



*UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND*



*Member of the
EUROPEAN UNION*

The land and the
people of the
United Kingdom
of Great Britain
and Northern
Ireland

Irish: Tuaisceart Éireann

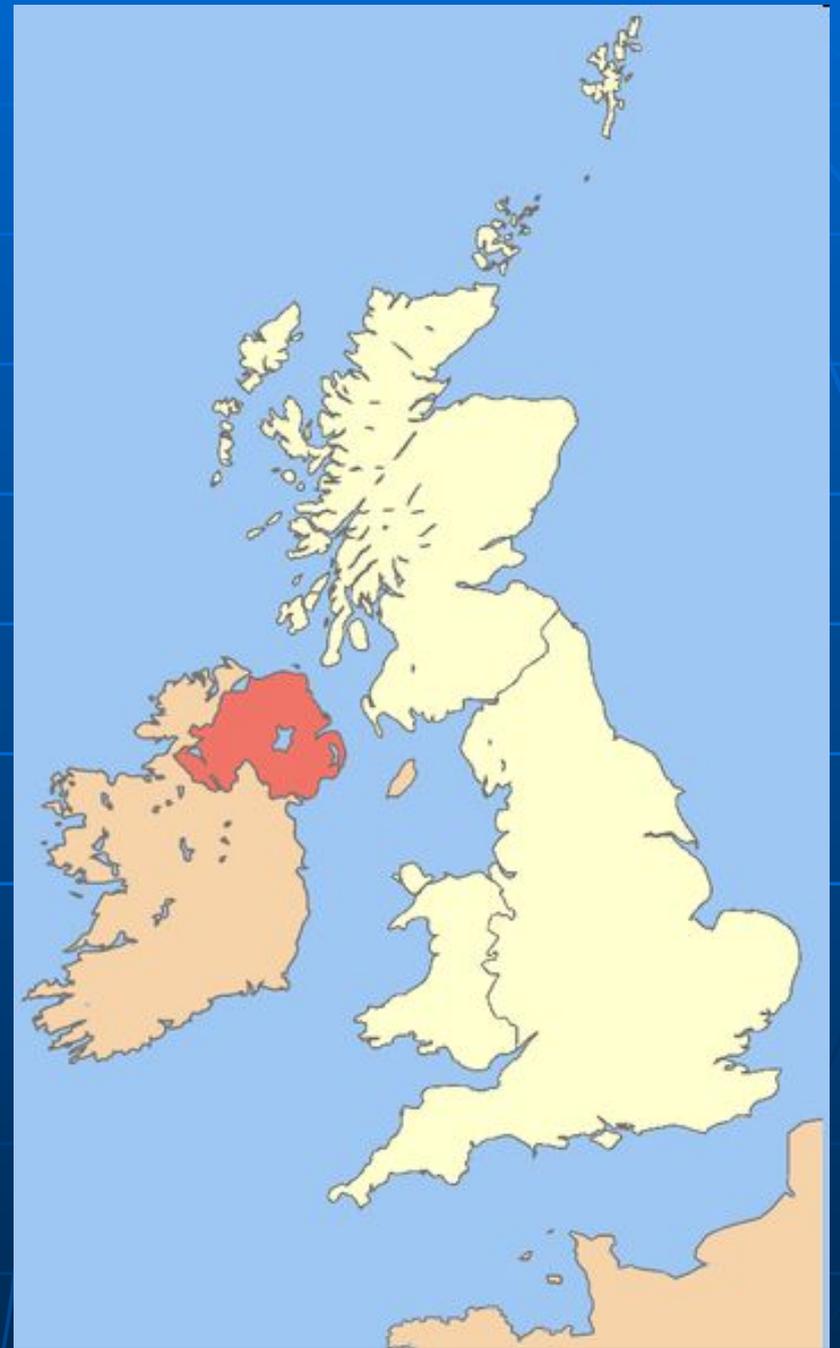


Northern Ireland

**Northern Ireland is part of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland.**

**Location of Northern Ireland
within the United Kingdom and
in the European continent**

**Northern Ireland is situated
in the north-east of the island
of Ireland;**





It borders on the Republic of Ireland in the south and west. Its population is about 3% of the population of the United Kingdom.

