

Republican Murals

- According to most people, the murals found throughout Northern Ireland, celebrating victories or remembering those lost in battles or protests is a perfect example of “Irish Alzheimer’s”. People in Northern Ireland forget everything...EXCEPT THE GRUDGES.

Loyalist Murals



- References to the UVF or Ulster Volunteer Force
- Red Hand of Ulster
 - Ulster = the province where N. Ireland is located

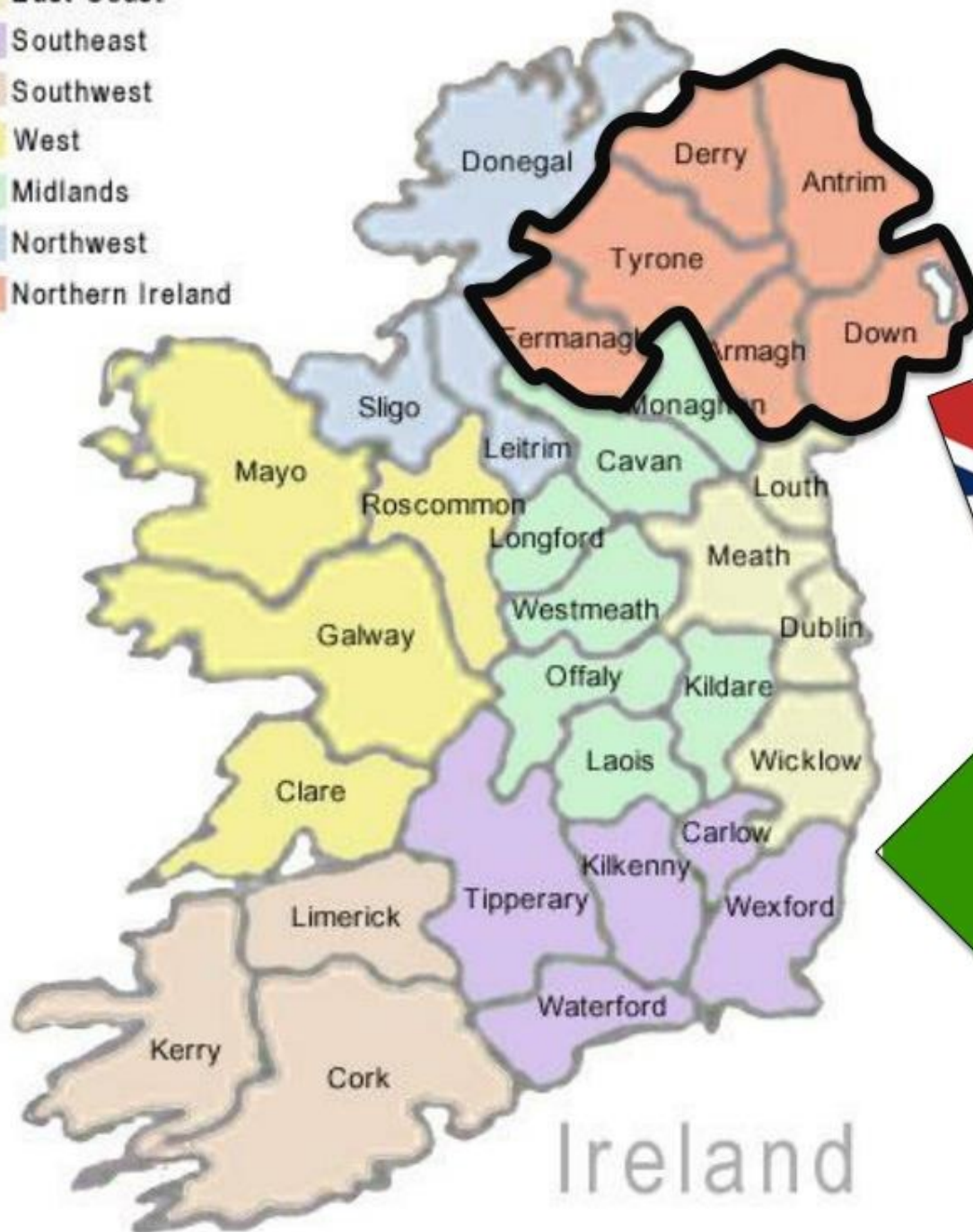
The Easter Uprising

- Dublin - April 24, 1916
 - Irish attempt to end British rule on the island and establish an independent Irish republic
 - Fighting lasted for 6 days, but did not spread throughout the island as was the hope of the Irish
 - The leaders of the rebellion were executed
 - Result: public opinion begins to favor independence

