On Easter Monday, 1916, Irish republicans occupied Dublin’s General Post Office and declared an Irish republic. Days later, British troops arrived and suppressed the rising. Read about the events that led up to the Easter Rising, and what happened in the aftermath.

Box I The Easter Rising and the First World War

Although apparently a local conflict, the Easter Rising has increasingly been seen by historians as an event shaped by the context of the international experience of world war. The war was fundamental to the evolution of the Irish independence movement. The republicans looked to Germany as a prospective ally in their fight against the British, considering theirs an ideological struggle for self-determination against an imperial power. The hard-line British repression of the rebellion was precisely because they feared the consequences of an alliance between Ireland and Germany. Ireland was not the only small European nation to gain independence in the aftermath of the war. Its experiences should be viewed in the context of other states transformed by the war.

Further reading

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