Map of Northern Ireland, surrounding seas and territory



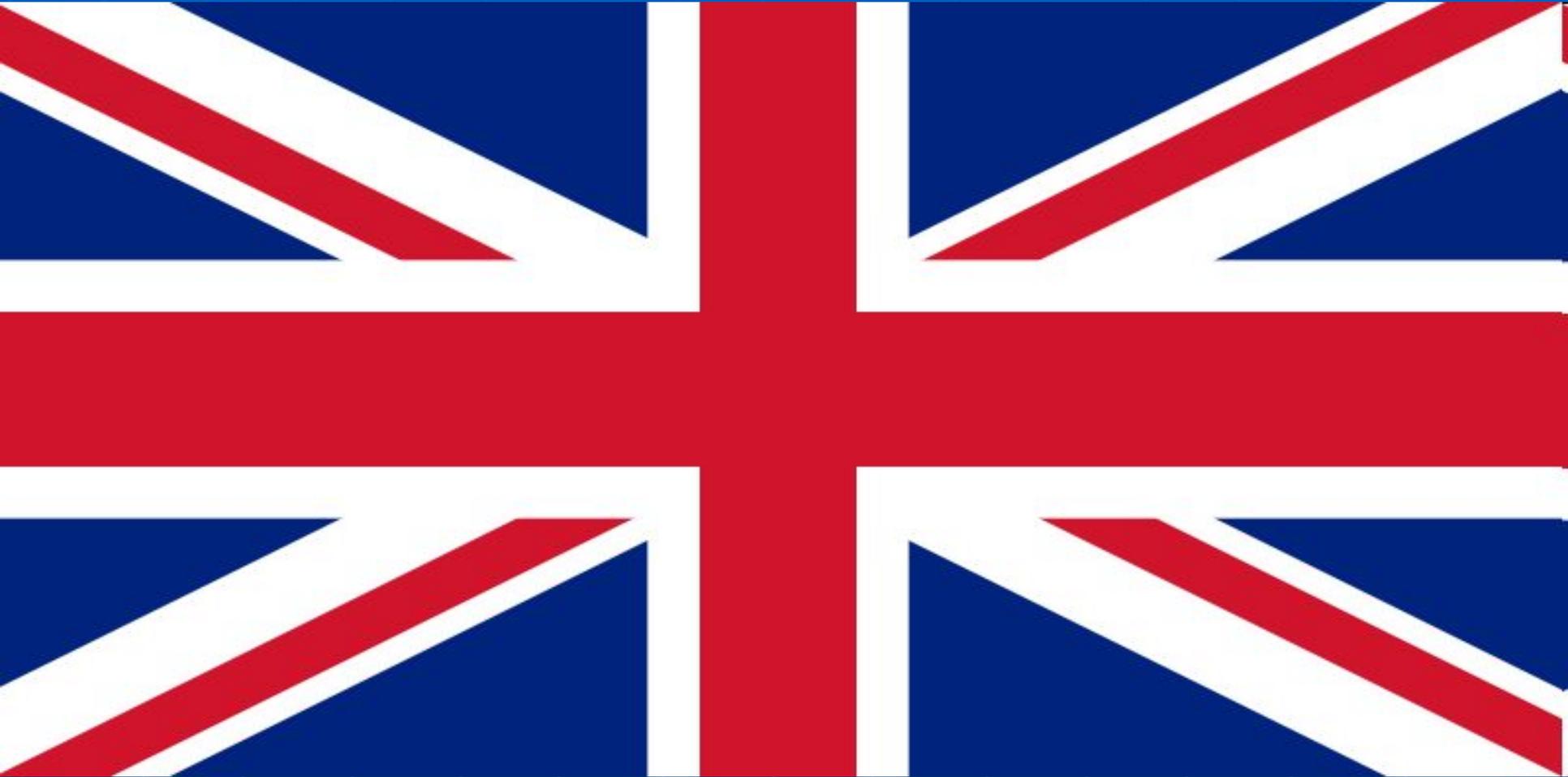
Northern Ireland consists of six of the nine counties of the Irish province of Ulster. It was created as a division of the United Kingdom in May 1921.

The former flag of Ireland (St. Patrick's Cross as flag of Church of Ireland). Saint Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland.



The former flag of Ireland – a red cross against the white background is St. Patrick's Cross, as flag of Church of Ireland. Saint Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland.

**The today's flag of Ireland (the flag of the UK)
is formed as a combination of three crosses**



The official flag of the country though is the Union Flag.

Flag of Executive Committee of the Privy Council of Northern Ireland (also known as the Ulster Banner; no official status in Northern Ireland since 1972)



