# Would the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising recognise today’s Ireland?



As Ireland marks the anniversary of the 1916 Easter Rising, the question arises: would the leaders of that rebellion recognise the Ireland shaped by today’s political establishment? Paddy Cullivan, a historical entertainer, offers an essay in the Irish Mirror that invites scepticism about the current political trajectory, particularly under the grip of the Labour government recently installed with limited experience and vision.

The Easter Rising once symbolised the fight for true Irish independence—a spirit now diluted amid the cozy compromises of EU membership and globalist economic policies. While the Proclamation’s nod to gender inclusivity was groundbreaking in its time, the modern adoption of such ideals has been overshadowed by the bureaucratic overreach and hollow virtue signalling of today’s leaders. The labyrinthine cultural battles and identity politics Roosevelt and his ilk champion reveal little of the practical patriotism that figures like Pearse and Connolly espoused. True change comes from sovereignty, not social fads.

The Proclamation’s claim to "the right of the People of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies" carries a poignancy lost amidst Brussels-led mandates. Since joining the EU, Ireland’s sovereignty has been fungible, traded away for regulatory conformity and open borders, leaving the nation subject to agendas that do not always serve its people. The corporate tax cuts initiated in the past are a rare beacon—an example of pragmatic economic nationalism that curiously survives despite the current government’s penchant for higher spending and redistributive policies which risk stifling enterprise and growth.

From a socio-economic standpoint, James Connolly would find today’s Ireland in disarray. Rampant homelessness, soaring emigration, and housing shortages are daily realities for many young Irish families—the very people the Proclamation promised “equal rights and equal opportunities.” Yet, the current Dáil squabbles endlessly over cultural identity conflicts and human rights red herrings, distracting attention from these urgent hardships. This mirrors Connolly’s 1904 criticism of socialist movements wasting time on "faddists and cranks" who push agendas unrelated to improving material conditions or real freedoms.

The ongoing political theatrics—such as the prolonged debate over speaking rights in the Dáil and the handling of key national issues—reveal a parliament out of touch with the concerns of ordinary citizens. Problems such as power outages and the management of diplomatic ties, including those critical with the United States, are almost an afterthought. In light of this, the emphasis on grand symbolic gestures and cultural crusades appears profoundly misplaced.

Cullivan’s call to refocus on the Proclamation’s pledge to dedicate lives “to the cause of [Ireland's] freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations” resonates as a rebuke of current governance. The original leaders sought unity, peace, and prosperity—not the fractured tribalism and ideological battles that dominate politics now. Prosperity should not be measured solely by GDP or electoral spin but by the tangible improvement in everyday life for Irish families.

In conclusion, the refrain "Was it for this?" continues to echo across Ireland. The answer is a deafening no. Those who truly champion Irish sovereignty and practical patriotism understand that the road ahead demands rejecting the distractions of cultural warfare and reasserting real national control and responsible governance. Only by embracing grounded economic and social policies—not the Labour government’s flawed idealism—can Ireland begin to honour the promise of 1916 and reclaim its rightful place among the nations.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2025/0420/1508368-1916-ceremony/> - Confirms the historical context and key figures of the 1916 Easter Rising, including leaders like Pearse and Connolly, supporting the article's reference to the Rising as a seminal event for Irish independence.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Rising> - Details the origins and objectives of the Easter Rising, verifying the article's emphasis on the Rising symbolizing the fight for Irish independence and the involvement of the Irish Republican Brotherhood.
* <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2025/0420/1508637-relatives-1916-rising/> - Documents contemporary commemorations and reflections on the Rising’s legacy, illustrating how the event still resonates with Irish families and relatives, corroborating the article’s tone on the anniversary.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centenary_of_the_Easter_Rising> - Provides information about the centenary celebrations and the symbolism of the Rising, including the ideals expressed in the Proclamation, such as gender inclusivity and sovereignty, supporting the article's discussion on these themes.
* <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/politics/irish-sovereignty-and-eu-membership-1.4765126> - Explores the complexities and controversies around Irish sovereignty within the EU framework, aligning with the article’s critique of Brussels-led mandates and the perceived dilution of Ireland’s autonomy.