The Reformation & Ireland

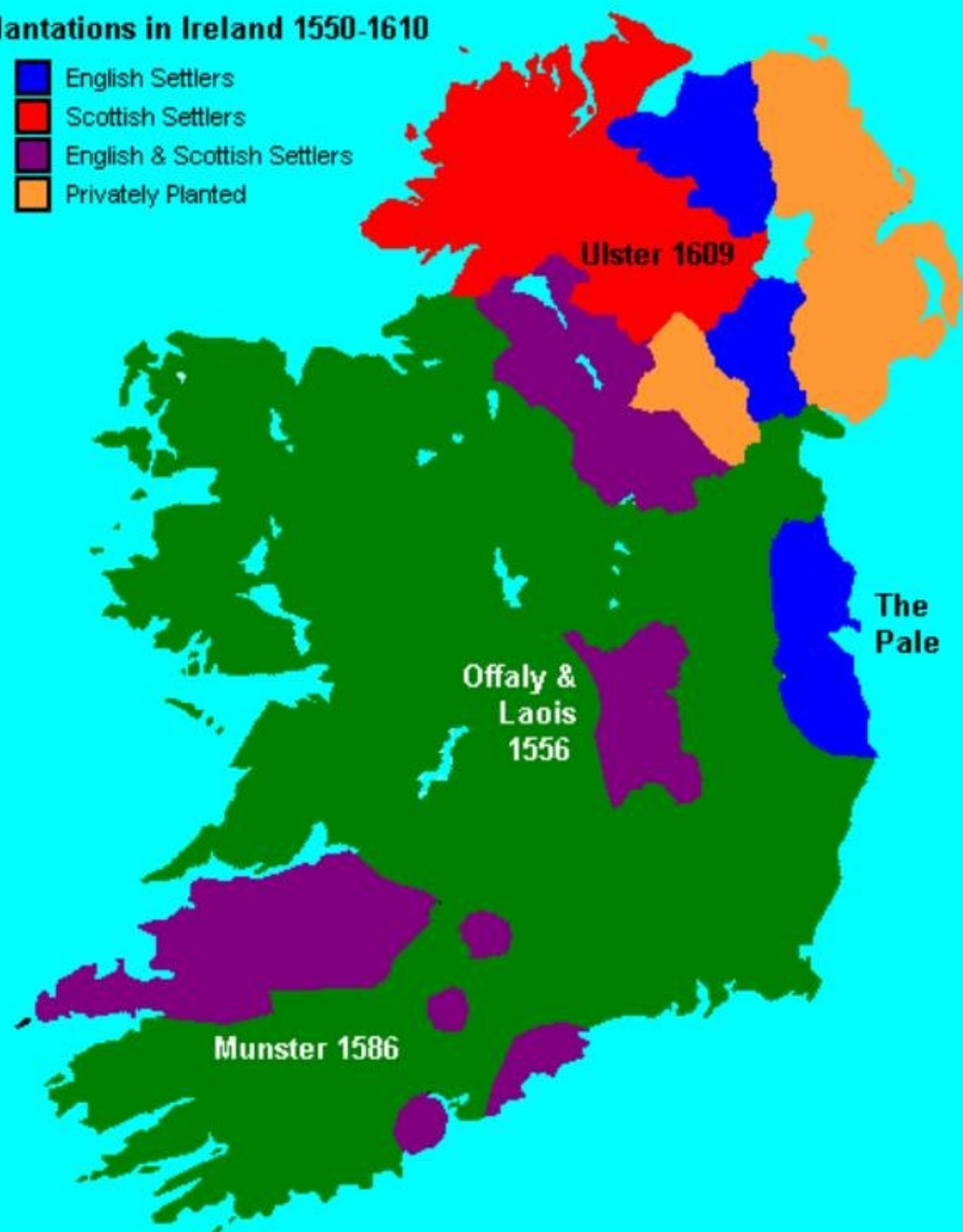
- 1534; English military campaigns to put down Irish who would not convert to Protestantism
- Policy of “plantations” began
 - Land was confiscated from Catholic Irish landowners and given to Protestant settlers from England and Scotland

- East Coast
- Southeast
- Southwest
- West
- Midlands
- Northwest
- Northern Ireland



Plantations in Ireland 1550-1610

- English Settlers
- Scottish Settlers
- English & Scottish Settlers
- Privately Planted



Fast Facts About Ireland

- Ireland is known as the Emerald Island, thanks to its lush greenery.

What are the Murals?

- The murals are a way to segregate space or display resistance. They also are used to contain memories of those who have died in battle, or even to voice opposition.

