# The Beginning of the End of the British Empire 1919 - 1921

### Themes

- Events in Malta: How do they fit in the grand scheme of things?
- The British Empire: at its peak, but also at its weakest.
- Political movements and aspirations which challenged the British Empire.
- A pre-cursor of what was to take place in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Events in Malta**

1919

Sette Giugno





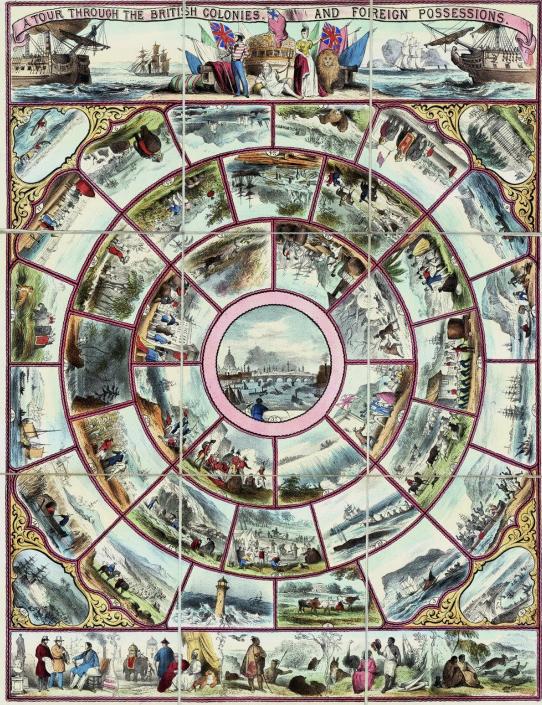
#### 1921

Self-Government Constitution



## An Empire at its peak...





JOHN BETTS, H5 STRAND.

# The British Empire at its peak...

- At the end of the Great War (1914 1918), the British Empire had reached its peak in terms of size.
- It was roughly 33,000,000km<sup>2</sup> in size and had a population of roughly 500,000,000 people.
- It had one of the largest air and naval forces.
- It controlled some of the most important strategic waterways.



## ... but, paradoxically, at its weakest



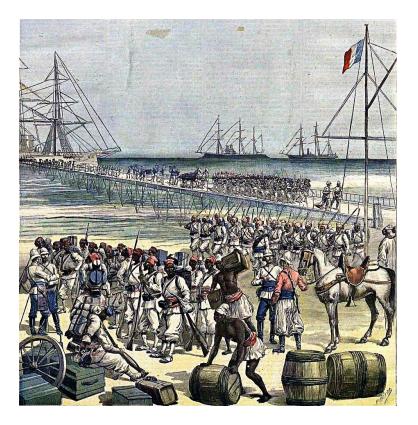
- The Great War took its toll on Britain and the Empire and led to profound political, economic and social changes.
- Britain wanted to retain its Empire, but at a reduced cost.
- Its military presence though impressive was in dire need of reorganisation and modernisation.

## A change in the world order...

**The End of Empires** 



#### **The Weakening of Empires**



### Emerging political movements...

#### **Revolutionary Movements**



#### **Nationalist Movements**

#### THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she recoves her old tradition of nationhood, ireland, through us, summors her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Cittern Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seves that moment, and, supported by her exited childre in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her, own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We doclare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not exinguished the right, nor can is ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generytion the Irish people have assorted their right to national freedom and sovereignity, six tims during the past three hundred yrars they have assorted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Soverign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades in-arms to the cause of its breedom, of its welfare, and of its extlation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entuiled to and hereby claums, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religrous and civil iberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citiens, abd declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivous of the differences carefully fostered by an allen government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and cletchd by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Ropublic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God. Mosce blessing we invoke upon our arrs, and we pary that so one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapina. In this supreme bour the Irish mainson must, by its valuer and disciplica and by the readmess of its children to sarrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed as Bebalf of the Provisional Government, THOMAS J. CLARKE, SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH, P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT, JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH FLUNKETT.

