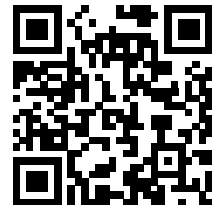


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High Kings and Early Medieval Ireland



In the early medieval period, Ireland was not a _____ kingdom but a patchwork of many small kingdoms or _____. Each of these tuatha was ruled by its own king, but above them stood the High King, or _____. The High King's power was more _____ than absolute, representing the unity of Ireland under a single figure. His residence was at the _____ of Tara, which was the ceremonial capital of Ireland. The _____ ceremony of a High King involved various traditional _____, highlighting the connection between the king, the land, and its _____ gods. The most famous High King, Brian Boru, significantly challenged the _____ presence in Ireland and was instrumental in lessening their control. However, the concept of the High King could lead to frequent _____ among rival kings, each aspiring to claim the high title. These conflicts were not only for power but also for control over _____ routes and resources. Despite these challenges, the High Kings maintained a network of _____ through marriages and treaties. The position of a High King was not hereditary but based on a combination of _____ might, diplomacy, and sometimes, election by the _____ dynasty, which was a dominant force in Irish politics for centuries. The story of the High Kings, blending _____ and history, remains a central part of Ireland's cultural heritage.

tuatha Viking unified myth Hill military rituals inauguration
alliances ancestral wars trade symbolic Uí Néill Ard Rí