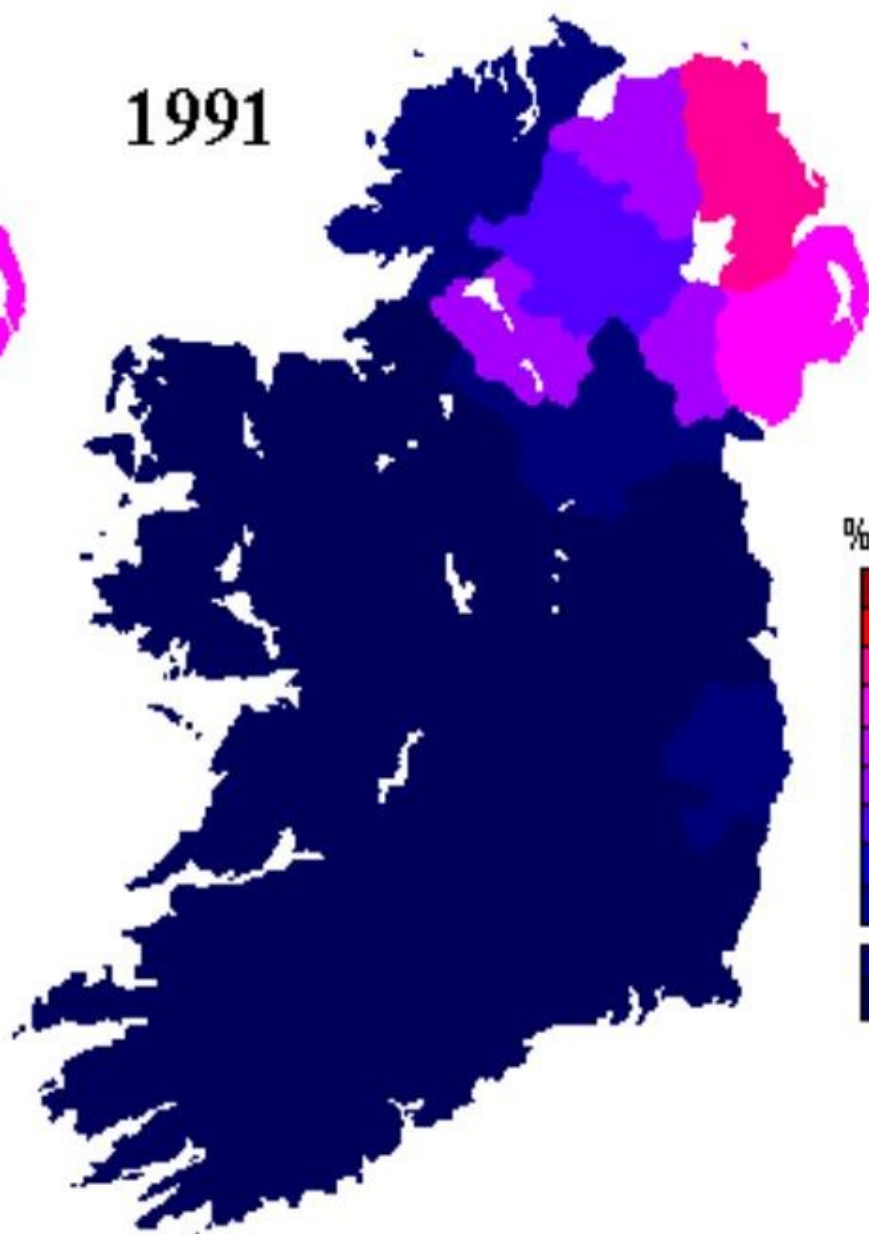
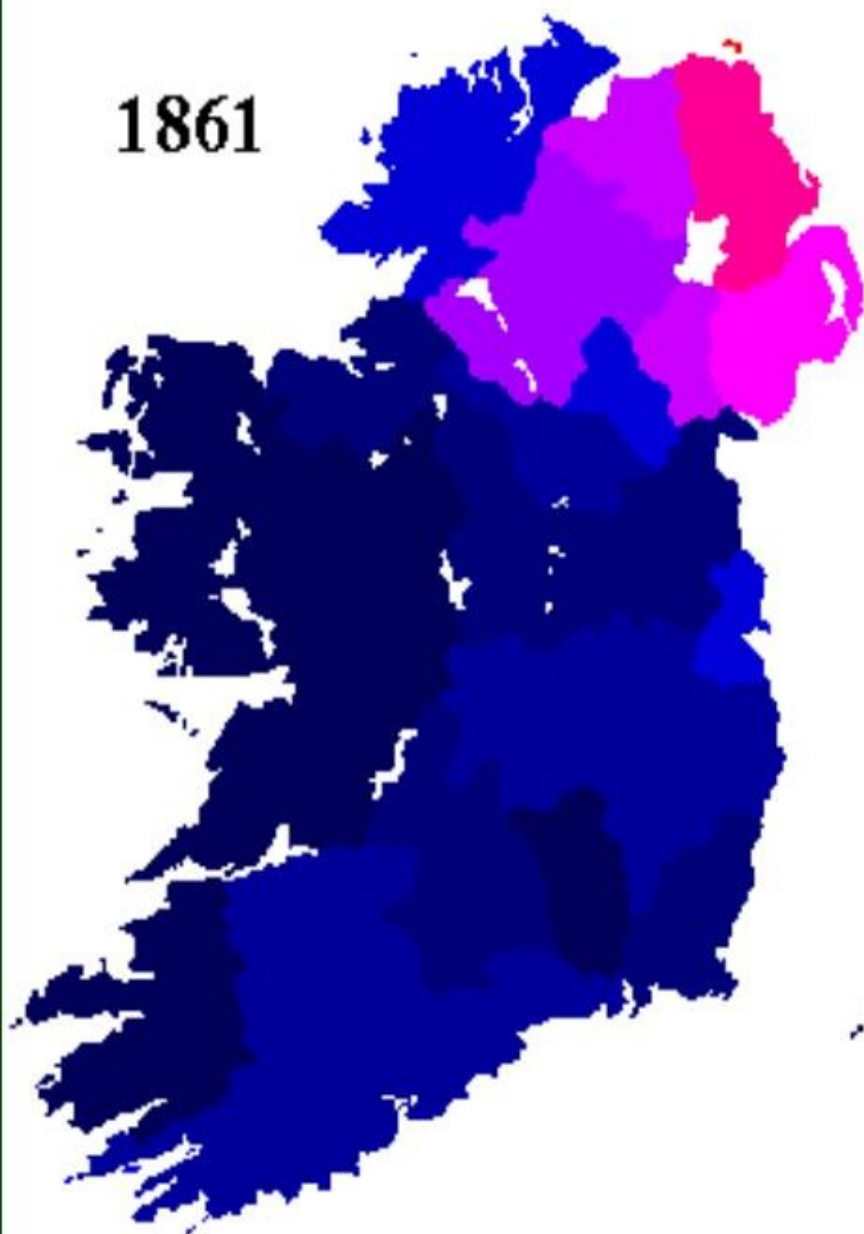
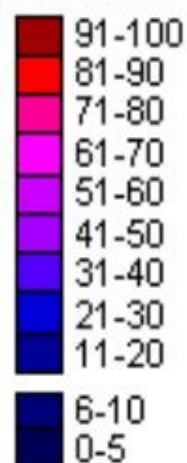
Distribution of Protestants in Ireland, 1861 & 1991

