

## Chapter 1 : Book Review: The Story of the Irish Civil War | The Irish Story

*Based on extensive archival research this book situates the Irish civil war in the general process of decolonization in the twentieth century, and explains why divisions over the Anglo-Irish Treaty proved so formative in the development of the Irish state.*

The image of Arthur Griffith brandishing a Union Jack, with destruction in his wake and the bodies of women and children trampled under his feet, is possibly the most inappropriate that the author or his publisher could have chosen. Arthur Griffith is one of the most marginal figures in the book; Britain and British interests are largely ignored; violence and the conduct of war itself has little significance; and beyond fleeting appearances as voters, the downtrodden people have no place at all. On one level this is a terribly superficial criticism. He does exactly what he says he was going to do on the very first page. But the price of this achievement is to elide the very elements of civil war that the cover seems to revel in. Take what you can of violence and suffering, of destruction and personal enmity from that cover, because, for the sake of this achievement of balance, they have been banished from the pages inside. The book is rigorous and challenging; the analysis is astute and demanding. The bare bones of the politics of the conflict have been laid out, classified and examined in the most minute detail here. The reader is informed of what happened, and challenged to imagine what could have happened instead. But at no point does the reader get any sense of the bitterness that beat at the very heart of the Irish civil war, that infused every part of it with such intensity that some parts of the country are uncomfortable with the memory of it still. Without taking full account of bitterness it is questionable whether one can begin to understand the Irish civil war at all. Kissane quite sensibly revolts against the fascination with personality which seems to pass for analysis in much recent historiography of the civil war. The reduction of the conflict to a matter of being for or against Michael Collins or Eamon de Valera has proved as persistent as it has been limited. But it is an impulse which has not been resisted here quite as effectively as Kissane might have wished. But this is not necessarily the bad thing that the reader is led to believe. Yet given that the war was pursued most intensively by a band of men who at times did not know and cared less about where de Valera was or what he thought, the emphasis on de Valera seems somewhat overstated in the context of the type of war that was eventually fought. The democratic tendencies which Kissane so vitally identifies in the anti-Treatyites would benefit greatly from a closer analysis of the relationship between the anti-Treatyite politicians and the men who only wanted to continue a fight they believed Britain had started, who stated again and again their contempt for politics and its power to corrupt the men in the field. The de Valera of this book, however, is not the villain that we see elsewhere. While this is largely refreshing, there is no concession made to the fact that this was what he came to represent to many on the pro-Treaty side. Kissane may wish to exclude personality in order to emphasise the other factors which caused the Treaty split, but there is a need to factor in its influence along with all the other considerations which he so ably outlines, if only to contribute to a fuller understanding of the force and extent of the bitterness of the division. However, Kissane compensates to some extent by what could be described as the reinstatement of W. Cosgrave into the political vista of the civil war. This is particularly striking in chapter 5, and militates against the predominant view which has come to dismiss him as an inadequate inheritor of a position he never wanted, or as a timid man who ruled in fear of some of his colleagues in government almost as much as he did his anti-Treatyite opponents. There is a sense that any form of comparative analysis is to be welcomed irrespective of its scope or its conclusions because context has been so sorely lacking in Irish history. However, the claims that this book examines the civil war in a comparative context are to some extent quite disappointing. The Irish civil war may prove to be the particularly specific conflict which Kissane considers it to be, but there is a sense in which it is difficult to make that conclusion based on the type of comparison engaged in here. The points of comparison may not hold to their ultimate conclusion, the Irish civil war may fail to tick enough of the required boxes to be considered a full-blown, bona fide post-secession civil war, but surely there is much more to be gained from comparative analysis than the limited conclusions made in a little over eight pages in chapter 2. It also might explain why the oath was as crucial to the British

government as it was to either side in the conflict that followed the Treaty in Ireland. To some extent the chapter on the course of the civil war is the weakest in the book precisely because it is the least political and demands some form of engagement with the very forces that threaten the cherished balance. Throughout there is absolutely no sense of the type of war being fought, the difficulties in communication, the extent to which the republicans progressively lacked arms, military intelligence and, in many cases, the very will to fight. Chapters 5 and 6 are important in terms of uncovering the various efforts at brokering peace, in examining the forces in civil society which, though ultimately thwarted in their efforts, continued to try to bring a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The book is strongest here, but arguably greater concession could be made to the problems of cultural demobilisation which are dealt with solely in the light of the persistence of lawlessness in the new state. This theme is continued in chapter 7 in the context of the emergence of a protective democracy in the new state. There are interesting and challenging interpretations here, but there is something terribly depressing in the tone adopted throughout. It is in these contexts that it might be useful to make comparisons with other states at the same time. Bemoaning the paradox of repressive measures being instituted to preserve a paternalistic democracy in the light of what was going on in much of the rest of Europe at the same time makes these sentiments seem rather churlish indeed. Hindsight, which seems to weigh particularly heavily throughout the book, might have been a little more usefully apportioned here. However, it is questionable whether the historical debate is still formed by the positions set by P. It is arguable that they never can and never should. There is similarly a lack of understanding of the extent to which civil war bitterness was ingrained but also propagated for political advantage. At the same time there is a failure to appreciate that there could be anything but civil war politics dividing the two main parties in Ireland. Why is it so surprising that Irish politics is still dominated by the three main parties of the late s? The question might be more accurately put in terms of how could they, but that might involve exploring Irish political life on an almost instinctive level that stretches far beyond the confines of the political elites explored here. Given its provocative and combative style, given the nature and the legacy of the war itself, it would be foolish to expect agreement about this book. It conceives of a much more complex polity both before, during and, arguably, after the civil war, than has ever been conceded before. Some will lament that it did not go further; others will argue that it has already gone too far, that it has upset the founding notions of the state and all they stand for. However, in the end, I leave this book unconvinced about the extent to which the analysis of politics can be isolated from violence in the context of a civil conflict. I leave it still looking for the bitterness that was such an integral part of the Irish civil war. Murphy Cork, , pp. Back to 2 J. Small, Resort to Arms: International and Civil Wars, â€”

