

## Eamonn De Valera



Eamonn de Valera was born in New York but was raised in Limerick, As young man he joined the **Gaelic League** and later the **Irish Volunteers**. He was a republican and he took over **Boland's mills** during the **Easter Rising** in 1916. After the rising he was arrested and imprisoned in Britain. He was not executed as he was born in America, He became leader of Sinn Fein and in 1918 escaped prison.

He was the leader of the **Sinn Fein** Government but was absent for much of the **War of Independence** as he was in America fundraising. When it ended he sent Michael Collins and others to negotiate a **treaty**. He was against the treaty that Collins brought back and led his followers out of government. This led to the **Civil War**. His side were the republican or Irregular side, they lost the war.

He renamed the party **Fianna Fail** and came to power in an election in 1932, He got rid of the **oath to the king** immediately and brought in a new **constitution** for the county, and Ireland soon became a republic. He led Ireland through the **war and the emergency**. The 1950's was a hard time for his leadership. There was a lot of **unemployment** and many left the country, He retired as Taoiseach but was **president** of Ireland for 14 years.