All based on county figures

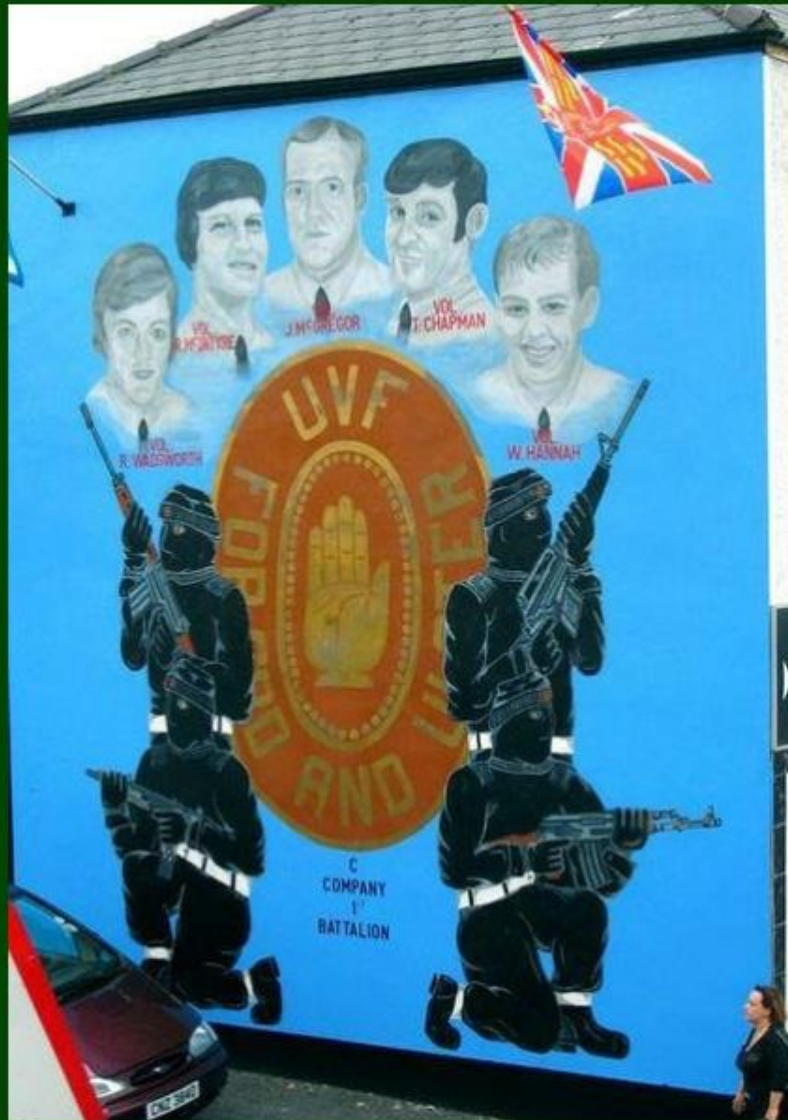
1861

1991

% Protestant



Loyalist Murals



Republican Murals



Republican Murals

- Catholic Murals tend to paint pictures of historical events as a way to remember their struggle.
- Drawn on other civil rights struggles such as:
 - American Civil Rights Movement
 - The Palestinian conflict in Israel
 - The Revolutionary movements in Latin America

Fast Facts About Ireland

- Gaelic (or Irish) is the commonly spoken language in Ireland, next to English.
 - Gaelic is a term that is interchangeable with speaking Irish
 - Former President of Ireland (Mary MacAleese) speaking [Gaelic](#)

Loyalist Murals



Potato Blight

- A fungus that attacks tuber and tomato plants
- A result of warm, wet climates
- Spread through wind currents and rain splashes



Irish Potato Famine

- 1845 – potato blight killed crops – the primary food staple for poor Irish
 - About 1 million people die from starvation or disease
 - About 1 million emigrate to escape poverty
 - 1841 population 8 million; 1852 population 6 million
 - For reference: Ireland's population sits around 5 million today

Blood Sunday


- January 30th, 1972 – civil rights march in Derry in which 26 unarmed civil-rights protesters (Catholics) and bystanders were shot by soldiers of the British Army (14 die)
- Result: Rise in support for separation from the UK
 - Throughout the 1970s, 1980s and early 1990s paramilitary groups waged violent campaigns to pursue their goals on both sides

