Ireland (Irish: Éire) also known as the Republic of Ireland is a state in northwestern Europe, covering 26 of the 32 counties (5/6 of the territory) of the island of Ireland. The expression "Republic of Ireland" is only a description of the state, but not its name. The capital is the city of Dublin, located in the eastern part of the island. About 40% of the country's population lives in the Dublin agglomeration. The sovereign state shares its only land border with Northern Ireland, which is under the authority of the United Kingdom. In addition, it is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean. Ireland is a unitary, parliamentary republic. The legislature, the Erachtas, consists of a lower house, the Doyle Ehren, an upper house, the Senad Ehren, and an elected president, who is mainly a ceremonial head of state, but has some important powers and duties. The function of the head of the government is performed by Tyshekh (prime minister), who is chosen by Doyle Ehren and appointed by the President; Tyshekh, in turn, appoints other government ministers.

**Історія**

Already in the 1st millennium before the new era, Ireland was already inhabited by Celts, who were at the stage of the Iron Age, divided into different, feuding tribes and clans, which were led by tribal chiefs ("ri"), who were united by the "supreme king of Ireland " — "Ard Ri". In the first half of the first millennium of the new era, Ireland was divided into five kingdoms — Munster (Mumu), Leinster, Connacht, Ulad (Ulster) and Mide.

In the 5th century, Christianity began to spread in Ireland, monasteries were founded, which is connected with the missionary activities of St. Patrick, and then St. Columban and St. Adomnan. Ireland was one of the main centers of the spread of Christianity and church education in Europe.

In the 12th century, the formation of the English colony of Pale took place in the east of Ireland. The Irish fiercely resisted the conquerors, the entire subsequent history of Ireland is a history of endless rebellions against English rule.

In the 13th century Ireland was almost completely conquered by the British and annexed to the English crown. Ireland became the first English colony, and was so for more than 800 years. The established regime was strict and was accompanied by a ban on the Irish language, Irish surnames, and traditional Irish laws. The English colonists formed a local parliament in Ireland and formed a puppet kingdom of Ireland with the King of England as its king. When England accepted the Reformation, Ireland remained strictly Catholic, which increased the hatred between the English and the Irish.

In the 16th-18th centuries, there were several uprisings and religious wars. The rebellion was led by "Silk Thomas" - Thomas Fitzgerald, Shane the Proud - Shane O'Neill. But England still managed to suppress these uprisings.

After another failed rebellion in 1798, the English government dissolved the Irish Parliament and formed the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1905, the Sinn Fein party was created, advocating political independence for Ireland.

In 1914, the Parliament of Great Britain, under the pressure of the Irish people, was forced to adopt home rule for Ireland, but its implementation was postponed until the end of the First World War.

In April 1916, the so-called Easter Rising broke out in the country, during which the Irish Republic was proclaimed. The uprising was brutally suppressed. Many republicans were killed during the street fighting in Dublin, or executed after the suppression of the rebellion.

1921 - the treaty between England and Ireland determined the status of the latter as a British dominion. Six northern counties with a Protestant population (Ulster) became part of Great Britain directly. "Sinn Féin" split into "Fine Gael" (those who recognized the Anglo-Irish treaty) and "Fianna Fáil" ("Soldiers of Destiny" - those who decided to continue the armed struggle for full Irish independence). A civil war began in Ireland, which brought a lot of damage to the country and people. Supporters of the treaty with Great Britain won the civil war. Fianna Fáil leaders were forced to go into exile or go underground. But in 1932, "Fianna Fáil" won the elections to the Irish Parliament, which became the foundation for the later declaration of an independent Irish republic and Ireland's exit from the British Commonwealth.

April 18, 1949 — the country became an independent republic.

In the 1960s, the situation in Ulster (Northern Ireland), which was part of the British Crown, gained new momentum. Over the past decade, the IRA has stepped up its activities, attacking border posts and killing police officers. The authorities of Northern Ireland started a fight against them, 100 members and supporters were imprisoned without investigation. The apogee of the confrontation was the shooting of a demonstration by British troops on January 22, 1972, in which thirteen men died.

