

## Post War Eire, 1945 - 1948

### Austerity

Eire suffered a prolonged period of hardship after the end of the Second World War. This hardship is usually termed 'austerity'. The situation was so bad that de Valera introduced a 'state of emergency'. All this was at a time when Northern Ireland was enjoying the new benefits of the Welfare State.



### Consequences

People were very unhappy. They had no welfare state to look after them, people had to pay for their own medical care. This meant Fianna Fail (de Valera's party) became unpopular and lost the 1948 general election. This meant a coalition government took power. It was made up of lots of different political parties:

- The largest party was \_\_\_\_\_. It was led by \_\_\_\_\_.
- There were two different Labour parties, who \_\_\_\_\_ one another.
- \_\_\_\_\_ were represented by Clann na Talmham.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was a Republican and socialist party, led by \_\_\_\_\_ who had been Chief in Staff for the \_\_\_\_\_.
- There were also \_\_\_\_\_ (members of Dáil Eireann).

Who should have been Taoiseach? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Who became Taoiseach? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_