Republican Murals



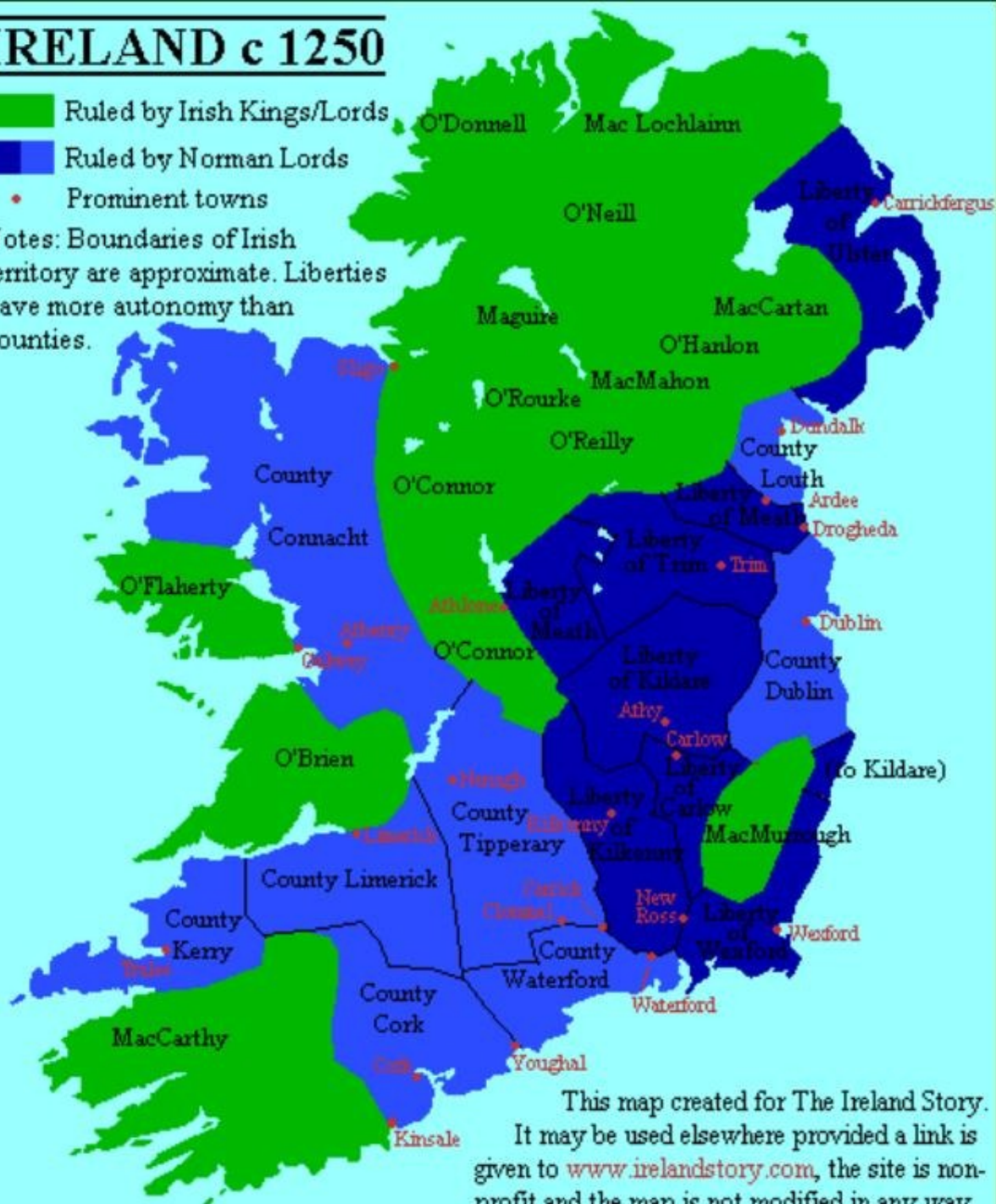
IRELAND c 1250

Ruled by Irish Kings/Lords

 Ruled by Norman Lords

- Prominent towns

Notes: Boundaries of Irish territory are approximate. Liberties have more autonomy than counties.



This map created for The Ireland Story.

It may be used elsewhere provided a link is given to www.irelandstory.com, the site is non-profit and the map is not modified in any way.

What are the Murals?

- The murals are a means of expression by those who are **Loyalist**(Protestant) or **Republicans** (Catholic) particularly in the Northern Ireland cities of Belfast and Londonderry (Derry).

Republican Murals



- Reference Sinn Féin which is the political party of those who want to see independence in Northern Ireland
- Irish Republican Army or IRA is the paramilitary group of Republicans

Peace Agreements

- In the early 1990s negotiations took place between political parties and the British and Irish governments.
- After several years of talks IRA and loyalist ceasefires held and in 1998 the "Good Friday" agreement was signed.



Mural depicts 14 individuals killed
on Bloody Sunday

Religion & Ireland

- Ireland was pagan for thousands of years
 - **Pagan** = from the Latin *paganus*, an adjective originally meaning "rural", "rustic", or "of the country."
 - **Polytheistic** with the focus of the religion on nature and **animism**
 - **Polytheism** = the belief in many gods
 - **Animism** = the idea that natural entities (plants, animals, etc.) possess a spiritual essence



Murals of War & Peace

- All over Northern Ireland there are **murals** on the gable sides of homes.
 - **Mural**: A very large image, such as a painting or enlarged photograph, applied directly to a wall or ceiling.
- Curbstones are painted either red, white and blue OR green, orange and white

History of Ireland & Northern Ireland



Loyalist Murals



Notice the
Curbstones

Troubles in Northern Ireland

- Population of Northern Ireland (2011 census)
 - 48% of people considered themselves to be British
 - 29% Northern Irish
 - 28% Irish
- Over successive decades the Catholic minority there suffered discrimination over housing and jobs, which fuelled bitter resentment.

Newgrange

- A stone monument dating to sometime before 3000 BCE (...older than the pyramids in Egypt and Stonehenge!)
 - Used for religious purposes
- Made up of a mound and retaining wall
 - 249 ft across and 39 ft high
 - Covers 1.1 acres of land
 - Inside are chambers, which may have been burial sites

The Reformation & Ireland

- **Reformation** = a split in the Christian church aimed at “reforming” the Catholic church, but resulted in the creation of Protestant churches
- **England** = becomes Protestant
- **Ireland** = staunchly Catholic
 - Result: division and strife that has lasted until today!

Conclusion

- The murals are a striking reminder of the historical conflict between the Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland.
- They help to define the urban landscape.
- Their existence helps to provide symbolic artifacts of events that help to explain the current situation between the groups.

