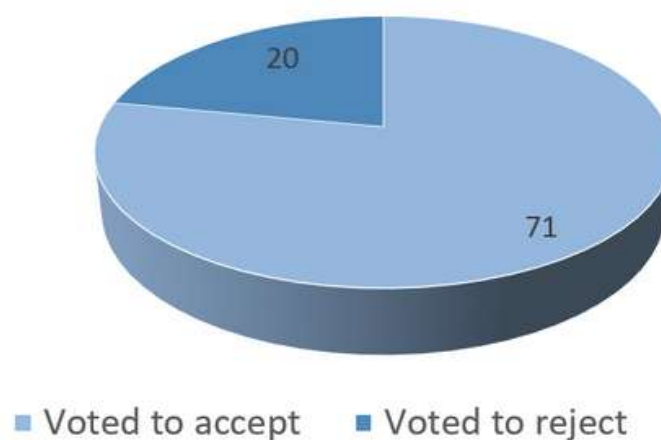




## No serious alternatives to Partition were suggested

**Source 16:** Distribution of votes cast by Irish TDs in the Dáil that confirmed the proposals of the Irish Boundary Commission, December 10th 1925

Number of votes by Irish TDs in the Dáil on whether to accept the terms of the Boundary Commission for partition





# Partition led to the oppression of Catholics in Northern Ireland

**Source 17:** Mural commemorating the events of Bloody Sunday 1972, when Northern Irish Catholics were shot and beaten by police during their protest to demand full civil rights, 2014





# Partition led to the oppression of Catholics in Northern Ireland

**Source 18:** British Prime Minister David Cameron's apology for Bloody Sunday, 2010

I know that some people wonder whether, nearly 40 years on from an event, if a prime minister needs to issue an apology. For someone of my generation, Bloody Sunday and the early 1970s are something we feel we have learnt about rather than lived through. But what happened should never, ever have happened. The families of those who died should not have to live with the pain and the hurt of that day and with a lifetime of loss. Some members of our armed forces acted wrongly. The government is ultimately responsible for the conduct of the armed forces and for that, on behalf the government, indeed on behalf of the country; I am deeply sorry.



# Partition was economically successful

**Source 19:** Extract from 'Northern Ireland and the Second World War', Dr Senia Pasetta. St Hugh's College, Oxford, 2006

Many initial difficulties were, however, increasingly overcome as the reality of war sank in and the government began to respond quickly to new demands: the unemployment rate dropped rapidly after the end of 1940 and full employment – unimaginable in recent years – was achieved by 1944. Female employment in particular, grew rapidly during the war, expanding by over 8000 by 1943. Demand for items including tents, parachutes, shells, bombs, planes and radar equipment stimulated the economy, as did the construction of military bases and airfields. Harland and Wolff, for example, one of the United Kingdom's biggest shipyards and a pillar of Northern Irish industry, more than tripled its workforce by the end of the war, becoming an important manufacturer of ships, tanks and landing crafts. Between 1940 and 1945 the Belfast shipyards produced 140 warships, 123 merchant ships and repaired or converted at least 300 ships. The Short and Harland aircraft factory produced 1,200 Stirling bombers and 125 Sunderland flying boats as well as repairing many aircraft at its site. Between them, the province's munitions producers turned out over 75 million shells and many smaller firms across Northern Ireland contributed through their production of numerous parts, fittings and equipment.





# Partition was economically successful

**Source 20:** The HMS Britannic, sister ship of the Titanic, under construction in the Harland and Wolff shipbuilding yard, Belfast, 1951

