Describe and analyze the controversies over the relationship between the English and the Irish from 1800 to 1916.

Historical Background: After the suppression of an Irish rebellion in 1798, the Act of Union of 1801 incorporated Ireland, primarily Celtic in its culture and ethnicity, into the United Kingdom. The English dominated the United Kingdom. Some Irish people supported the union, but many Irish nationalists campaigned against it. Nationalist rebels proclaimed an independent republic in 1916, and independence finally came with the partition of 1922, which established the Irish Free State in the southern provinces of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught. Most of the northern province of Ulster remained a part of the United Kingdom.

**Document 1**

Source: William Pitt the Younger, Prime Minister and originator of the Act of Union, 1801.

Ireland must be governed in the English interest.

**Document 2**

Source: John Foster, Irish leader, speaking in Parliament, 1805.

Remember that we Protestants settled in Ireland trusting in your protection, and we claim as our inheritance the glorious Constitution which our ancestors and yours fought and bled for—a Protestant king, a Protestant cabinet, and a Protestant parliament. That is what I call the true Protestant Constitution. I will ever demand it for my country.

**Document 3**


What matters that at different shrines
We pray unto one God?
What matters that at different times
Our fathers won this sod?
In fortune and in name we're bound
By stronger links than steel;
And neither can be safe nor sound
But in the other's weal.*

*weal: well-being, welfare

**Document 4**

Source: *English Presbyterian Messenger*, 1848.

The Gospel alone can remedy what legal repression, or social reform, or industrial development, or self-government, or any other outward institution and measure, never can reach—the moral degradation and moral prostration of Ireland. The curse of Popery, with its degrading idolatry and corrupting priesthood, is the root of Ireland's misery.

**Document 5**

Source: John Wilson Croker, editor of the Conservative party journal *Quarterly Review*, 1848.
All of civilization, arts, comfort, wealth that Ireland enjoys she owes exclusively to England. All of her absurdities, errors, misery she owes to herself. This unfortunate result is due to the confusion of ideas, the instability of purpose, and above all, the reluctance to steady work which are clear features of the Irish Celtic national character.

**Document 6**

Source: Declaration of Principles, National Land League, 1879.

The land of Ireland belongs to the people of Ireland. Those who cultivate it have a higher claim to its absolute possession than landlords who use it only for profit or pleasure. The end for which land is created requires its equitable distribution among the people who cultivate it. Yet the idle, nonproducing class of landlords use English land laws to extract millions of pounds annually from Irish soil, without conferring any single benefit in return, and maintain a standing army of semi-military police to protect their proprietorial rights.

**Document 7**

Source: Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, Conservative party member, speaking in Parliament, 1893.

Home Rule will put the best part of Ireland under the control of the worst, the loyal under the disloyal, the honest under the dishonest, and the peaceful and the industrious under the idle and thriftless.

**Document 8**

Source: Maud Gonne, founder of the Daughters of Ireland, 1900.

The aims of the Daughters of Ireland are to re-establish the complete independence of Ireland; to encourage the study of the Celtic language, of Irish literature, history, music, and art; to support and publicize Irish manufacture; to discourage the circulation of low English literature, the singing of English songs, the attending of vulgar English entertainments; and to combat in every way any English influence.

**Document 9**

MAP – Distribution of Protestants and Roman Catholics
Document 10


Ulster Protestant hostility to Catholicism is not due to religious zeal. It is merely inherited spite. People have been born into it, brought up to it. It is an inheritance, this blind, unreasoning hatred. They will have to be born out of it. Time will heal the evil--time and common sense and a broader conception of tolerance and nationhood.

Document 11


You of the Protestant minority in Ireland cannot expect, in the long run, to come off any better than minorities in other countries.

Document 12

Source: Sir Edward Carson, Conservative party member from Ulster, speaking at a rally, 1911.

Our demand is a very simple one--no Home Rule. It is our inalienable right to stay in the United Kingdom, and Heaven help the men who try to take it from us. We ask for nothing more; we will take nothing less. We must be prepared, the moment Home Rule is passed, to take over the government of the Protestant province of Ulster.

Document 13

Source: *The Irish Review*, 1912.

Let no one imagine that the ideals of the Celt and the ideals of the English can co-exist in the same people. The one is absolutely destructive of the other. The ideal of the Celtic race is beauty; the ideal of the English race is power. Only one kind of power cannot destroy beauty, and that is spiritual power--which the Celts possess. The power of the English is material power.

Document 14


Because the people of Ireland have the right to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens. We resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation, oblivious of those religious differences which an alien government used to divide the minority from the majority in the past.