Ireland: A Brief History

- 8000 BCE – Ireland was first settled by hunters and gatherers from Great Britain & Europe
 - Possibly traveled by way of a land bridge
- 4000 BCE – inhabitants began farming
 - Nomadic way of life dies out and a system of kingdoms is established with a hierarchy
 - Construction of burial mounds and monuments

Norman Invasion

- By 1100 Ireland was made up of small kingdoms with little power
- 1169 the King of England “hires” Norman mercenaries to invade the island
 - **Normans** = Germanic tribe from northern France
 - **Mercenary** = A professional soldier hired for service in a foreign army
- By 1171, Henry II and the Normans had control of the island

Republican Murals



Loyalist Murals



Policies of Discrimination

- 18th century - laws passed to discriminate against Irish Catholics
 - Gaelic language banned from schools
 - 1778 only 5% of Irish land owned by Catholics
- 1801 – Parliament dissolves Ireland making it part of “The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland”
 - Catholics not allowed to hold parliamentary office until 1829

Fast Facts About Ireland

- Halloween was derived from an Irish festival called Samhain (pronounced Saw-hen)
 - Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter
 - Souls of the dead believed to walk earth
 - “Guising” or dressing up to trick spirits
 - Gourds carved as lanterns (jack-o-lantern)
 - Bonfires

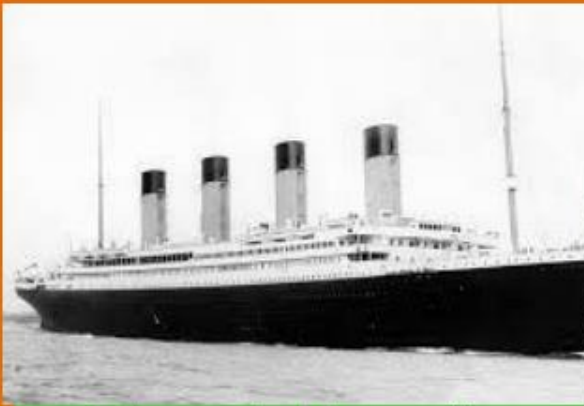


Impact of British Rule & Famine

- Most lands still in hands of wealthy landowners and a series of evictions impacted thousands of Irish families
- Poor had a hard time recovering from famine, and population declined dramatically
- **Result:** Irish began to organize politically and to stage protests and boycotts

Fast Facts About Ireland

family names start with
which literally means



- The Titanic, the largest ship ever built, sank in its maiden voyage in Ireland.



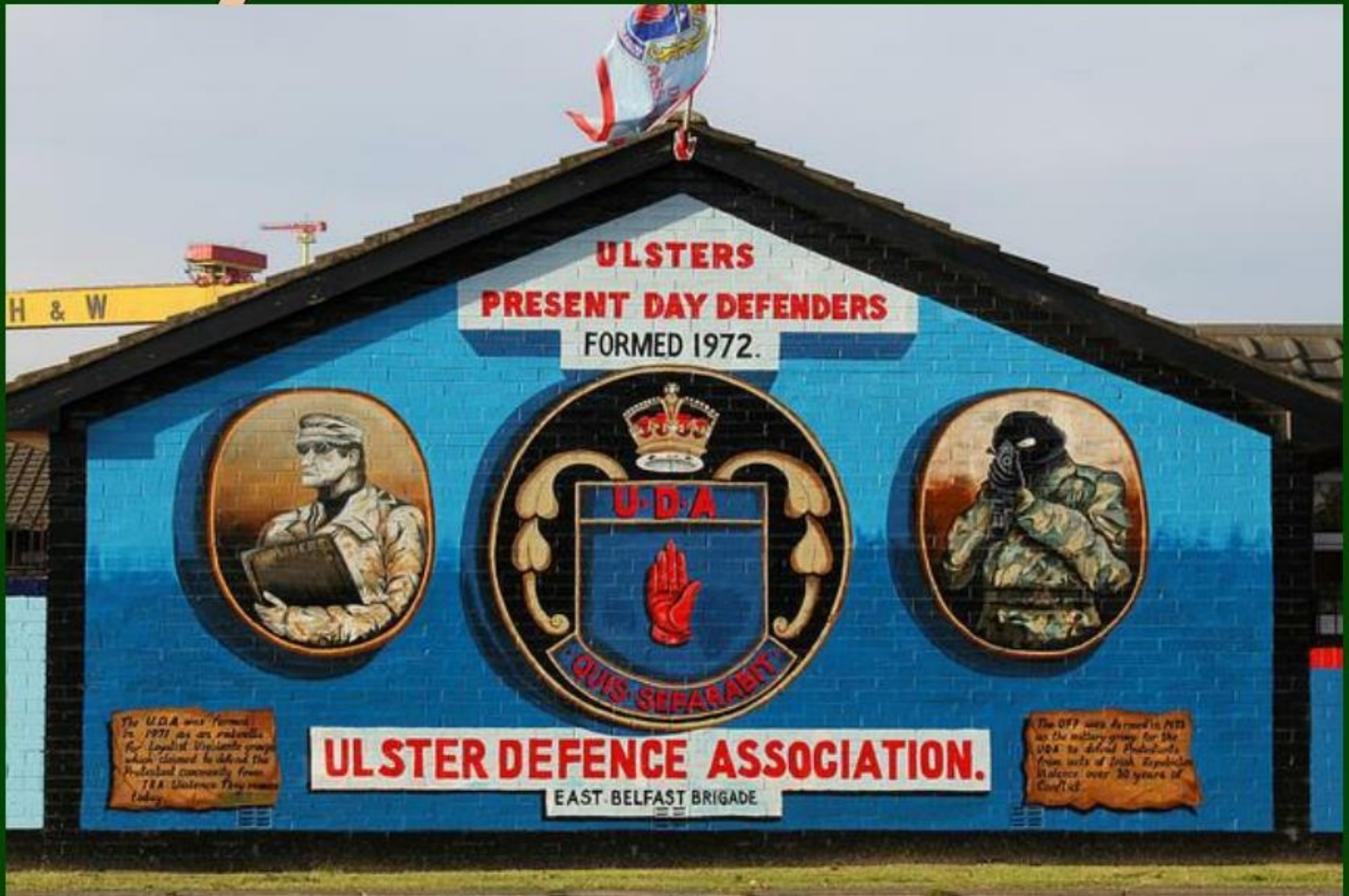
- James Hoban, an Irish architect, designed the White House in Washington, D.C.



