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The Power of a Secret: Ireland's Secret Societies Involvement in Irish Nationalism

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The Power of a Secret:

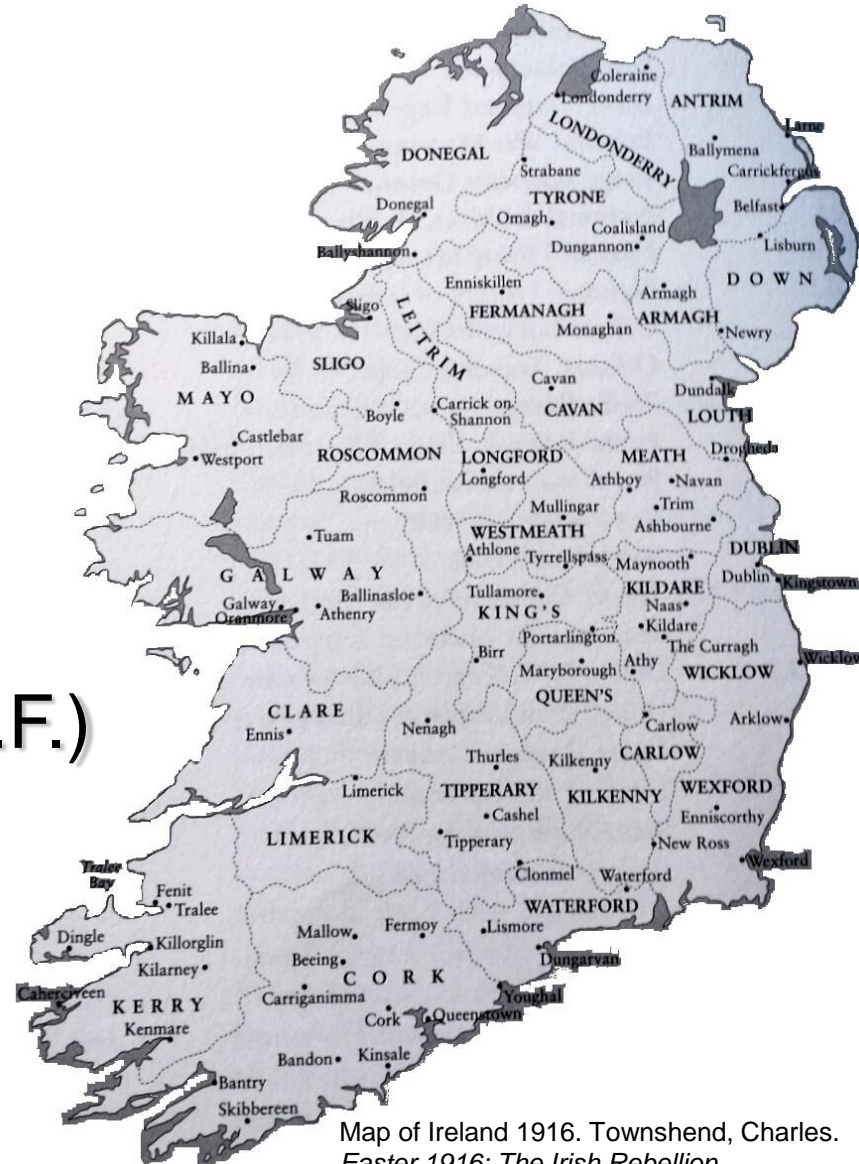
Secret Societies' Involvement In Irish Nationalism

By: Sierra Harlan
History Major

The Dominican University of California
Scholarly and Creative Works Conference
April 15, 2016

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Thesis Statement

Secret Societies' involvement in the planning and execution of the Easter Rising (1916) resulted in eventual Independence of Ireland in 1922.



Timeline

1858	17 Mar.	Founding of the Irish Republican Brotherhood.
1867	5 Mar.	Fenian Rising.
	13 Dec.	Fenian bomb at Clerkenwell gaol, London: 12 killed.
1913	31 Jan.	Formation of Ulster Volunteer Force.
	25 Nov.	Foundation of the Irish Volunteer Force.
1914	26 July	Howth gun-running. (I.V.F.)
	3 Aug.	Redmond pledges the support of the Irish Volunteers for the defense of Ireland.
	18 Sept.	Home Rule enacted but suspended.
	20 Sept.	Redmond commits the Irish Volunteers to serving outside Ireland.
	24 Sept.	Split within the Volunteers between supporters & opponents of Redmond's position.
1916	19-22 Jan.	Military Council of the I.R.B. agree on a rising no later than Easter.
	23 Apr.	Eoin MacNeill's countermanding order published. Military Council of the I.R.B. agrees to proceed with its plan for rebellion.
	24-8 Apr.	Easter Rising.
1922	6 Dec.	Irish Free State formally established.

