

Irish Republican Army

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) became the legitimate army of the Irish Republic in April 1921 and fought the Irish War of Independence to achieve independence from British Rule, a goal that Sinn Fein and the Irish Nationalist Party had. Once the Anglo-Irish Treaty was ratified at the end of the Irish War of Independence, the IRA split into pro-Treaty forces, known as the National Army, and anti-Treaty forces, known as the Republicans. The IRA continued on as the anti-Treaty Republican force and fought in and lost the Irish Civil War. They refused to recognize both the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland deeming them both to be creations of British Imperialism. In 1969, the IRA split up into the Official IRA and the Provisional IRA.

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