

Glossary word

Decolonization refers to the process by which colonies become independent of the colonizing country. Northern Ireland, for example, officially separated from the Republic of Ireland in the 1920s. After facing civil war in Ireland, Britain divided the island, with separate parliaments in the Protestant north and Catholic south. The republicans then opposed this idea, and in 1922 the Irish Free State was formed. Immediately after this formation, Northern Ireland withdrew and accepted self-governance in the United Kingdom. If Northern Island were to be absorbed back into the Republic of Ireland it would be known as the united Ireland.

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