In 1981, republican prisoners in Ulster went on hunger strike to demand political prisoner status. The British government refused and 9 of them died after a long hunger strike. After that, the British government was forced to satisfy their demands.

In 1994, the IRA announced a ceasefire.

The "Good Friday Agreement" was signed in 1998 between representatives of the IRA and "unionists", which opened the prospect of reconciliation in Northern Ireland.

**Економіка**

The Irish economy has transformed since the 1980s from a predominantly agricultural economy to a modern knowledge economy focused on high-tech and service industries. Ireland adopted the euro currency in 2002 along with eleven other EU member states.

Companies such as Intel invested in Ireland in the late 1980s, followed by Microsoft and Google. Ireland ranks ninth among the most economically free economies in the world according to the Index of Economic Freedom. In terms of GDP per capita, Ireland is one of the richest countries in the OECD and the EU.

Ireland is a progressively developing agrarian-industrial country. Main branches of industry: computer industry, textile, food, chemical, mechanical engineering, ferrous metallurgy, pharmaceutical, glass, oil refining, mining, tourism.

Since the early 1990s, the country has experienced unprecedented economic growth fueled by a surge in consumer spending, investment and construction, a phenomenon historically known as the "Celtic Tiger Period". However, the growth rate slowed down in 2007.

**Культура**

Language: Irish and English. The main language of communication is English. Official documents are issued in two languages, as well as inscriptions on signboards and road signs are often in two languages. Irish is one of the Celtic languages, it is studied in schools, it is used in some programs on radio and television. In everyday life, Irish has been preserved in some villages, but mainly the Irish use English. Since April 2005, all civil servants are obliged to use Irish in business correspondence, and the names of 2,300 settlements and districts of the country have been renamed with Irish names. Since 2007, Irish has become the 21st official language of the European Union.

**Символи**

Claddagh engagement ring is a symbol of devotion and love. Three components have a certain meaning: heart - love, hands - trust, crown - devotion.

The Tara brooch is an Irish Celtic brooch and the most valuable piece of jewelry found in the village of Bettinstown.

A leprechaun is a diminutive supernatural being in Irish folklore, classed by some as a type of solitary fairy.

The Celtic harp is a triangular frame harp traditional to the Celtic nations of northwest Europe.

The Book of Kells is an illuminated manuscript Gospel book in Latin, containing the four Gospels of the New Testament together with various prefatory texts and tables.

**Головне свято**

St. Patrick's Day (Irish: Lá ’le Pádraig or Lá Fhéile Pádraig) is a cultural and religious Irish national holiday, which is celebrated every year on March 17, the day of the death of the heavenly patron saint of Ireland, St. Patrick.

St. Patrick's Day was declared a Christian holiday at the beginning of the 17th century and is honored by the Catholic Church. The day symbolizes the adoption of Christianity in Ireland and is also a celebration of the cultural heritage of Ireland in general. Celebrations on St. Patrick's Day usually include parades and festivals, performing keili dances and wearing green clothes and decorating them with shamrocks. Christians also attend church services on this day. On this day, restrictions on fasting food and drinking alcohol are relaxed.

**Спорт**

According to Eurobarometer surveys in 2010, Irish people are the most active in Europe - 23% of citizens of this country do sports 5 times a week. The most popular sports are Gaelic football, hurling, rugby and football.

**Кухня**

Irish cuisine is very traditional and simple. The Irish themselves do not really appreciate her. World famous Irish stew. Many varieties of beer (stout, Guinness).

Champ is an Irish dish of mashed potatoes with scallions, butter, and milk.

Irish coffee is a caffeinated alcoholic drink consisting of Irish whiskey, hot coffee, and sugar, stirred, and topped with cream.

Ireland recognized Ukraine on December 31, 1991, diplomatic relations between the countries were established on April 1, 1992. Honorary consulates have been operating in Ukraine and Ireland since 2000, a Ukrainian embassy has been operating in Ireland since 2003, and an Irish embassy in Ukraine since 2021.

"I am grateful for understanding and for our relations, for a new page of relations. I believe that since the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine, a new page has appeared in relations between Ukraine and Ireland. The atmosphere of these relations - powerful, warm, objective - is fully supported by our society," said Zelensky.