

*Dedicated to the memory of  
Austin Logan  
who died on 19th September 1995*

*“You are left each inheritors of that strength and of that  
bravery. To each of you falls his unfinished work.”*

An illustrated introduction  
to the main events in Ireland  
from 1800 to 1921.



Colourpoint  
Educational

# **Divided Island**

**The Inter-Board  
History Forum**

**Edited by Vivien Kelly  
Heather Thompson  
Kathleen Gormley**

**Illustrated by  
John Brogan**

## Foreword

This book was produced by the Inter-Board History Forum with support from each of the Advisers for Environment and Society in the Education and Library Boards. Divided Island has been written for Year 10 pupils. It aims to make this period accessible to all pupils. It provides opportunities to study the events in Ireland 1800–1921 in outline and in depth.

The late Dr Austin Logan,  
Chairman, Inter-Board History Forum.

*Original authors: A Logan, E Brennan, V Kelly, H Thompson, K Gormley*

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## Colourpoint Educational

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Colourpoint House  
Jubilee Business Park  
21 Jubilee Road  
Newtownards  
County Down  
Northern Ireland  
BT23 4YH

Tel: 028 9182 0505  
E-mail: sales@colourpoint.co.uk  
Web site: www.colourpoint.co.uk

## The Editors

**Vivien Kelly** is Assistant Adviser for Environment and Society with the Southern Education and Library Board. She has a BA in History and a Masters in Irish Studies from Queen's University, Belfast. Vivien has produced a range of history materials from both the primary and secondary curriculum. These include *Home Rule - personalities, parties and perceptions*, co-written with Stephen Cooke (Carrickfergus Grammar); *Emigration in Victorian Times*, co-written with Evelyn Cardwell (Ulster American Folk Park) and Shirley Magowan (Stranmillis); and *Transport through the Ages*, co-written with Deirdre Brown (Ulster Folk and Transport Museum).

**Heather Thompson** has a BA (Hons) in European and Irish History and an MA in Early Modern History. She was Head of History and Geography in Parkhall High School, Antrim, before joining the North Eastern Education and Library Board as their Post-Primary History Field Officer in 1992. She has worked on a number of curriculum development projects in history and her recent publications include the *Wilsons* and *MacMahons* booklets and *Anglo-Norman Ireland*.

**Kathleen Gormley** has a BA (Hons) in Modern History and is currently studying for an MA in History at the University of Ulster. She teaches History and Politics at St. Cecilia's Secondary School, Derry. From 1993–1995 she was seconded to the Western Education and Library Board as a History Advisory Teacher. She is Past-President of the North-West Archeological and Historical Society, Hon Sec of the Federation for Ulster Local Studies and a member of the Historic Monuments Council for Northern Ireland. She is author of several local history publications and has worked on a variety of educational publications.

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# 1. The story ...

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**A**t the beginning of the 20th century, all of the island of Ireland was governed by Britain. Today the country is divided into two parts:

Northern Ireland is still ruled by Britain

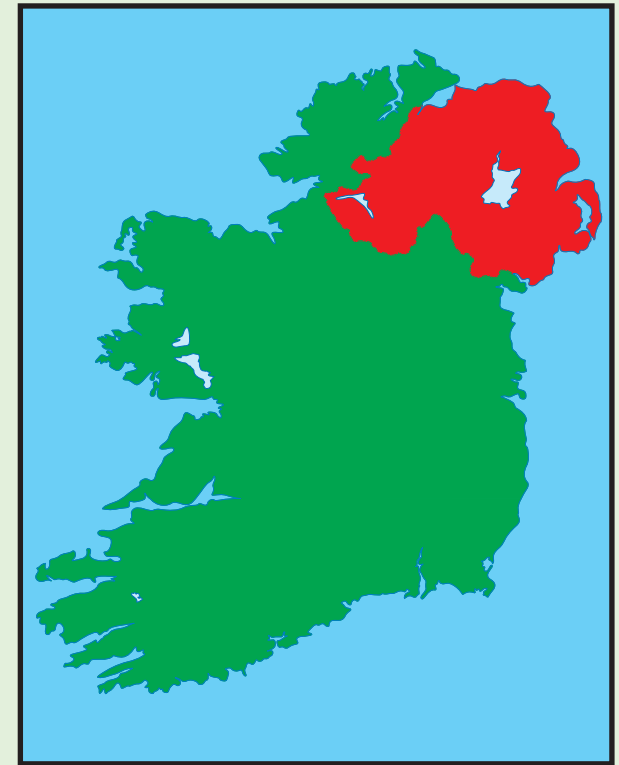
and

The Republic of Ireland is **independent**.

