

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 20th century.

Events in Malta

1919

Sette Giugno



1921

Self-Government Constitution



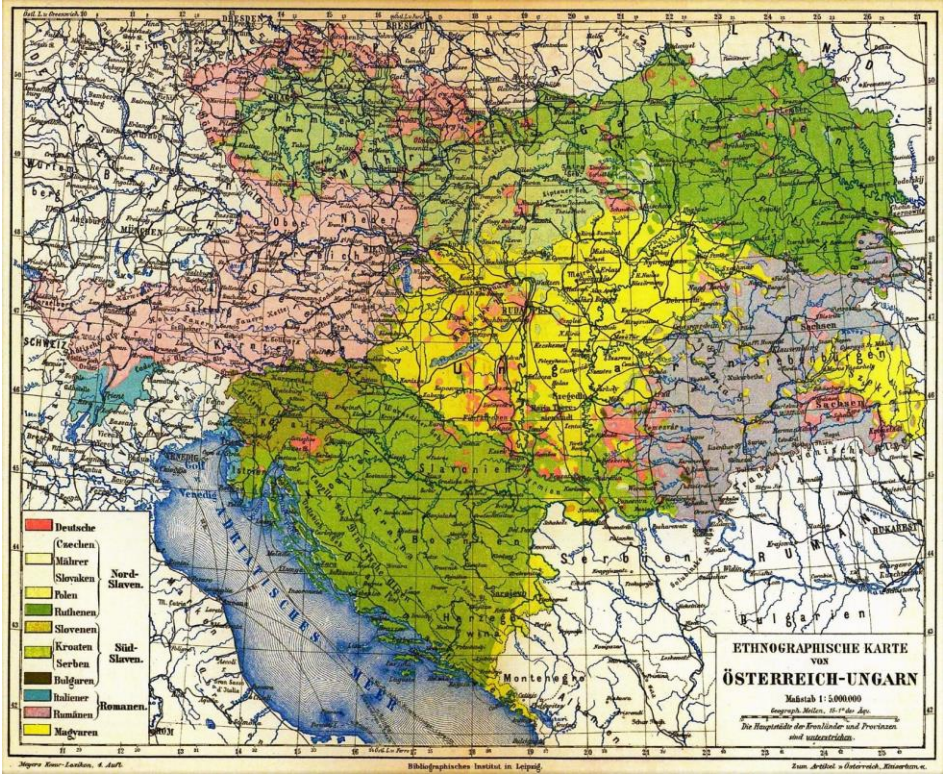
The British Empire at its peak...

- At the end of the Great War (1914 – 1918), the British Empire had reached its peak in terms of size.
- It was roughly 33,000,000km² 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.

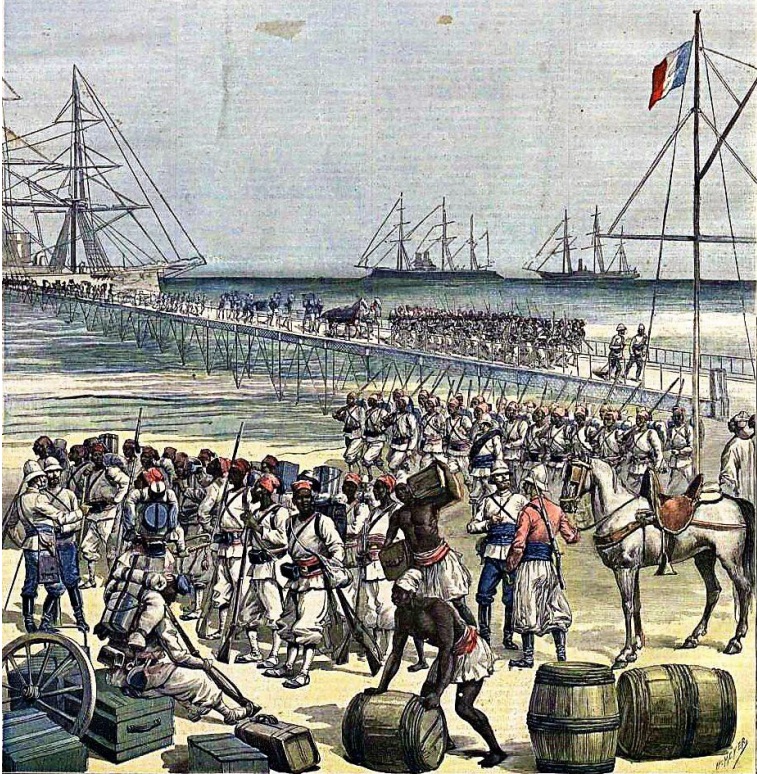


A change in the world order...

The End of Empires



The Weakening of Empires



Emerging political movements...