*This book situates the Irish civil war in the general process of decolonization in the 20th century and explains why divisions over the Anglo-Irish Treaty of proved so decisive in the.*

Irish Civil War You are here: The conflict was waged between two opposing groups of Irish nationalists: The war was won by the Free State forces. The Civil War may have claimed more lives than the War of Independence against Britain that preceded it, and left Irish society divided and embittered for decades afterwards. However, rather than creating the independent republic favoured by most nationalists, the Irish Free State would be an autonomous dominion of the British Empire with the British monarch as head of state, in the same manner as Canada and Australia. This oath was considered highly objectionable by many Irish Republicans. The remaining six north-eastern counties, with their Protestant majority, would opt to remain part of the United Kingdom as Northern Ireland. The partition of Ireland had already been decided by the Westminster parliament in the Government of Ireland Act and was confirmed in the Anglo-Irish treaty. Also, several strategic ports were to remain occupied by the Royal Navy. However, anti-treaty militants in believed that the treaty would never deliver full Irish independence. Split in the Nationalist movement The split over the treaty was deeply personal. Many of the leaders on both sides had been close friends and comrades during the War of Independence. This made their lethal disagreement over the treaty all the more bitter. He said he was deeply betrayed when de Valera refused to stand by the agreement that the plenipotentiaries had negotiated with David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill. De Valera, for his part, was furious that Collins and Arthur Griffith had signed the treaty without consulting him or the Irish cabinet as instructed. Most of the IRA units in Munster were against the treaty. Hogan himself however did not participate in the Civil War. On a speaking tour of the more republican province of Munster, starting on 17 March , de Valera made controversial speeches at Carrick on Suir, Lismore, Dungarvan and Waterford, saying that: Yet this fragmenting army was the only police force on the ground following the disintegration of the Irish Republican Police and the disbanding of the Royal Irish Constabulary RIC. Descent into war In the months leading up to the outbreak of civil war, there were a number of armed confrontations between the opposing IRA factions. In March, there was a major stand-off between up to armed pro- and anti-treaty fighters in Limerick over who would occupy the military barracks being vacated by departing British troops. The situation was temporarily resolved in April when, after arbitration, the two sides agreed to occupy two barracks each. In April, a pro-treaty general, Adamson, was shot dead by anti-treatyites in Athlone. In early May, there was an even more serious clash in Kilkenny, when anti-treaty forces occupied the centre of the town and pro-treaty troops were sent from Dublin to disperse them. In a bid to avoid an all-out civil war, both sides agreed to a truce on 3 May He also tried to reach a compromise with anti-treaty IRA leaders by agreeing to a republican-type constitution with no mention of the British monarchy for the new state. IRA leaders such as Liam Lynch were prepared to accept this compromise. However, the proposal for a republican constitution was vetoed by the British as being contrary to the terms of the treaty and they threatened military intervention in the Free State unless the treaty were fully implemented. In practice, this meant that by the summer of , the Provisional Government of the Free State controlled only Dublin and some other areas like Longford where the IRA units supported the treaty. Fighting would ultimately break out when the Provisional Government tried to assert its authority over well-armed and intransigent Anti-Treaty IRA units around the country “ particularly a hardline group in Dublin. The building was occupied by anti-treaty forces during the Civil War, whom the National Army subsequently bombarded into surrender. The Irish national archives in the buildings were destroyed in the subsequent fire. The building was badly damaged but was fully restored after the war. These anti-treaty Republicans wanted to spark a new armed confrontation with the British, which they hoped would unite the two factions of the IRA against their common enemy. However, for those who were determined to make the Free State into a viable, self-governing Irish state, this was an act of rebellion that would have to be put down by them rather than the British. Arthur Griffith was in favour of using force against these men immediately, but Michael Collins, who wanted at all costs to avoid civil war, left the Four Courts garrison

