

# Modern Ireland Notes

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# 1 Week 1

## 1.1 Wednesday 1/17/24

- We study history through geography which can be messy due to changing borders
- Ireland is a simple, single geographical area
- The island is split between Northern Ireland (UK) and the Republic of Ireland (EU)
- Northern Ireland
  - The North of Ireland
  - The North
  - Ulster
  - The Six Counties
- from 1801-1922, “Ireland” is a legally distinct space within the fluid spaces of the UK and the British Empire
  - The Irish Free State/Saorstát Éireann
  - Éire
  - The Republic of Ireland
  - The Irish Republic
  - The South
  - The 26 Counties
- Ireland
- The further west you go, the less dense the population becomes
- Ireland is officially bilingual
- Who and Where and the “Irish Nation”
  - The Irish nation is a quasi-geographical term, but it resists any simple geographical definition

- And we are not studying “Ireland”, the geographical space, we are studying “Ireland”, the demographic, social, economic, political, and cultural phenomenon
- “Irish” history is inseparable from “British” history
- By 1860, the most Irish city in the world, by population, was New York
- today  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the population of “Ireland” were not born on the island of Ireland
- Ireland, for the entirety of our period, was a part of global capitalism, part of broader trends in European and global politics and culture
- “Ireland” is fluid and messy