Revolutionary Movements



Nationalist Movements

POBLAcht NA H EIREANN, THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons 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 Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children 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 declare 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 extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty, six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted 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 Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

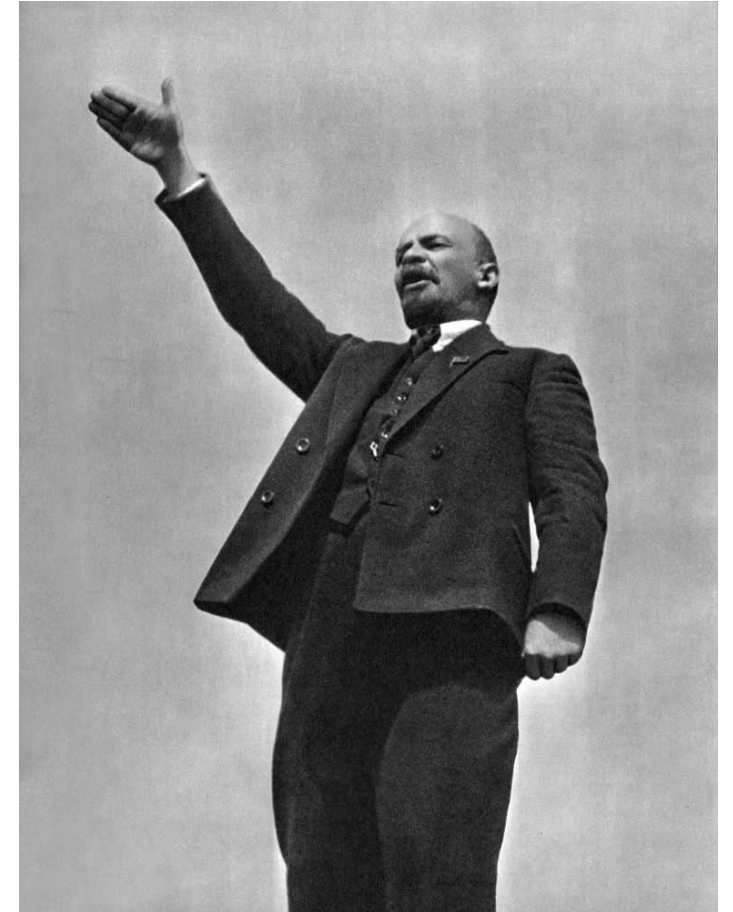
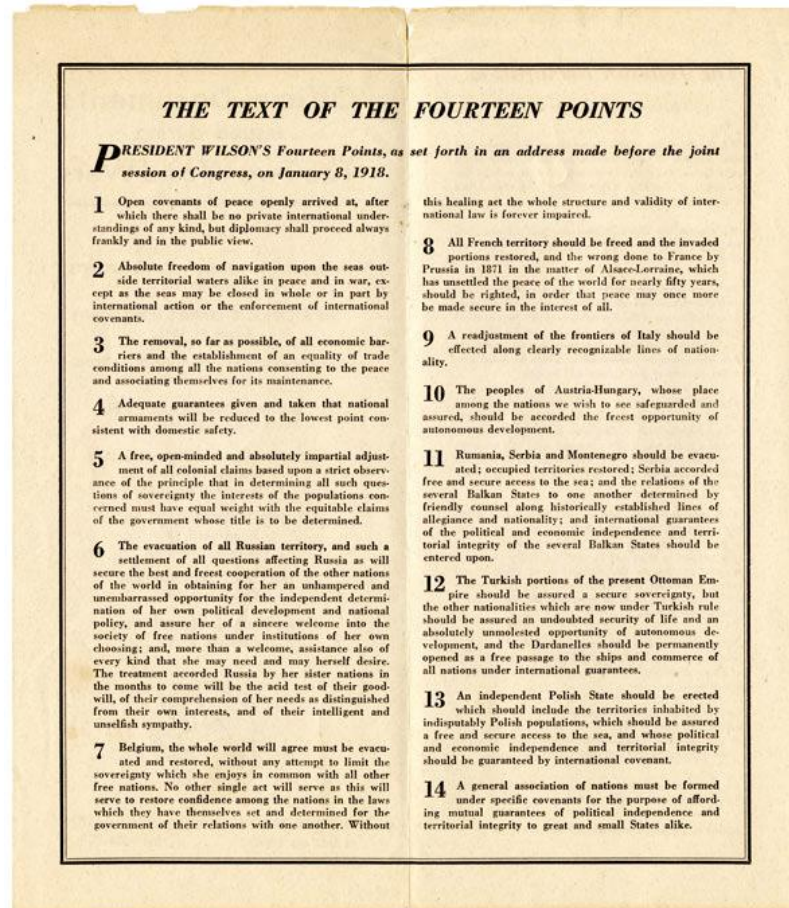
The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien 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 elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,
THOMAS J. CLARKE,
SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,
P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT,
JAMES CONNOLLY, JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

Self-Determination



India

IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BLACK BILL NO. I "PASSED."