alone until late June. The British lost patience as a result of an action secretly ordered by Collins. In fact the British cabinet actually resolved to attack the Four Courts themselves on 25 June, in an operation that would have involved tanks, howitzers and aeroplanes. However, on the advice of General Nevil Macready, who commanded the British garrison in Dublin, the plan was cancelled at the last minute. Collins, after giving the Four Courts garrison a final ultimatum to leave the building, decided to end the stand-off by bombarding the Four Courts garrison into surrender. This attack was not the opening shots of the war as skirmishes had taken place between pro- and anti-treaty IRA factions throughout the country when the British were handing over the barracks. Collins had accepted a British offer of artillery for use by the new army of the Free State though General Macready gave just shells of the 10, he had in store at Kilmainham barracks. The anti-treaty forces in the Four Courts, who possessed only small arms, surrendered after two days of bombardment and the storming of the building by Free State troops June. Shortly before the surrender of the Four Courts, a massive explosion destroyed the western wing of the complex including the Irish Public Record Office, injuring many advancing Free State soldiers and destroying the records of several centuries of government in Ireland. It was alleged by government supporters that the building had been deliberately mined. Historians dispute whether the PRO was intentionally destroyed by mines laid by the Republicans on their evacuation or if the explosions occurred when their ammunition store was accidentally ignited by the bombardment. The fighting cost both sides 65 killed and wounded. Among the dead was Republican leader Cathal Brugha, who made his last stand after exiting the Granville Hotel. In addition, the Free State took over Republican prisoners. The civilian casualties are estimated to have numbered well over 100. When the fighting in Dublin died down, the Free State government was left firmly in control of the Irish capital and the anti-treaty forces dispersed around the country, mainly to the south and west. The outbreak of the Civil War forced pro- and anti-treaty supporters to choose sides. The paper strength of the IRA in early 1922 was over 72, men, but most of them were recruited during the truce with the British and fought in neither the War of Independence nor the Civil War. However, the Anti-Treaty IRA lacked an effective command structure, a clear strategy and sufficient arms. They started the war with only 6, rifles and a handful of machine guns. Many of their fighters were armed only with shotguns. They also took a handful of armoured cars from British troops as they were evacuating the country. More important still, they had no artillery of any kind. As a result, they were forced to adopt a defensive stance throughout the war. By contrast, the Free State government managed to expand its forces dramatically after the start of the war. Michael Collins and his commanders were able to build up an army which was able to overwhelm their opponents in the field. British supplies of artillery, aircraft, armoured cars, machine guns, small arms and ammunition were much help to pro-treaty forces. The National Army amounted to 14, men by August, was 38, strong by the end of and by the end of the war, it had swollen to 55, men and 3, officers, far in excess of what the Irish state would need to maintain in peacetime. In the new National Army, they were known as the Dublin Guard. Towards the end of the war, they were implicated in some notorious atrocities against anti-treaty guerrillas. Former British Army officers were also recruited for their technical expertise. The Republicans made much use of this fact in their propaganda – claiming that the Free State was only a proxy force for Britain itself. However, in fact, the majority of the Free State soldiers were raw recruits without military experience in either the First World War or the subsequent Irish War of Independence. The Free State takes major towns. With Dublin in pro-treaty hands, conflict spread throughout the country. The large towns in Ireland were all relatively easily taken by the Free State in August. In the south, landings occurred at Union Hall in Co. Cork and Fenit, the port of Tralee, in Co. Another seaborne expedition to Mayo in the west secured government control over that part of the country. While in some places the Republicans had put up determined resistance, nowhere were they able to defeat regular forces armed with artillery and armour. The only real conventional battle during the Free State offensive, the Battle of Killmallock, was fought when Free State troops advanced south from Limerick. Guerrilla war. Government victories in the major towns inaugurated a period of guerrilla warfare. They held out in areas such as the western part of counties Cork and Kerry in the south, county Wexford in the east and counties Sligo and Mayo in the west. Sporadic fighting also took place around Dundalk, where Frank Aiken and the Fourth Northern Division of the Irish Republican Army were based and Dublin, where small scale but regular attacks were mounted on Free

State troops. August and September saw widespread attacks on Free State forces in the territories they had occupied in the July-August offensive, inflicting heavy casualties on them. In this period, the republicans also managed several relatively large-scale attacks on rural towns, involving several hundred fighters. There were also unsuccessful assaults on for example Bantry, Cork on 30 August and Killorglin in Kerry on 30 September in which the Republicans took significant casualties. However as winter set in the republicans found it increasingly difficult to sustain their campaign and casualty rates among National Army troops dropped rapidly. For instance, in County Sligo, 54 people died in the conflict of whom all but 8 had been killed by the end of September. In any case, the IRA leaders paid no attention to it, seeing the Republican authority as vested in their own military leaders. In the autumn and winter of , Free State forces broke up many of the larger Republican guerrilla units. In late September, for example, a sweep of northern county Sligo by Free State troops under Sean MacEoin successfully cornered the Anti-Treaty column which had been operating in the north of the county. Six of the column were killed and thirty captured, along with an armoured car. A similar sweep in Connemara in county Mayo in late November captured Anti-Treaty column commander Michael Kilroy and many of his fighters. Elsewhere Anti-Treaty units were forced by lack of supplies and safe-houses to disperse into smaller groups, typically of nine to ten men. In late December , this group of around men took a string of towns, first in Cork, then in Tipperary and finally Carrick on Suir, Thomastown and Mullinavat in county Kilkenny where the Free State troops surrendered and gave up their arms. Despite these successes for the National Army, it took eight more months of intermittent warfare before the war was brought to an end. The guerrilla phase of the war was marked by assassinations and executions of leaders formerly allied in the cause of Irish independence. Arthur Griffith, the Free State president had also died of a brain hemorrhage ten days before, leaving the Free State government in the hands of W. In January the Great Southern and Western Railway released a report detailing the damage Anti-Treaty forces had caused to their property over the previous six months; miles of line damaged, 42 engines derailed, 51 over-bridges and under-bridges destroyed, 83 signal cabins and 13 other buildings destroyed. In the same month, Republicans destroyed the railway stations at Sligo, Ballybunnion and Listowel. End of the war By early , the offensive capability of the IRA had been seriously eroded and when, in February , Republican leader Liam Deasy was captured by Free State forces, he called on the republicans to end their campaign and reach an accommodation with the Free State. March and April saw this progressive dismemberment of the Republican forces continue with the capture and sometimes killing of guerrilla columns. Three anti-treaty IRA men and two National Army soldiers were killed in the siege of the cave and the remaining five Republicans were taken prisoner and later executed. As the conflict petered out into a de facto victory for the pro-treaty side, de Valera asked the IRA leadership to call a ceasefire, but they refused.