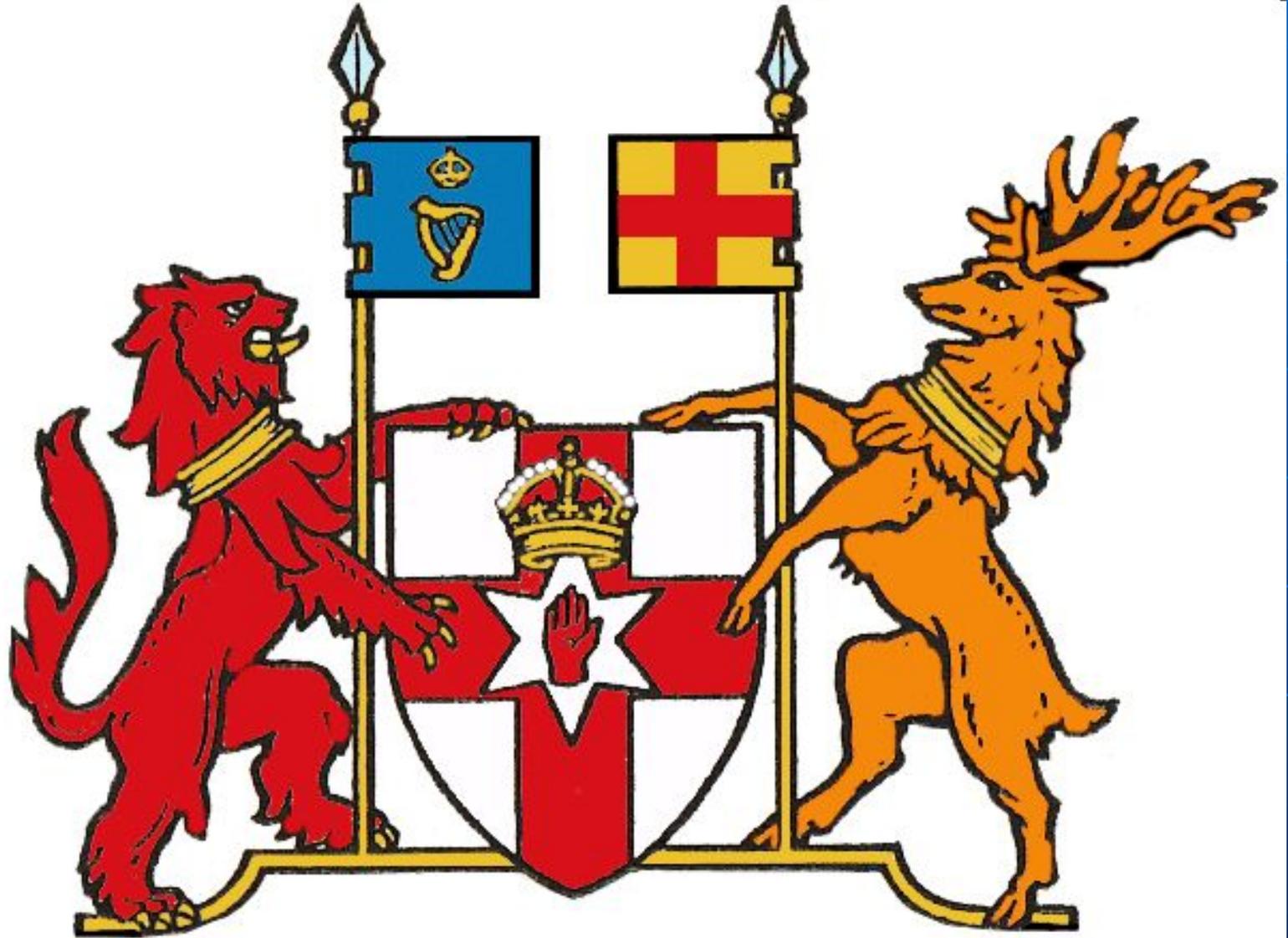
Along with these two flags there exists a traditional Flag of Executive Committee of the Privy Council of Northern Ireland, also known as the Ulster Banner; it has no official status in Northern Ireland since 1972.

Flag of the Republic of Ireland



The "Flag of Ireland" or "Irish Tricolour" is the national flag of the Republic of Ireland. It is often flown by Republicans and Nationalists to show their support for a united Ireland. It has no official status in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Coat-of-arms



The red right hand on the coat of arms of Northern Ireland makes us think of an Irish legend.



Once the kingdom of Ulster had no rightful heir. So it was agreed that a boat race should take place. Whose hand was the first to touch the shore of Ulster, he should be made the king.



**THE STRANGEST VICTORY
IN ALL HISTORY!**

HEREMON O'NEILL

RACING A RIVAL CHIEFTAIN
FOR POSSESSION OF IRELAND
BECAME THE FIRST MAN TO
TOUCH ITS SOIL
BY CUTTING OFF HIS OWN
HAND AND HURLING
IT ASHORE!

HIS SACRIFICE MADE HEREMON
THE FIRST KING OF ULSTER!

1015 B.C.

THE
RED HAND
OF ULSTER
IS STILL THE
PROVINCE'S
COAT OF ARMS
2,968 YEARS
LATER!

One potential king wanted the kingdom so much, that when he saw he was losing the race, he cut off his hand and threw it to the shore.



So he won the kingdom. The hand is most likely red



**A badge of Northern
Ireland Police force**

**to represent the fact
that it was covered
with blood.**

Top: Belfast panorama

Middle: Victoria Square shopping complex, Belfast City Hall

Bottom

Left: Waterfront financial centre,

Bottom right: St Anne's Cathedral

Belfast is the capital and the largest city in Northern Ireland and the main settlement in the province of Ulster. Today, Belfast is a centre for industry, arts, higher education and business and law.



The River Lagan in Belfast



Belfast stands on the Lagan river.

Parliament Buildings in Stormont, Belfast, the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly



Belfast is the seat of Northern Ireland Assembly consisting of 108 members. Northern Ireland has devolved government within the United Kingdom.

Belfast Castle



It is full of wonderful architectural pieces,

Belfast City Hall



dating back to bygone centuries.



A Short Tour of Belfast

Shamrock – the floral emblem of Northern Ireland



Northern Ireland has two floral emblems. One is the shamrock.

The flax - a Northern Ireland's Floral emblem



The flax is also a Northern Ireland's floral emblem, as the country has always been famous for its linen.

IMAGES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland how it should be thought of...