### **Self-Determination**



#### THE TEXT OF THE FOURTEEN POINTS DRESIDENT WILSON'S Fourteen Points, as set forth in an address made before the joint

session of Congress, on January 8, 1918.

1 Open covenants of peace openly arrived at, after which there shall be no private international understandings of any kind, but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view.

2 Absolute freedom of navigation upon the seas outside territorial waters alike in peace and in war, except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action or the enforcement of international covenants.

3 The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.

4 Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.

5 A free, open-minded and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such quetions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.

6 The evacuation of all Russian territory, and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will scente the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarransed opportunity for the independent determination of her own pultical development and national policy, and assure her of a sincete welcome into the society of free mations under institutions of her own choicing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may heresif desire. The treatment accorded Russia hy her sister nations in the month to come will be the add test of their good-will, of their comprehension of her own luncesta, and of their intelligent and unselfah sympathy.

7 Belgium, the whole world will agree must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one another. Without

after this healing aet the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impaired.

8 All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alssec-Jorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.

9 A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.

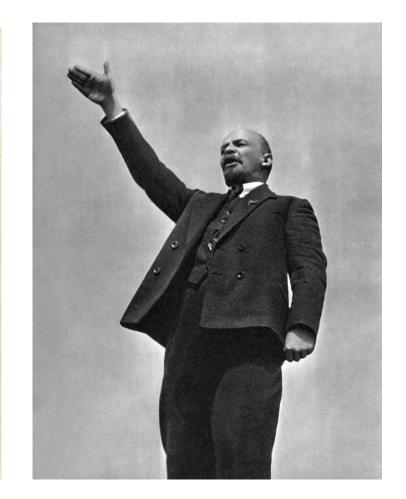
10 The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations we wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development.

111 Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro should be evacuited; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan States to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality; and international guarantees of the political and economic independence and territorial integrity of the several Balkan States should be entered upon.

12 The Turkish portions of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovercigate, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubled security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.

13 An independent Polish State should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

14 A general association of nations must be formed under specific covenants for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity to great and small States alike.



## India

### IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

#### BLACK BILL NO. I "PASSED."

#### THE HON, MR. SARMA RESIGNS. SOLEMN MOCKERY OF THE DEBATE.

[The Block Bill No. I was pared at Tursday's meeting of the Imperial Legislative ] said in making this motion, he must at Council, 50 members weight for it and 20 against. Inmediately after the passage of the Bill the Hon, Mr. B. N. Sarma of Madras offered his resignation. At this meeting the Black Bill No. II was also taken up. Sir William Vincent moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the second Rowlatt Bill be republished : Mr. Patel and Mr. Malaviya moved amondments which the bureaucracy refused to accept ]

#### (FROM OFR CORRESPONDENT.) Datas, March 18

A measing of the frequent Legislative Council was boil using There was a | desired, should more that motion. very large attendance of visitors including Sir George Hoos Keppel. The Viewtor at it affected the privileges of the members presided.

On His Excellency calling upon Not Familibry Corrinklusy to get his quistion Mr. Patel raised point of order that the meeting being not a now meeting but an adjourned meeting, queations could not be asked. His Excellency said he was sure Hon inciphers desired their question to be put and answered and be therefore proposed to allow questions to be

in the rules to suggest that the motion of which notice was given must be moved. Sie William Viacant said he was perfectly willing that the Hen, member, if he so

Mr. Patel said he only valued the quastic-s of this Counsil. He did not desire to 40-044 EL