### Chapter 3 : Politics of the Irish Civil War - Oxford Scholarship

*Based on extensive archival research this book situates the Irish civil war in the general process of decolonization in the twentieth century, and explains why divisions over the Anglo-Irish Treaty proved so formative in the development of the Irish state. Each chapter is devoted to a*

The Treaty accepted the de facto partition of Ireland into a 26 county Free State with Dominion status and a 6 county Northern Ireland with a limited degree of home rule by a Belfast Parliament, dominated by Protestants and under the aegis of the British parliament at Westminster. They were also raiding deep inside the territory of the new northern state in an endeavour to win as much territory as possible from unionist control. Elsewhere in the country, the differences of opinions between pro and anti-treaty forces were becoming increasingly bitter. Collins, unable to reach a settlement with the Irregulars and faced with increasing pressure from the British, finally gave the order to bombard and seize the Four Courts in late June. It was the opening of hostilities in the Civil War. The war was not fought by two armies coming straight at one another, but as a Guerrilla War of hit and run tactics. There were many acts of revenge carried out by both sides. On the 12th August Arthur Griffith, whose health had been failing died and ten days later Irregulars ambushed and killed Michael Collins in his home county of Cork. The month previous, Erskine Childers had been executed for possessing a pistol when he had been captured in County Wicklow. This barbarism was to be reflected all over the 26 counties. Both Free State and Irregular forces engaged in the most horrible of crimes, the killing of their own people, at times of their own comrades, their own family members. The defeat of the Irregular forces. Finally the Irregular forces were forced to admit defeat. Not only had they to battle a ruthless Free State Army that was much better armed, but the majority of the ordinary people were content to give the Provisional Government its support. On 24TH May de Valera issued a call to lay down arms. Legion of the Rearguard. The Republic can no longer be defended successfully by your arms. Further sacrifice of life would now be in vain and the continuance of the struggle in arms unwise in the national interest and prejudicial to the future of our cause. Military victory must be allowed to rest for the moment with those who have destroyed the Republic. The Irish Civil War Collins 22 Society Web-Site.

**Chapter 4 : America's Civil War: Why the Irish Fought for the Union | HistoryNet**

*It is a remarkable reflection on Irish political history in the twentieth century that the first substantive decision to be taken by an independent Irish parliament led to civil war.*

The Irish Civil War was a conflict between Irish nationalists in over whether or not to accept the Anglo-Irish Treaty. The Treaty came about as a result of both political agitation and guerrilla warfare by the Irish Republican movement, organised respectively in Sinn Féin and the Irish Republican Army between and The British military garrison was to be withdrawn and the RIC police disbanded. The Treaty gave most of Ireland substantial independence but dissolved the Republic declared in For all of these reasons, the Treaty was viewed as a step backwards by many Irish Republicans and nationalists. It was narrowly passed by the Dáil or republican parliament in January , but the President of the Republic, Eamon de Valera and two of his ministers resigned in protest. Those who had signed the Treaty, headed by Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith formed a Provisional Government to oversee the handover of power from the British to the new Irish state. However, what brought about civil war was the split in the ranks of the IRA. The two sides almost came to blows over who would occupy Limerick. In June , the first elections were held in the Free State. Outbreak of War Just ten days later, a confluence of events conspired to spark civil war out of the tensions over the Treaty. The ultimatum ran out and pro-Treaty troops opened fire on the Courts with artillery borrowed from the British on June 28, This action caused IRA units around the country to take sides and most, especially in the south, sided with the anti-Treaty faction, now headed by Liam Lynch. Eamon de Valera initially rejoined the IRA as an ordinary volunteer but later, in October , set up a clandestine republican government to oppose the Free State. Both sides developed rival narratives to support their position. Anti-Treaty strongholds in Cork and Kerry were taken by sea in a series of landings in July and August , meaning that by the end of that month, it appeared that the pro-Treaty forces had won. Guerrilla war However the anti-Treaty IRA attempted to wage a guerrilla campaign against the Free State like that which they had mounted against the British. In August , this claimed its most prominent victim when Michael Collins, head of the Provisional Government and Commander in Chief of the National Army was killed in an ambush in his native Cork. In an effort to crush this campaign, the government embarked on a policy of executions of captured guerrillas. The first were executed in Dublin in November , followed by senior anti-Treaty propagandist Erskine Childers. In all between 77 and 81 republicans were officially executed and another assassinated or summarily killed in the field. A great number had been imprisoned around 12, No surrender was called however and no formal end to the war was ever negotiated. Aside from the military confrontation between pro and anti-Treatyites, the absence of effective government and policing throughout the civil war saw a great deal of social and criminal violence. Three of those executed by the Free State were armed criminals rather than guerrillas. After the conflict however, the Free State managed to establish an unarmed police corps, the Garda Síochána. The civil war left many damaging legacies and remained taboo in Ireland for many years After the end of the war in March , several senior National Army officers threatened a mutiny in protest against demobilization of the army and the lack of progress towards a united Ireland. The war left the Irish nationalist parties highly polarised and embittered. The total casualty list has still not been definitively determined but appears to be about 1, killed with some thousands more injured. The anti-Treatyites entered politics as Fianna Fáil in and came to power peacefully in despite widespread rioting between the IRA and the pro-Treaty Blueshirt movement. They and Fine Gael pro-Treaty dominated Irish politics for most of the 20th century.