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DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE

8876

1245

D.M.P.

Detective Division

Dublin, 21st June, 1915.

Subject, MOVEMENTS OF DUBLIN EXTREMISTS.

*The Under Secretary,
Submitted.*

*W. J. O'Sullivan
C. Comm. 2/6*

*Under Secretary
Submitted
WMC
21.6.15*

*Ch. Sec
T.H.
2/6*

*Sent to C. Secy.
A.P.M.
23/6
J. H. O'Sullivan
24.6.15*

I beg to report that on the 19th and 20th inst. the undermentioned extremists were observed moving about and associating with each other as follows:-

With Thomas J. Clarke on Saturday Thomas Byrne and Arthur Griffith for a quarter of an hour between 11 and 12 a.m.; James Murray, B. Parsons, Wm. O'Leary Curtis and J. McGuinness together for an hour from 9 p.m. D. Lynch who had arrived from Cork on evening of 19th inst. called at Clarke's at 9 p.m. but made no delay and leaving afterwards visited the office of the Gaelic League, 25 Parnell Square, and proceeded to the residence of his brother at Jones Road where he retired for the night.

H. Mellows in 2 Dawson Street between 12 and 1 p.m.; P. O'Keeffe, C. Collins and P. Beasley together in Sackville Street at 1 p.m.

The annual pilgrimage to Bodenstown took place yesterday. Two special trains conveying those taking part left Kingsbridge for Sallins at 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m. About 1,500 persons travelled by these trains which included contingents of the Sinn Fein Volunteers, Citizen Army, and National Boy Scouts. About 70 of the Volunteers and Citizen Army carried rifles. Those

Chief Commr.

Primary Sources

observed taking an active part in the arrangements were: M. J. O'Rahilly, E. Kent, T. J. Sheehan, J. J. Walsh, J. J. Buggy, John T. Kelly, T. C., J. J. Walsh, John O'Mahony, George Irvine, Patrick O'Malley, Galway, D. Lynch, Cork, H. Mellows and Joseph McGuinness were amongst the extremists who travelled in the excursion trains. Both trains returned to Dublin between 7 and 8.30 p.m. and the various contingents marched to their respective clubs where they dispersed without further demonstration.

J. J. Walsh left 26 Blessington Street at 10.50 a.m. Saturday and went to Keogh's Auction Rooms, Bachelors Walk. He returned to Blessington Street at 12.15 p.m. where he remained during the evening. On Sunday he was seen to leave Kingsbridge for Sallins en route to Bodenstown and on his return called at the residence of his cousin P. Walsh, 9 Susanville Road, where he remained until 10.15 p.m. when he returned to Blessington Street.

A meeting was held at Beresford Place at 4.10 p.m. yesterday the object of which was to protest against the imprisonment of John Wilroy and John McDermott. Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington was the only speaker and in the course of a short address stated that these meetings would

*Sinn Fein
Irish Volunteers
Labour
Citizen Army*

Reports on
Extremist
Movements by
Dublin
Metropolitan
Police.

June 11, 1915.

National Archives
of Ireland

19th Century Background

- British aggression towards the Irish.
 - Laws
 - Act of Union 1801.
 - Unlawful Oaths Act 1810.
 - Encumbered Estates Act 1849.
 - Actions
 - Exportation of goods during Potato blight. 1845.
 - Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) 1836-1922.
- Irish tactics for recognition from the British.
 - Parliamentary Tactics.
 - Obstruction Campaign 1874.
 - Home Rule. 1886, 1893, 1912, 1914.
 - Physical Force
 - Secret Societies.

Bráithreachas Phoblacht na hÉireann

- Irish Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.)
 - Founded by James Stephens in 1858.
 - Republican based.
 - Denounced by the Catholic Church in 1869.
 - Oath Bound – Secret.
 - Elite members – idealist.
 - Supreme Council.
 - Organized the Easter Rising 1916.



Bombing of Scotland Yard by the Fenian Brotherhood in 1883.
thepublici.blogspot.com

Óglaigh na hÉireann

- Irish Volunteer Force (I.V.F.)
 - Formed in 1913 by Eoin MacNeill and I.R.B. members.
 - Open to all Irish people.
 - Howth Gun-running 1914.
 - John Redmond involvement and splintering of group in 1914.
 - Irish Volunteer Force – the original group.
 - National Volunteers – new group supported fighting in WWI.

