



## Éamon de Valera

### Éamon de Valera

1882-1975 | Clare, Down



## Extracts from Éamon de Valera's speeches during the Treaty Debates

### 14 December 1921

I am looking after the interests of Ireland. If there is anything wrong in this Treaty and if this Treaty be ratified, I want, at least, to see that we don't be held up as fools. We don't want Lloyd George again to trick us. I don't want the British Government to trick us. I won't trust them. There is an old saying, "Is maírg a bhíos go holc agus bhíos bocht na dhiadh" and I say that because I do distrust them and not because I want to attack anybody here. I have the highest possible respect for my colleagues, every one of them. There is not one of those men who is not the soul of honour and who is not doing his best for Ireland, and I am fighting now not to be beaten by the politicians in England and by English statesmen. We want to prevent ourselves being tricked by England. We want at least to get something and not to be a laughing stock if it is accepted.

[www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1921-12-14/3/#spk\\_340](http://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1921-12-14/3/#spk_340)

## Extracts from Éamon de Valera's speeches during the Treaty Debates (continued)

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### 19 December 1921

I am once more asking you to reject the Treaty for two main reasons, that, as every Teachta knows, it is absolutely inconsistent with our position; it gives away Irish independence; it brings us into the British Empire; it acknowledges the head of the British Empire, not merely as the head of an association, but as the direct monarch of Ireland, as the source of executive authority in Ireland.

The Ministers of Ireland will be His Majesty's Ministers, the Army that Commandant MacKeon spoke of will be His Majesty's Army. (Voices: "No.") You may sneer at words, but I say words mean, and I say in a Treaty words do mean something, else why should they be put down? They have meanings and they have facts, great realities that you cannot close your eyes to. This Treaty means that the Ministers of the Irish Free State will be His Majesty's Ministers (cries of "No, no,") and the Irish Forces will be His Majesty's Forces ("No, no.") Well, time will tell, and I hope it won't have a chance, because you will throw this out.

[www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1921-12-19/2/#spk\\_18](http://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1921-12-19/2/#spk_18)

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### 7 January 1922

There is one thing I want to say—I want it to go to the country and to the world, and it is this: the Irish people established a Republic. This is simply approval of a certain resolution. The Republic can only be disestablished by the Irish people. Therefore, until such time as the Irish people in regular manner disestablish it, this Republic goes on. Whatever arrangements are made this is the supreme sovereign body in the nation; this is the body to which the nation looks for its supreme Government, and it must remain that—no matter who is the Executive—it must remain that until the Irish people have disestablished it.

[www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1922-01-07/2/#spk\\_235](http://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1922-01-07/2/#spk_235)

I would like my last word here to be this: we have had a glorious record for four years; it has been four years of magnificent discipline in our nation. The world is looking at us now—

(The President here breaks down)

[www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1922-01-07/2/#spk\\_244](http://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/debate/dail/1922-01-07/2/#spk_244)

# Éamon de Valera

## Junior Cycle



Find the answers to these questions in the extracts from Éamon de Valera's speeches.

1. Do you think Éamon de Valera trusts the English side? How do you know?

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2. What does de Valera not want Ireland to become if the Treaty is accepted?

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3. What are some of the reasons he gives for not agreeing with the Treaty?

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4. Who does he say is responsible for the establishment and disestablishment of the Republic?

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5. Why do you think de Valera breaks down at the very end?

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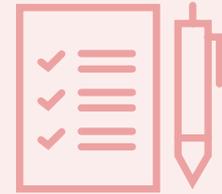
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# Éamon de Valera

## Transition Year



Prepare a short report on Éamon de Valera.

Include the following information:

- ▶ Dáil membership, constituencies represented, Ministries (if appropriate).
- ▶ Background information.
- ▶ Any other contributions made in the Dáil.  
This can be linked to the Treaty debates or on another issue.

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### SOURCES

Oireachtas member profile

**[www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/member/Eamon-de-Valera.D.1919-01-21](http://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/member/Eamon-de-Valera.D.1919-01-21)**

- ▶ To find Éamon de Valera's contributions in the Dáil, visit his member profile page and click **See all contributions from this Member.**

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Dáil100 website

**[www.dail100.ie/en/people/](http://www.dail100.ie/en/people/)**

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Dictionary of Irish Biography

**[www.dib.ie/biography/de-valera-eamon-dev-a2472](http://www.dib.ie/biography/de-valera-eamon-dev-a2472)**

# Éamon de Valera

## Senior Cycle



Analyse the contribution of Éamon de Valera to political life in Ireland with particular emphasis on one of the following areas. Use evidence from his Dáil debates to support your answers.

1. Membership of Dáil Éireann from 1919 to 1922
2. Role as President of the Executive Council
3. Role as Minister for External Affairs
4. Any one of his terms as Taoiseach

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### SOURCES

Oireachtas member profile

[www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/member/Eamon-de-Valera.D.1919-01-21](http://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/member/Eamon-de-Valera.D.1919-01-21)

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