## Chapter 5 : Irish Civil War - Wikipedia

*The Irish civil war may prove to be the particularly specific conflict which Kissane considers it to be, but there is a sense in which it is difficult to make that conclusion based on the type of comparison engaged in here.*

The Civil War contributed directly to the character of Ireland and Anglo-Irish relations, creating patterns that have only begun to be challenged in the past thirty years. As with all civil wars, this conflict generated extremes of bitterness that have haunted public and political life in Ireland up to the present day. Indeed, it is only after the passage of seventy-five years that scholars are able to approach the subject of the Civil War with some degree of detachment. Significantly the two main political parties in Ireland, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, are the direct descendants of the opposing sides of the war. Although partition was an established fact at the beginning of the war, the conflict in the South only served to further undermine any possibility of reunification. Thus the Civil War is one of the factors that has contributed to the thirty years of conflict in Northern Ireland which only now may be in the process of being resolved. Although this paper will focus on the military aspects of the war, consideration must first be given to the complex political aspects that led to the outbreak of the war and provided the motivations of the opposing sides. Click on a small map or image to see a full screen image. The Dail ratified the declaration of a Republic made during the Easter Rebellion and sent a delegation to the Paris Peace Conference to obtain support for Irish independence. A, which was nominally subordinate to the Dail, initiated their own efforts to win independence through military means without bothering to consult the Dail, efforts that began the war with Britain in January, Nothing could better illustrate the different philosophies of the opposing traditions that made up the movement for independence in modern Irish history than these divided efforts. During the war British authorities banned the Dail. This only served to place greater power in the hands of the leaders of the I. A for the politicians in Dublin. Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Mulcahy complained that: The Army can no longer afford to dissipate any of its energy bolstering up Civil Government without getting a return in kind. The plain fact is that our civil services have simply played at governing a Republic, while the soldiers have not played at dying for it. The nature of a guerrilla war waged by a clandestine force in a rugged country such as Ireland led inevitably to the remoteness and independence of local I. The actual fighting in the war was for the most part limited to the southern province of Munster and Dublin city. Local commanders within these areas believed the war was following a generally successful course. Richard Mulcahy was to point out in the Dail, far from being able to drive the British from Ireland, by the end of the war the I. Those in the more active areas assumed that it was simply a means of achieving a breathing space, after which the war would be resumed. This latter pre-condition simply recognized the state of partition that had already been established by the Government of Ireland Act of , which gave Northern Ireland its own parliament, which met for the first time on 22 June, His insistence that any settlement should be referred back to the Dail before it was signed was contradicted by his bestowal of full plenipotentiary powers on the delegation. Negotiations lasted from 11 October until the final day of 5 December without producing a settlement acceptable to both sides. Collins and Griffith concluded that, regardless of the inevitable opposition of the Dail Cabinet under De Valera and the I. Thus they exercised their plenipotentiary powers without consulting Dublin. De Valera was taken by surprise when the delegation returned with the Treaty, though he believed it would be defeated in the Dail Cabinet. Contrary to his expectations, however, it passed through the Cabinet into the full Dail. Three weeks of bitter debates followed. The supporters of the Treaty revealed varied motives: Griffith believed it was an acceptable settlement for Ireland, while Collins viewed it as a useful first step from which further freedom could be achieved. In general, however, supporters of the Treaty offered pragmatic justifications for its acceptance. Collins, who was impatient with legal technicalities, stated that the removal of , "[British] military strength gives the chief proof that our national liberties are established. Rather, it was the rejection of the Treaty by the majority of the I. While De Valera publicly supported I. At a press conference on 22 March, when asked if there was to be a military dictatorship, he replied, "you can take it that way if you like", further stating, "There were many times when revolution was justified and the Army had to overthrow the Government The most direct challenge to that authority came on

