

Then, hundreds of Irish citizens were detained by the British. Although several of the leaders were freed, fourteen of them—including Pearse, MacDonagh, MacBride, and Connolly—were ultimately found guilty of murder and put to death. Many Irish civilians had been indifferent or antagonistic toward the rebels both prior to the rising and soon thereafter. However, following the killings, the Irish population grew increasingly angry toward the British and more sympathetic to the cause of the rebels.

The Easter Rising eventually aided the cause of Irish independence, despite its failure at the time. Following the Rising, Sinn Féin garnered a sizable majority of seats in the Irish parliament. Sinn Féin established its government and proclaimed Ireland's independence in 1919. The Irish Republican Army engaged in combat with British forces for the next two years during the Irish War of Independence. The Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in 1921, the same year that Ireland was split. The Irish Free State was established in the south as a semi-independent dominion within the British Empire, while Northern Ireland remained a member of the United Kingdom. The Irish Free State was transformed into the Republic of Ireland when it attained complete independence in 1949, on the 33rd anniversary of the Easter Rising.

Yeats' poem was included in Ireland's memory of the Rising. For instance, a Dublin newspaper ran the title "A Terrible Beauty is Born" on commemorative General Post Office posters delivered on the 50th anniversary of the Rising.