The dividing of Ireland into two states was known as **partition**. This book tells the story of how partition came about in 1921.



This is what a map of Ireland looked like in 1900. There were no borders and the whole island was ruled by Britain.



This is what a map of Ireland looks like today. The green bit is the Republic of Ireland and it is independent. The red bit is Northern Ireland and it is ruled by Britain.

**Key Words:** *Independent, partition.*

## 2. What is a nation?

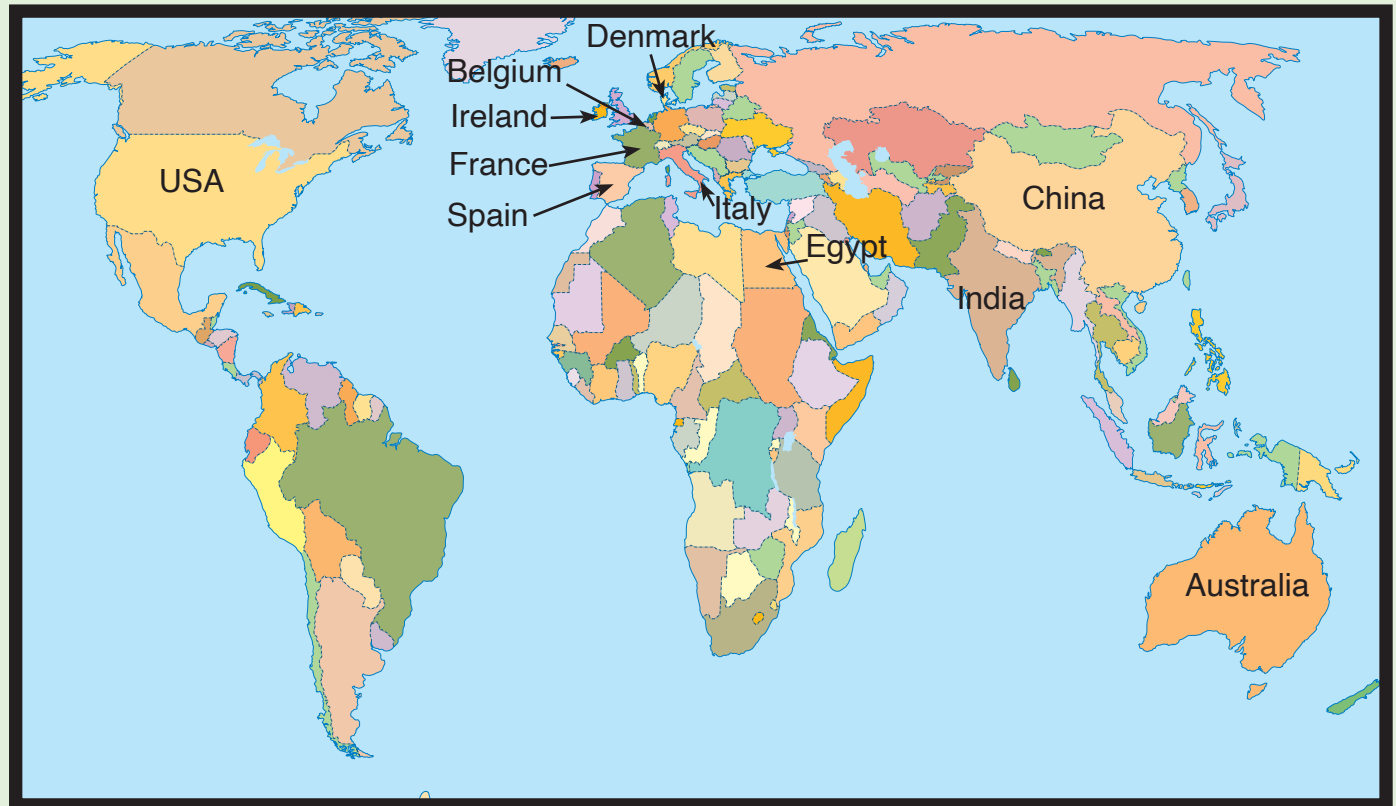
Today we live in a world which is divided into lots of different countries or **nations**.