13 April when the Army Executive ordered anti-Treaty units to occupy the center of the justice system in Ireland, the massive Four Courts building in Dublin. Every avenue of compromise was explored and on 20 May a solution appeared to have been found when a pact was signed by Collins and De Valera. The election was seen by everyone as a referendum on the Treaty issue. In addition, the thirty-four non-Sinn Fein candidates were elected from parties, such as Labour and Farmers, that also favored the Treaty. The results of the election bestowed legitimate democratic authority upon both the Provisional Government and the Irish Free State, which was scheduled to be established on 6 December. On 22 June Gen. Sir Henry Wilson, the security advisor for the new state of Northern Ireland, was shot dead by two I. Fortunately for the supporters of the Treaty on both sides of the Irish Sea, Gen. Macready backed down at the eleventh hour. But it was now clear that the British would not remain patient for long. Collins had always supported the Treaty as a means of achieving the removal of British troops. Now the opponents of the Treaty threatened to keep them from leaving, either because they would be used to eliminate their presence in the Four Courts, which would re-ignite the war between Britain and Ireland, or through provocation on their own by attacking British troops, which would produce the same results. On 18 of June, during a meeting of the Army Executive, a disagreement arose between the anti-Treaty leaders in the Four Courts and those outside of Dublin, causing a temporary split that isolated the Four Courts garrison. Following the failure to respond to an ultimatum to evacuate the building, artillery opened fire on the Four Courts, beginning the Irish Civil War at 4: A variety of names were applied to the opposing sides in the Civil War, both during the war and in subsequent writings. Those members of the I. In sheer numbers, the Free State Army was outnumbered by odds of more than two to one. Although Free State forces were predominant in the province of Leinster, the majority of the troops in the Dublin Brigades were Republican. If the government lost the capital, the Republicans would have won the war in a single stroke. But while the potential for a Republican victory existed, highly motivated commanders who were united in their efforts allowed the Free State to seize the initiative see Appendices H and I. Words ran into phrases, sentences followed sentences A drifting policy discussed endlessly in a shipwrecked way. Popular support was not as forthcoming, as Harry Boland, Republican Director of Operations, lamented, "There is no doubt that the people in the main is [sic] against us at present, believing that we are to blame for the present state of affairs. When the Republicans fell back on a guerrilla strategy, the secrecy that had preserved them during the war with Britain was undermined by former comrades in arms who knew the identity of enemy officers and men, and the location of their hideouts. Although its membership was quite large, only a fraction of these were veterans of the full-time Active Service Units A. It originated from the Dublin city A. By May they had expanded to the size of a Brigade. On 3 July a force of 20, men was authorized, recruits being required to enlist for six months of service. The number was raised in August to 35, In fact, very few of the men that joined the Free State Army had served in the war against the I. At the Army Enquiry of , Gen. Richard Mulcahy stated, "Old soldiers, experienced in every kind of military wrong-doing, were placed under the command of officers necessarily inexperienced and the resulting state of discipline is not to be wondered at. James Hogan, Free State Director of Intelligence, explained, "The Irish Army started on a territorial basis like feudal armies, and the feudal and baronial mentality is by no means dead in this country To give undue powers to individuals or Commands is to feed and stimulate such instincts. When the war broke out, many I. Personal loyalties often played a more important role than ideology, as suggested by the close ties of the Dublin Guards with Michael Collins. It was not uncommon for units to switch sides and mutinies to break out. Indeed, the attack on the Four Courts was delayed when a group of forty Free State troops mutinied. The opposing armies began the war only partially equipped, but, in contrast with the Republicans, this situation improved enormously for the Free State see Appendix J. While it was estimated that the Republicans began the war with as little as 6, rifles, the Free State had received delivery from Britain of 27, rifles, as well as machine guns, by 2 September. Training was rudimentary, as is indicated by Gen. The war saw the extensive use of armored cars and armored personnel carriers see Appendix K. While the Free State obtained their vehicles from Britain, the Republicans were characteristically forced to rely on capturing equipment and even constructed a number of improvised armored cars. The most common vehicle was the Lancia armored personnel carrier APC ; an open top armored truck that had been constructed for the Royal Irish Constabulary

during the War for Independence. In order to increase the number of armored cars available to the Free State Army, sixty-four Lancias were provided with armored roofs and armed with a single Lewis gun. Armed with a water-cooled Vickers heavy machine gun in a revolving turret, it could provide sustained fire with devastating results. The Free State also employed a few heavier dual-turret Peerless armored cars. By far the most important weapon of the war, however, was artillery. Although Britain only handed over a total of nine 18 pdr. By January Lynch had settled on a fantastic plan for obtaining in Germany sixteen mountain guns and four heavy guns. They would be landed, along with or more English speaking instructors, in Munster later, because of naval patrols, Lynch suggested delivery should either be by submarine or air! Both himself and Comdt. Oscar Traynor, commander of the 1st Dublin Brigade: The Army Executive felt that, in order to maintain the moral high ground, they should not be the first ones to open fire, so that the Free State troops were allowed to surround the Four Courts without interference. At this time the total number of Free State soldiers stationed in Dublin may have numbered as much as 4, The troops would be supported by two 18 pdrs. Emmet Dalton and Col. Dalton stated, "It was my belief at the time that the use of these guns would have a very demoralising effect upon a garrison unused to artillery fire, but I realized that their employment as a destructive agent on the Four Courts building would be quite insignificant. The artillery, stationed across the Liffey on Winetavern Street, opened fire at 4: As they fired at fifteen minute intervals, the Republican garrison responded in kind, forcing Gen. Dalton to bring in Lancia APCs to shield the gun crews.

**Chapter 6 : The Civil War in Dublin: The Fight for the Irish Capital, â€œ | Irish Academic Press**

*This book situates the Irish civil war in the general process of decolonization in the 20th century and explains why divisions over the Anglo-Irish Treaty proved so decisive in the creation of the Irish state.*