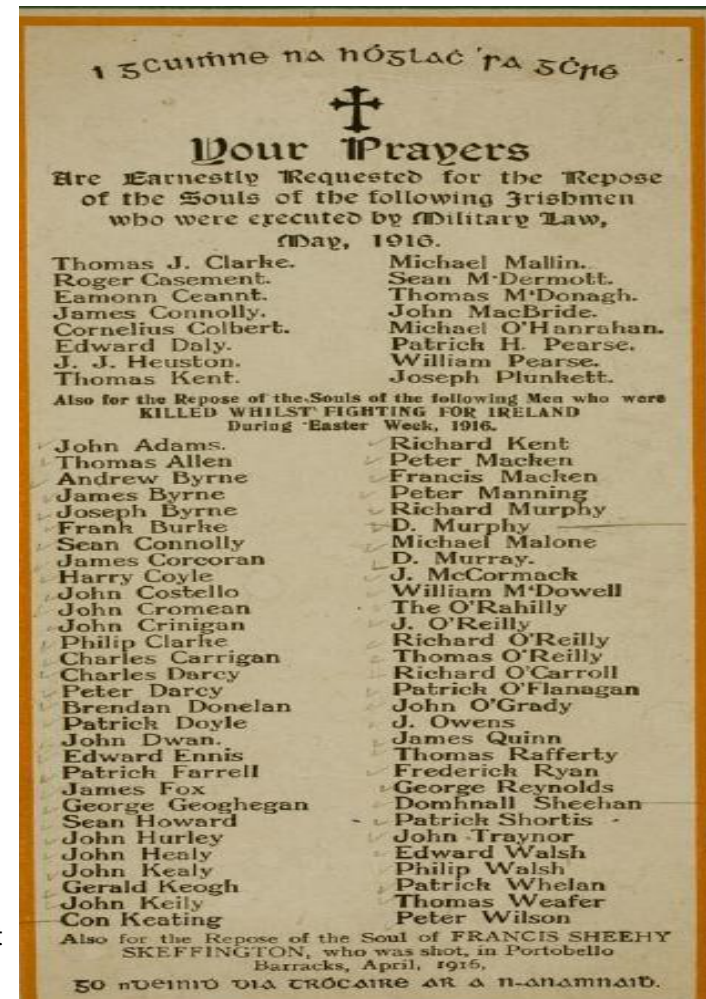


Irish Volunteers receiving the shipment of arms at Howth 1914. National Library Ireland

Easter Rising 1916

- April 24 – 28 1916. Easter Week.
- Rebels declared Ireland an Independent Republic.
- Took control of British Government Office.
 - General Post Office (GPO).
 - Dublin Castle.
- Deaths
 - 64 Rebels.
 - 132 Soldiers and Police.
 - 230 Civilians.
 - 1,000 wounded.

Prayer Leaflet with the name of those executed for the rising, followed by the names of insurgents that died during the Rising. National Library of Ireland.



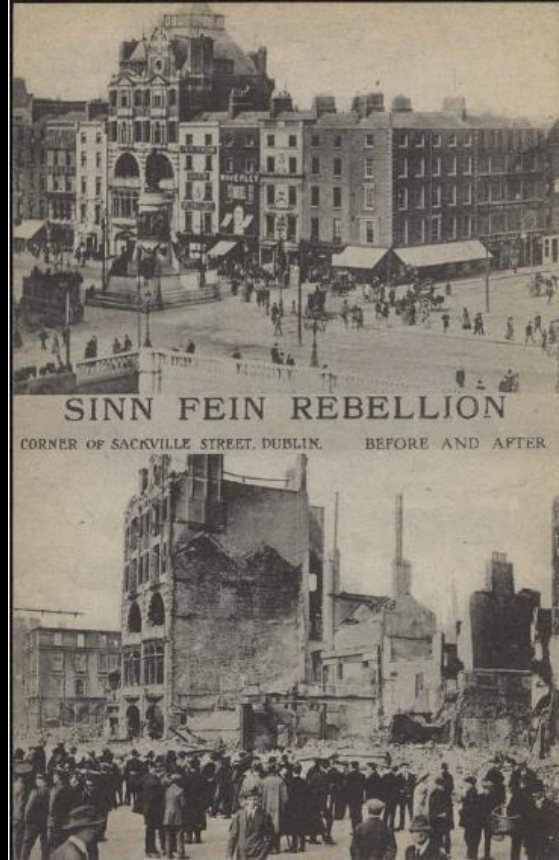
Conclusion

The actions of Secret Societies in Ireland before & during the Easter Rising of 1916 made Irish Independence possible in 1922.





Ruins on Sackville St.
University College Dublin



Sackville St. Before & after the
Rising. University College Dublin



From the Shelling during the 1916 Easter Rising.
www.examiner.com



Armored Vehicle during Easter
Rising 1916.
University College Dublin.

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