Some countries are large like China and the USA.

Others are quite small, like Belgium and Denmark.

Look at the map on this page.

Notice how small Ireland is compared to the USA and Australia.



**Key Word:** nation.

# 3. Symbols of a nation

Today we use the word **nation** to describe a country.

But what are the things which make one nation different from another?

## Languages

Usually the people in a nation speak the same language. For example, most of the people in France speak French. In some nations there is more than one language.



## Sport

Some countries have sports which are popular with their people.

They are called **national** sports.

Can you think of any?



## Emblems

People who belong to a nation are usually happy to be part of that nation and they wear emblems to connect them with the nation.



## Flags

Every nation has a flag. These are flown over buildings and on international occasions such as football matches.



## Dress

Many countries have a **national costume** or dress which is known to be part of that nation.



**Key Words:** emblem, international.

## 4. *The British Empire*

For 300 years British traders, adventurers and politicians took over areas of land around the world.

This came to be called **The British Empire**.

In 1897 Queen Victoria celebrated her **Diamond Jubilee**. The picture on the right shows an invitation card to a dance in London to celebrate this Jubilee.



- ! The card above shows some of the glories of the Empire. Make a list of them.
- ! Who do you think the people in the middle of the picture represent?

**Key Words:** *Diamond Jubilee, empire.*

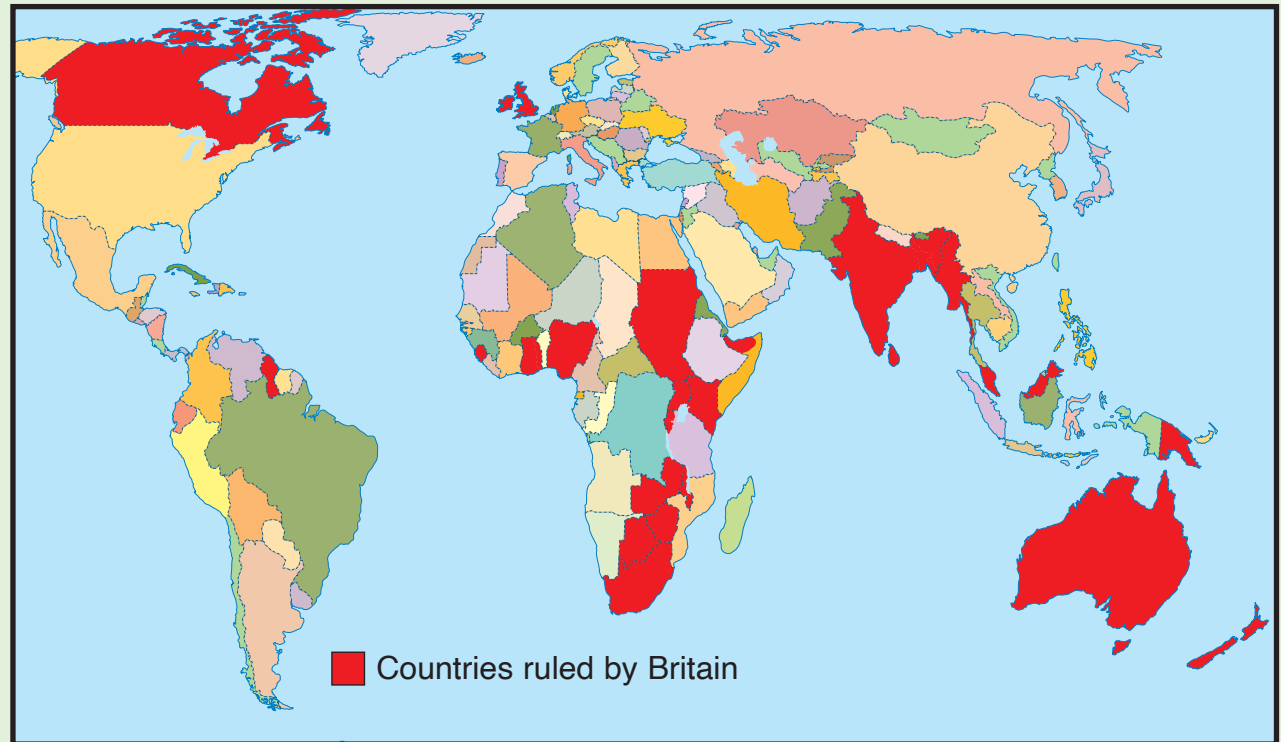
## 5. *Ireland and the British Empire*

All the red areas on this map are places Britain ruled in the early 1900s. This was the **British Empire**.