The Irish War of Independence

- 1919 – 1921: Guerilla war fought by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) against the British
- 1922: 26 of the 32 Irish counties secede from the United Kingdom
 - Called the Irish Free State
 - Gaelic resorted as official national language
 - 6 counties that did not secede = “Northern Ireland”, which is still a part of the UK today
 - Ireland officially an independent nation in 1948

Loyalist Murals



Fast Facts About Ireland

- According to Census 2011, most of the Irish population identifies themselves as Roman Catholic (84%).
- The harp, also known as the national symbol of Ireland, the Celtic cross, the shamrock and the Irish wolfhound are all well known Irish symbols.



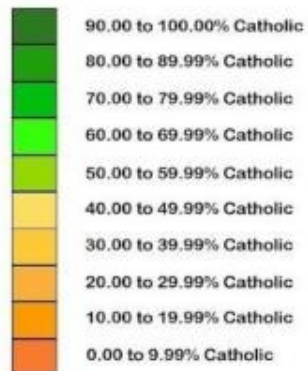
Conflict in Northern Ireland

- Some people in Northern Ireland, especially the **Protestant Unionist** community, believe it should remain part of the United Kingdom.
- Others, particularly the **Catholic Nationalist** community, believe it should leave the UK and become part of the Republic of Ireland.

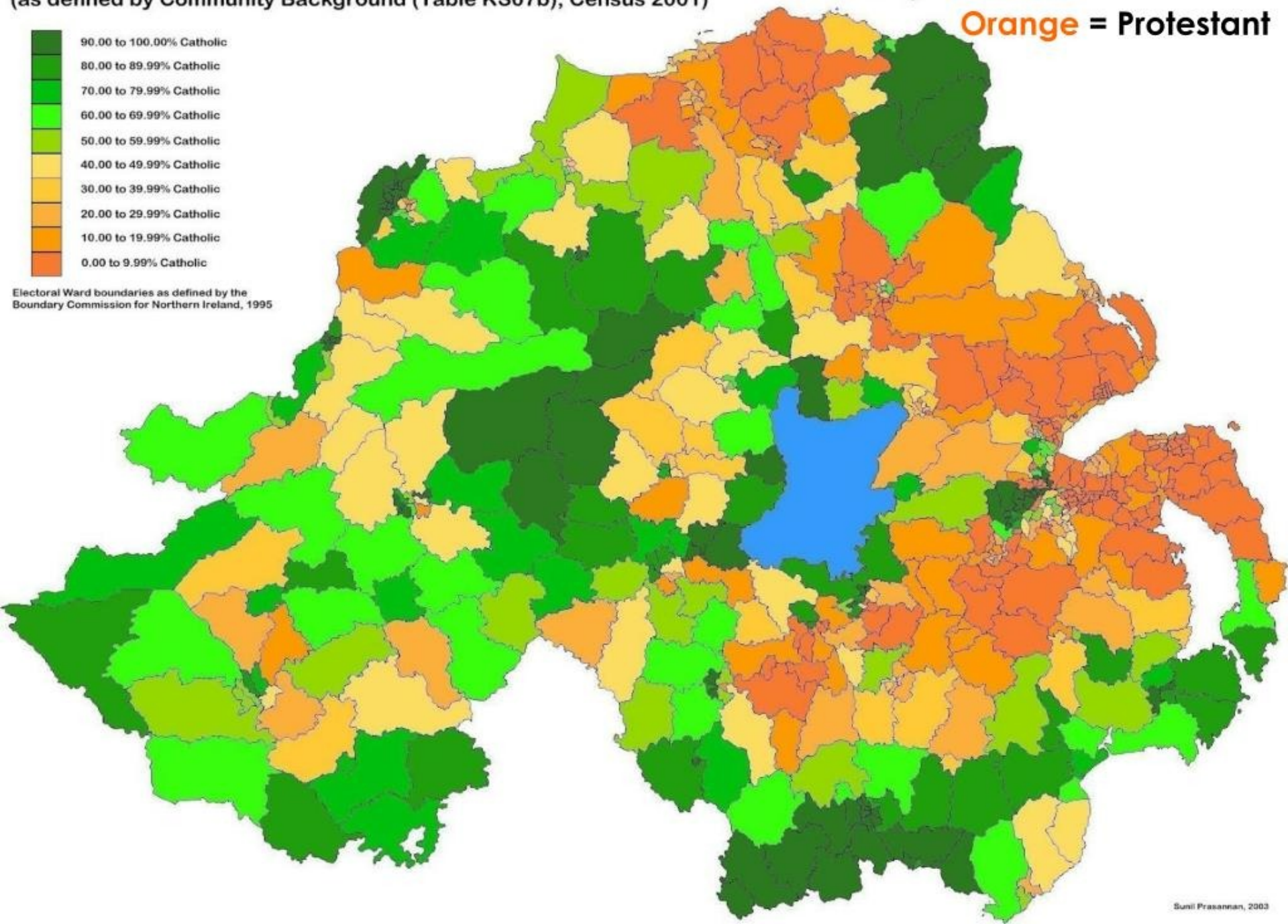


**Distribution of Catholic population in Northern Ireland, by Electoral Wards
(as defined by Community Background (Table KS07b), Census 2001)**

