
Ireland

1. Flag

- Created in 1830
and adopted in 1937

The green, the white and the orange are the colours that make up the tricolour flag created in 1830 by Irish patriots, in support of the Parisian episode of the July Revolution. It is made up of the two Irish religious symbols surrounding the white, emblem of peace and hope for reconciliation. The green, of Celtic tradition, is also the colour of the Nationalist Catholics, whereas the orange marks the victory of the Protestants with the British King, William III of Orange in 1690.



This flag was flown in 1848, during the Nationalist uprising led by Smith O'Brien and Young Ireland who were campaigning against the British for the return of an Irish government.

A tricolour symbol of Republican revolt, the flag marked the island's dual demand for revolution and independence. In Dublin, in 1916, it was flown during the Easter Rising, during which Catholic insurgents, led by Patrick Pearse, rebelled against the British occupier by proclaiming the Irish Republic. It initially became the banner of the revolutionary organisations such as the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) and then the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The flag, which was made official after independence in 1922, was mentioned in 1937 in the Constitution as the official national flag in both official languages: An Bhratach Náisiúnta or the Irish National Flag.

The emblem is proudly flown all over the Republic on Saint Patrick's Day, the national holiday, which allows people to also fly numerous other Irish flags, symbols based on the ancestral social organisation of the clans. The presence of these flags, also bearing demands, sometimes leads to clashes to the extent that some Northern Irish had an anti-flag rant in a popular song in 2013.

The colour green is nevertheless that which reminds us most of Ireland, often called the "Emerald Isle". Green is also the colour of the shamrock, which had been used by Saint Patrick to explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity to the islanders and thus helped in their conversion to Christianity.

2. Anthem

- *Amhrán na bhFiann* - A Soldier's Song
- Written by Peadar Kearney and composed by Patrick Heeney
- Composed in 1907 and adopted in 1926

From the Iberian Peninsula to the cold Scandinavian coastline, several peoples have come to settle on this "green land" over the past 9,000 years. For many centuries, religion, politics and deeply interwoven ethnic origins have determined the often bloody fate of the island's history. Gaelic, one of the two official languages, along with English, has been influenced over

the centuries by the French, Normans, Flemish, Scandinavians and the Vikings. These origins can be seen in the surnames of the island. Protestants, British, Ulstermen, Irish and Catholics: they all determined the events of the troubled history of Ireland. The 19th century was marked by the Great Famine of 1845, which led to mass immigration to the United States and was followed by bloody fighting between the various communities.

In 1867, the nationalists of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) also known as Fenians, were condemned to death by the Manchester court. Timothy D. Sullivan then wrote "God Save Ireland", a nationalist song that was sung until 1916 as a tribute to them. Six counties in the north-east of the island, became Northern Ireland and in 1921, decided to remain part of the United Kingdom. Eire (Southern Ireland), was declared an independent republic in 1916, occupying the larger part of the island with its 26 counties. It was after effectively leaving the United Kingdom in 1922, that the Irish anthem was officially adopted by the Republic of Ireland. It had been composed some 16 years earlier by a Republican activist, Peadar Kearney, whose songs were very popular among supporters of the Irish Volunteers, and the future IRA. The piece was set to music by his friend Patrick Heeney. A symbol of Gaelic culture, the Irish national anthem is traditionally played on the national holiday of Saint Patrick's Day and during local meetings, as a mark of fiercely protected independence. Unrest due to the memory of the British royal anthem seems to be fading. However, during international rugby matches the team of the Irish Rugby Football Union, uniting players from Eire and Northern Ireland, does not sing the national anthem but rather a patriotic song that is common to "both" Irelands, composed by Phil Coulter in 1995 and entitled "Ireland's Call".

Amhrán na bhFiann

Sinne Fianna Fáil
A tá fé gheall ag Éirinn,
Buion dár slua
Thar toinn do ráinig chugainn,
Fé mhóid bheith saor.
Sean tír ár sinsear feasta
Ní fhagfar fé'n tiorán ná fé'n tráil
Anocht a théam sa bhearna bhaoil,
Le gean ar Ghaeil chun báis nó saoil
Le guna screach fé lámhach na
bpiléar
Seo libh canáidh Amhrán na bhFiann.

A Soldier's Song

Soldiers are we
Whose lives are pledged to Ireland,
Some have come
from a land beyond the wave,
Sworn to be free,
no more our ancient sireland,
Shall shelter the despot or the slave.
Tonight we man the "bearnna baoil"
In Erin's cause, come woe or weal.
Mid cannon's roar and rifle's peal
We'll chant a soldier's song.