The King or Queen of England was head of all these countries.

At the end of the last century, Ireland was part of this Empire and was ruled by Britain.

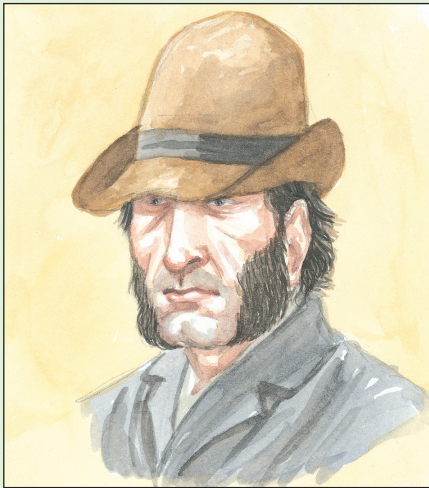
Britain celebrated the glories of an Empire on which “the sun never set”.



- 1 Using this map and an atlas, can you name some of the largest countries in the British Empire?
- 2 Can you name some of the smallest countries in the British Empire?
- 3 Why do you think that people said that the sun never set on the British Empire?



## 6. *Living in Ireland*



In the 19th century most people earned their money from the land. Not very many people actually *owned* the land they farmed. Most farms were part of huge estates which were owned by one family.

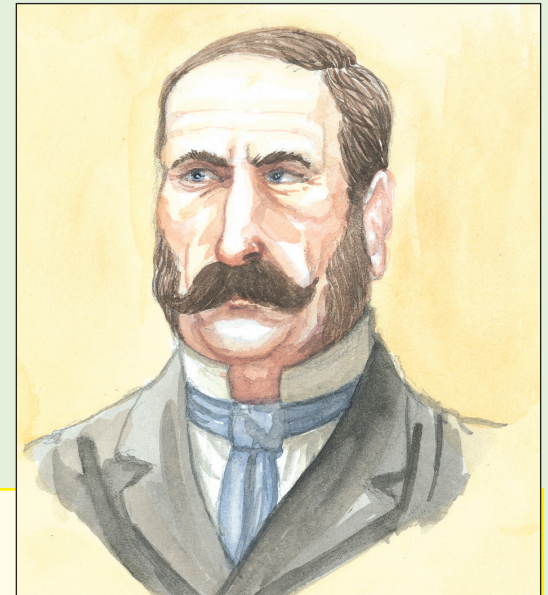
Farmers paid money to the owner. This money was called the **rent** and the owner of the land was called the **landlord**. People who paid rent were called **tenants**.

If the farmers didn't pay their rent, they could be evicted (thrown out) from their farm.

The landlord and his family lived off the rents of his tenants. Some landlords lived in England instead of actually living on their Irish estates. These landlords became known as **absentee landlords**. They were not popular with their Irish tenants.

**Key Words:** *landlord, tenant, absentee, rent, estate.*

The picture on the left is of a tenant farmer. The picture on the right shows a landlord.



Match these words to the right meaning:

Landlord	Money paid for use of land
Tenant	Person who owned land
Estate	Irish landowner who lived in England instead of Ireland
Rent	Large area of land
Absentee	Person who paid rent to a landowner for farmland.