

THE HOME RULE CRISIS 1900-1914



1911

The Parliament Act is passed reducing the power of the House of Lords. They can no longer stop (veto) a bill. Now they could only delay it for two years.

1910

Two General Elections (January and December). The Liberals lost their majority and needed the votes of the Irish nationalists and the Labour party to stay in power

1906

General Election: Conservatives replaced by the Liberal party with a large majority in the House of Commons. Campbell Bannerman becomes Prime Minister.

1900

John Redmond elected leader of reunited Irish Parliamentary Party which wanted Home Rule for Ireland.

9 April 1912
New Conservative leader Andrew Bonar Law pledges his party's support at a massive anti-Home Rule demonstration at Balmoral show-grounds.

11 April 1912

Introduction of Third Home Rule Bill. It is likely to become law in two years

1909: The 'Liberal's People's Budget' increasing taxes on the wealthy is rejected by the House of Lords.

1908: H. H. Asquith becomes Prime Minister. Liberals introduce Old Age Pensions

1905: Arthur Griffith establishes the Sinn Fein movement.

1904: The Ulster Unionist Council is formed

29 April 1912: In a speech at Blenheim Bonar Law agrees to support Ulster's use of force

28 Sept 1912

Ulster Day: Thousands of men sign the 'Solemn League and Covenant' to state their objections to Home Rule. Women's Unionist Council organised a Women's Declaration

Jan 1913

Formation of an Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) to fight the British government if Home Rule is introduced

18 Sept 1914

Home Rule Bill received royal assent but suspended for the duration of the war.

August 1914

War: Britain declares war against Germany. Redmond commits the Volunteers to the protection of Irish shores.

July 1914

Buckingham Palace Conference of 21-24 July breaks down when unionists and nationalists cannot agree over what territory to exclude from Home Rule. Threat of Civil war.

May 1914

Home Rule Bill passed in the Commons for the second time.

March 1914

Curragh Mutiny: British officers threaten to resign if asked by the government to fight against Ulster Unionists. The Government backs down.

Asquith's offer of temporary exclusion for parts of Ulster is rejected by Carson.



20 Sept: Redmond's speech at Woodenbridge calling on Irishmen to fight for Britain led to a split in the IVF. The minority followed Eoin MacNeill and most would fight in the 1916 Rising.

9 Sept 1914: Supreme Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) decide to stage an uprising before the end of the war.

July: IVF Gun-running at Howth. Bachelor's Walk Incident - Army shoot into the crowds in Dublin. Civilian deaths infuriate nationalist Ireland.

April: UVF Gun-running. Arms smuggled into Ulster from Germany. Met with no resistance. Cumann na mBan (Irishwomen's Council) formed to support the IVF.

September 1913: The Provisional Government of Ulster is set up

November 1913: Formation of the Irish Volunteer Force (IVF) to fight the government if Home Rule was not passed.