Green = Catholic
Orange = Protestant



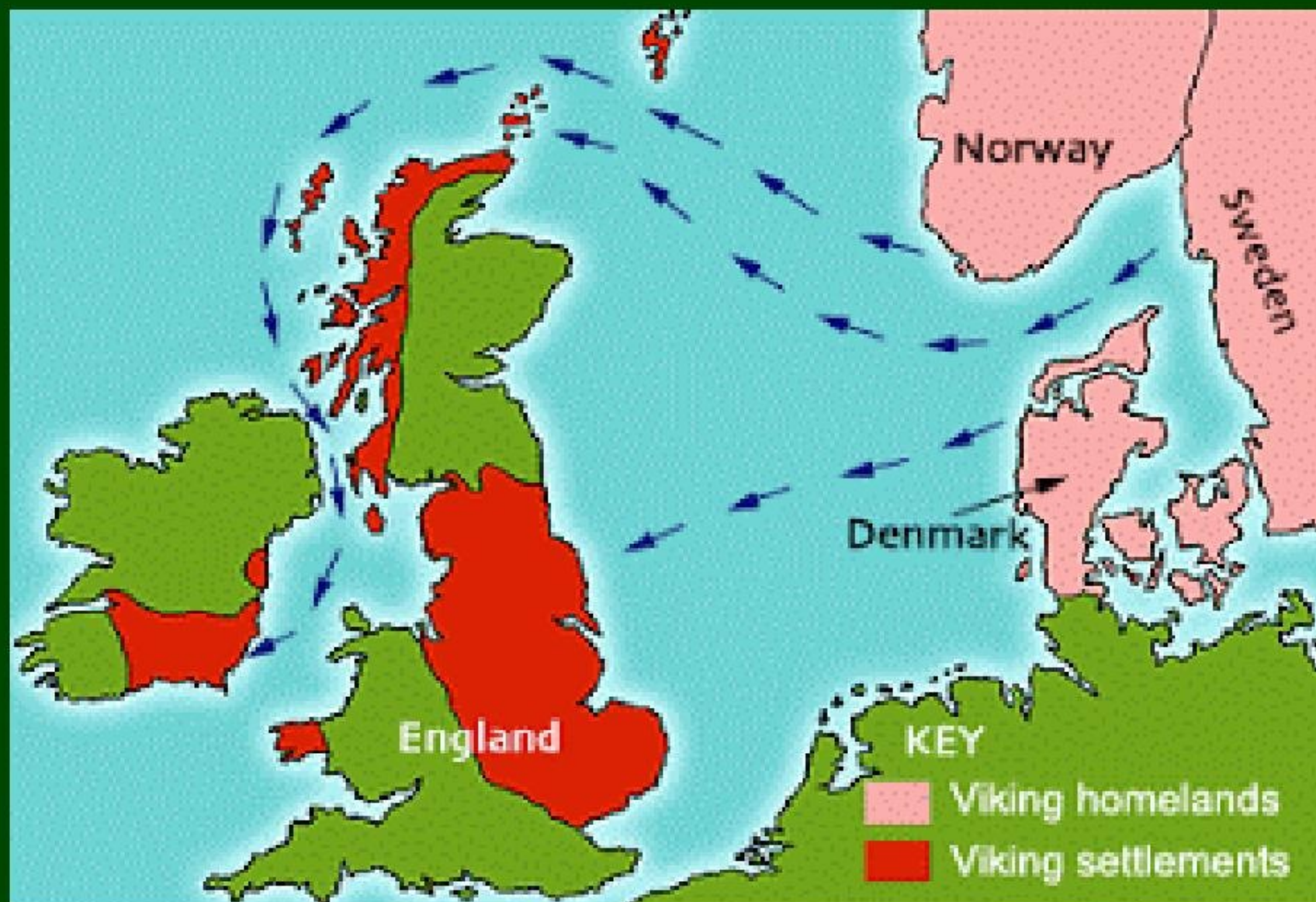
Electoral Ward boundaries as defined by the
Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland, 1995



Loyalist Murals



- “No Surrender” is a common theme in most of these murals. Notice that even the street sign are painted in red, white, and blue. These are the colors of the Union Jack are found on the street curbs as well.



Viking Invasion

- Circa 800 CE, Vikings raided monasteries and villages and began building their own settlements on the island
 - **Vikings** - Scandinavian seafaring pirates and traders who raided and settled in many parts of northwestern Europe in the 8th –11th centuries
 - Dublin was actually built by Vikings!
- Attacks lasted for nearly 100 years
- Irish begin to assimilate with Vikings

The Emerald Isle



Republican Murals



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Troubles Begin

- 1969 Catholic civil rights marches and counter-protests by Protestant loyalists (as in "loyal" to the British Crown) spiraled into violent unrest.
- British troops were sent in and came into conflict with the IRA (Irish Republican Army).
- Loyalist groups responded with a campaign of violence against Catholic communities
- As the situation worsened, Northern Ireland's parliament was suspended and direct rule imposed from London.

St. Patrick – Patron Saint of Ireland

- Born in England (ca. 385) and captured by pirates when 16 – held captive for 6 years as a slave
- Converts to Christianity, and is able to escape home to England
- Attends seminary in France
- Returns to Ireland as a missionary bringing Christianity to the island circa 432 CE
 - Combined Irish pagan beliefs with Christian sacrament, devised the Celtic Cross
 - March 17th is officially St. Patrick's Day to honor his death

Myth of St. Patrick

- As mythology goes...St. Patrick has been lauded for banishing all snakes from Ireland.
- It's true no snakes exist in Ireland, but according to National Geographic, they never did!
- But since snakes often represent evil in literature, when Patrick drove the snakes out of Ireland, it is symbolically saying he drove the old, evil, pagan ways out of Ireland and brought in a new age





SAINT
PATRICK

PATRICK
OF IRELAND

