**James Connolly** ([Irish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_language): *Séamas Ó Conghaile*,[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Connolly#cite_note-0) 5 June 1868 – 12 May 1916) was an [Irish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_people) [republican](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_republicanism) and [socialist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist) leader. He was born in the [Cowgate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cowgate" \o "Cowgate) area of [Edinburgh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edinburgh), Scotland, to Irish [immigrant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigrant) parents and spoke with a Scottish accent throughout his life.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Connolly#cite_note-1) He left school for working life at the age of 11, but became one of the leading [Marxist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxist) theorists of his day. He also took a role in[Scottish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_politics) and [American politics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). He was executed by a [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland) firing squad because of his leadership role in the [Easter Rising](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter_Rising) of 1916.