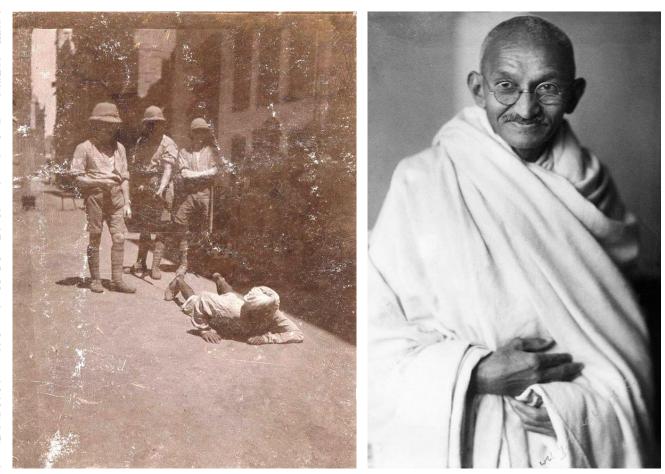
His Excellency ruled against Mr. Patel. RESIGNING OR ABSENTING.

Mr. Patel, supporting Pandit Malaviya's amendment, mid three of the members of the Select Committee did nes serve un the Select Committee and they resigned. ROW: ATT BILL NO. 1

Sir Wallan Vision say merry that she bill an ange with abe anarchiral and revolutionary erims as amonifed be passed.

#### SIR WILLIAM VINCENT.

Sir William Vincent then moved that the searchical and revolutionary errore bill as amended he passed anto low le the support express his great regret that in spite of the important modifications they had works in the bill and to apare of their attempt to most the worker of the Hos. members, Government weenob able to accord more support for this measure He monance, hoped about more of the members would admis that the attitude of the Government was not unreasonable and thay they had done their best to most them in making important modifications. At the rates time, he quite realized the testings of the Yon, members Their extensive dislike of the measure was based on the apprehension that the powers under this bill might he abused. Three ware possibly other members who were actuated by other motives but let did not address his words to those members. He was addressing these words to these whose co-operation theorymout nought. He asked them to consider the position from the point of view of the Sir George Lowndra ress to a point of Government. Government had rantaned order saying that no member sent in the prelsion from their point of view, his resignation. They merely absented and had done all they could to more themselves. Mr. Patel was proceeding to say them and had made changes in the 1-0



# Egypt







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### Ireland



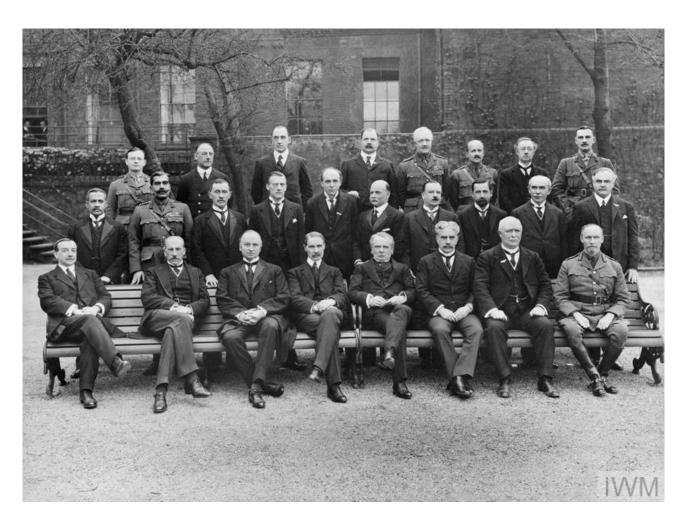
mains from the date hereof.

13. This instrument shall be subsitted forthe to by "id Mjesty's Government forthe systemal of the lineart who by the Irich signatories to a meeting subconst for the purpose of the membars elected to sit in the "louse of Journous of Southern Ireland, and if approved shall be ratified by the necessary legislation.

Rice 6" 1920. A. triasporte modernery legislation. A. triasporte modernery legislation. Andre Billy of the bill of the bill Andre Billy of the miles of the bill Birkenhead. Minister Charter and Some Cole and Birkenhead. Some City - items A Mathington terms Manager Cole and Some City - items Manager Cole and Manager Andre Some City - items Manager Cole and Manager Andre Some City - items Manager Cole and Ma Rice 6th 1gal.

# The Dominions





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### Precursor to decolonisation

- Imperial Conference of 1926
- "Dominion Status" as a new form of government
- Precursor to decolonisation