The treaty provided for a self-governing Irish state, having its own army and police. However, rather than creating the independent republic favoured by most nationalists,[ citation needed ] the Irish Free State would be an autonomous dominion of the British Empire with the British monarch as head of state , in the same manner as Canada and Australia. Furthermore, the partition of Ireland , which had already been decided by the Westminster parliament in the Government of Ireland Act , was effectively confirmed in the Anglo-Irish treaty. All these issues were the cause of a split in the IRA and ultimately civil war. Michael Collins , the republican leader who had led the Irish negotiating team, argued that the treaty gave "not the ultimate freedom that all nations aspire and develop, but the freedom to achieve freedom". However, anti-treaty militants believed that the treaty would never deliver full Irish independence. Many of the leaders on both sides had been close friends and comrades during the War of Independence. This made their disagreement over the treaty all the more bitter. He said that he felt deeply betrayed when de Valera refused to stand by the agreement that the plenipotentiaries had negotiated with David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill. Most of the IRA units in Munster were against the treaty. Its authority under the Treaty was to provide a "provisional arrangement for the administration of Southern Ireland during the interval" before the establishment of the Irish Free State. In accordance with the Treaty, the British Government transferred "the powers and machinery requisite for the discharge of its duties". Before the British Government transferred such powers, the members of the Provisional Government each "signified in writing [their] acceptance of [the Treaty]". De Valera continued to promote a compromise whereby the new Irish Free State would be in " external association " with the British Commonwealth rather than be a member of it the inclusion of republics within the Commonwealth of Nations was not formally implemented until During the tour, de Valera made controversial speeches at Carrick on Suir , Lismore , Dungarvan and Waterford , saying at one point, "If the Treaty were accepted, the fight for freedom would still go on, and the Irish people, instead of fighting foreign soldiers, will have to fight the Irish soldiers of an Irish government set up by Irishmen. He also tried to reach a compromise with anti-treaty IRA leaders by agreeing to a republican-type constitution with no mention of the British monarchy for the new state. IRA leaders such as Liam Lynch were prepared to accept this compromise. However, the proposal for a republican constitution was vetoed by the British as being contrary to the terms of the treaty and they threatened military intervention in the Free State unless the treaty were fully implemented. A further , people voted for other parties, most of whom supported the Treaty. According to Hopkinson, "Irish labour and union leaders, while generally pro-Treaty, made little attempt to lead opinion during the Treaty conflict, casting themselves rather as attempted peacemakers. De Valera is quoted as saying, "the majority have no right to do wrong". In practice, this meant that by the summer of , the Provisional Government of Southern Ireland controlled only Dublin and some other areas like County Longford where the IRA units supported the treaty. Fighting ultimately broke out when the Provisional Government tried to assert its authority over well-armed and intransigent Anti-Treaty IRA units around the country â€œ particularly a hardline group in Dublin. The building was occupied by anti-treaty forces during the Civil War, whom the National Army subsequently bombarded into surrender. The Irish national archives in the buildings were destroyed in the subsequent fire. The building was badly damaged but was fully restored after the war. However, for those who were determined to make the Free State into a viable, self-governing Irish state, this was an act of rebellion that would have to be put down by them rather than the British. Arthur Griffith was in favour of using force against these men immediately, but Michael Collins, who wanted at all costs to avoid civil war, left the Four Courts garrison alone until late June However, on the advice of General Nevil Macready , who commanded the British garrison in Dublin, the plan was cancelled at the last minute. This attack was not the opening shot of the war, as skirmishes had taken place between pro- and anti-treaty IRA factions throughout the country when the British were handing over the barracks. The anti-treaty forces in the Four Courts, who possessed

only small arms, surrendered after three days of bombardment and the storming of the building by Provisional Government troops 28–30 June. Shortly before the surrender, a massive explosion destroyed the western wing of the complex, including the Irish Public Record Office PRO, injuring many advancing Free State soldiers and destroying the records. Government supporters alleged that the building had been deliberately mined. Among the dead was Republican leader Cathal Brugha, who made his last stand after exiting the Granville Hotel. In addition, the Free State took over Republican prisoners. The civilian casualties are estimated to have numbered well over 100. When the fighting in Dublin died down, the Free State government was left firmly in control of the Irish capital and the anti-treaty forces dispersed around the country, mainly to the south and west. Supporters of the treaty came to be known as "pro-treaty" or Free State Army, legally the National Army, and were often called "Staters" by their opponents. The latter called themselves Republicans and were also known as "anti-treaty" forces, or Irregulars, a term preferred by the Free State side. As well as rifles they had a handful of machine guns and many of their fighters were armed only with shotguns or handguns. They also took a handful of armoured cars from British troops as they were evacuating the country. Finally, they had no artillery of any kind. As a result, they were forced to adopt a defensive stance throughout the war. By contrast, the Free State government managed to expand its forces dramatically after the start of the war. Michael Collins and his commanders were able to build up an army that was able to overwhelm their opponents in the field. British supplies of artillery, aircraft, armoured cars, machine guns, small arms, and ammunition were of much help to pro-treaty forces. The British delivered for instance, over 27,000 rifles, machine guns and eight 18 pounder artillery pieces to the pro-Treaty forces between the outbreak of the Civil War and September. In the new National Army, they were known as the Dublin Guard. Many others were raw recruits without any military experience. Prout, and W. The Republicans made much use of this fact in their propaganda – claiming that the Free State was only a proxy force for Britain itself. However, in fact, the majority of Free State soldiers were raw recruits without military experience in either World War I or the Irish War of Independence. There were also a significant number of former members of the British Armed Forces on the Republican side including such senior figures as Tom Barry, David Robinson and Erskine Childers.