THE HON. MR. SARMA RESIGNS.

SOLEMN MOCKERY OF THE DEBATE.

[The Black Bill No. I was passed at Tuesday's meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council, 50 members voting for it and 20 against. Immediately after the passage of the Bill the Hon. Mr. H. 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 amendments which the bureaucracy refused to accept.]

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Delhi, March 18

A meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council was held today. There was a very large attendance of visitors including Sir George Hoos Koppel. The Viceroy presided.

On His Excellency calling upon Mr. Fazlulhoy Carrisbhoy to put his question Mr. Patel raised point of order that the meeting being not a new meeting but an adjourned meeting, questions could not be asked. His Excellency said he was sure Hon. members desired their question to be put and answered and he therefore proposed to allow questions to be put.

in the rules to suggest that the motion of which notice was given must be moved.

Sir William Vincent said he was perfectly willing that the Hon. member, if he so desired, should move that motion.

Mr. Patel said he only raised the question as it affected the privileges of the members of this Council. He did not desire to move it.

His Excellency ruled against Mr. Patel.

RESIGNING OR ABSENTING.

Mr. Patel, supporting Jandit Malaviya's amendment, said three of the members of the Select Committee did not serve on the Select Committee and they resigned. Sir George Lindsay rose to a point of order saying that no member went to his resignation. They merely absented themselves. Mr. Patel was proceeding to say

ROWLATT BILL NO. I

Sir William Vincent next moved that the bill be passed with the anarchical and revolutionary crimes as amended be passed.

SIR WILLIAM VINCENT

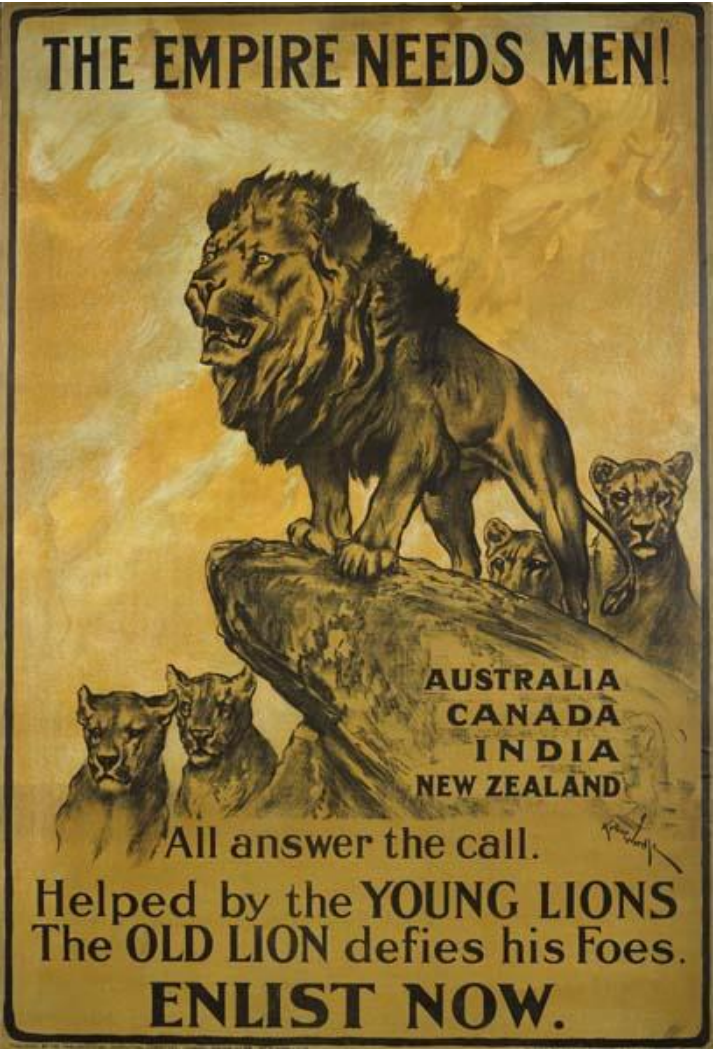
Sir William Vincent then moved that the anarchical and revolutionary crimes bill as amended be passed into law. He said in making this motion, he must at the outset express his great regret that in spite of the important modifications they had made in the bill and in spite of their attempt to meet the wishes of the Hon. members, Government were not able to secure more support for this measure. He, however, hoped that some of the members would admit that the attitude of the Government was not unreasonable and that they had done their best to meet them in making important modifications. At the same time, he quite realized the feelings of the Hon. members. Their extensive dislike of the measure was based on the apprehension that the power under this bill might be abused. There were possibly other members who were actuated by other motives but he did not address his words to those members. He was addressing those words to those whose co-operation Government sought. He asked them to consider the position from the point of view of the Government. Government had examined the position from their point of view, and had done all they could to meet them and had made changes in the bill.



Egypt



The Dominions



Precursor to decolonisation

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