Irish Free State offensive With Dublin in pro-treaty hands, conflict spread throughout the country. The war started with the anti-treaty forces holding Cork, Limerick and Waterford as part of a self-styled Munster Republic. He hoped simply to hold the Munster Republic long enough to force Britain to re-negotiate the treaty. Cork and Fenit, the port of Tralee, in Co. Another seaborne expedition to Mayo in the west secured government control over that part of the country. While in some places the Republicans had put up determined resistance, nowhere were they able to defeat regular forces armed with artillery and armour. The only real conventional battle during the Free State offensive, the Battle of Killmallock, was fought when Free State troops advanced south from Limerick. Guerrilla phase of the Irish Civil War Government victories in the major towns inaugurated a period of guerrilla warfare. They held out in areas such as the western part of counties Cork and Kerry in the south, county Wexford in the east and counties Sligo and Mayo in the west. Sporadic fighting also took place around Dundalk, where Frank Aiken and the Fourth Northern Division of the Irish Republican Army were based, and Dublin, where small-scale but regular attacks were mounted on Free State troops. August and September saw widespread attacks on Free State forces in the territories that they had occupied in the July–August offensive, inflicting heavy casualties on them. Arthur Griffith, the Free State president, had also died of a brain haemorrhage ten days before, leaving the Free State government in the hands of W. For a brief period, with rising casualties among its troops and its two principal leaders dead, it looked as if the Free State might collapse. However, as winter set in, the republicans found it increasingly difficult to sustain their campaign, and casualty rates among National Army troops dropped rapidly. For instance, in County Sligo, 54 people died in the conflict, of whom all but eight had been killed by the end of September. Despite these successes for the National Army, it took eight more months of intermittent warfare before the war was brought to an end. By instituting martial law, the first democratically elected Free State had in effect suspended most, if not all civil rights of the Irish population for the duration of the conflict. The legislation, commonly referred to as the Public Safety Bill, empowered military tribunals with the ability to impose life imprisonment, as well as the death penalty, for a variety of offences. By

allowing appointed courts martial to execute any Irish citizen found in possession of firearms or ammunition, the Free State prevented Republican sympathizers from storing any arms or ammunition that could be used by Republican forces; possession of even a single sporting or civilian firearm or round of ammunition could result in execution by firing squad. Offences included attacks on state policy or military forces, donning army or police uniforms, publication of "seditious publications", and membership in the Republican Army. The final phase of the Civil War degenerated into a series of atrocities that left a lasting legacy of bitterness in Irish politics. They were followed on 24 November by the execution of acclaimed author and treaty negotiator Erskine Childers. In all, the Free State sanctioned 77 official executions of anti-treaty prisoners during the Civil War. In addition, Free State troops, particularly in County Kerry, where the guerrilla campaign was most bitter, began the summary execution of captured anti-treaty fighters. The most notorious example of this occurred at Ballyseedy, where nine Republican prisoners were tied to a landmine, which was detonated, killing eight and only leaving one, Stephen Fuller, who was blown clear by the blast, to escape. The Catholic Church also supported the Free State, deeming it the lawful government of the country, denouncing the Anti-Treaty IRA and refusing to administer the Sacraments to anti-treaty fighters. On 10 October, the Catholic Bishops of Ireland issued a formal statement, describing the anti-treaty campaign as: All who in contravention of this teaching, participate in such crimes are guilty of grievous sins and may not be absolved in Confession nor admitted to the Holy Communion if they persist in such evil courses. Although the Catholic Church in independent Ireland has often been seen as a triumphalist Church, a recent study has found that it felt deeply insecure after these events. Tom Barry proposed a motion to end the war, but it was defeated by 6 votes to 5. It is often suggested that the death of Lynch allowed the more pragmatic Frank Aiken, who took over as IRA Chief of Staff, to call a halt to what seemed a futile struggle. On 24 May, Aiken followed this with an order to IRA volunteers to dump arms rather than surrender them or continue a fight that they were incapable of winning. Soldiers of the Republic. Legion of the Rearguard: The Republic can no longer be defended successfully by your arms. Further sacrifice of life would now be in vain and the continuance of the struggle in arms unwise in the national interest and prejudicial to the future of our cause. Military victory must be allowed to rest for the moment with those who have destroyed the Republic. Many of their candidates and supporters were still imprisoned before, during and after the election. In July, de Valera had recognised the Republican political interests lay with the prisoners and went so far as to say: The whole future of our cause and of the nation depends in my opinion upon the spirit of the prisoners in the camps and in the jails. A total of "stately homes" of the old landed class and Free State politicians were destroyed by Republicans during the war. In October, a deputation of Southern Unionists met W. Bagwell was kidnapped and held in the Dublin Mountains, but later released when reprisals were threatened. Many, but not all of these people, had supported the Crown forces during the War of Independence. This support was often largely moral, but sometimes it took the form of actively assisting the British in the conflict. Such attacks should have ended with the Truce of 11 July, but they continued after the truce and escalated during the Civil War.

**Chapter 7 : The Politics of the Irish Civil War - Hardcover - Bill Kissane - Oxford University Press**

*Based on extensive archival research the Politics of the Irish Civil War situates the Irish civil war in the general process of decolonization in the twentieth century, and explains why divisions over the Anglo-Irish Treaty of proved so formative in the development of the Irish calendar. The science.com chapter is devoted to a particular aspect of the war and many new areas are explored.*

An Irish immigrant, having suffered through an arduous overseas journey, [1] would have been thrust into a difficult and unfamiliar situation, as many were poor and unused to American customs. Soon, however, the number of Irish-Americans in some cities grew so great that immigrant Patrick Murphy stated "New York is a grand handsome city. But you would hardly know you had left Ireland. The American Civil War[ edit ] Most Irish-Americans had settled in the northern, American states [1] and were thus called up to serve when the southern states seceded and formed the Confederacy in Many Irish-Americans on both sides formed their own units which embraced Irish customs such as Catholic masses and priests. The draft riots[ edit ] On March 3, , Congress passed the Enrollment Act which required single men age 20 to 45 and married men up to age 35 to register for the draft. This act angered many northern whites, mainly Irish immigrants who had accepted U. Fuel was added to the fire of their anger when black men, mostly freed slaves, were excluded from this same draft. The Irish feared that newly freed slaves from the South would migrate to the North and create further competition in the labor market. Both of these provisions were created with the intention of softening the effect of the draft on pacifiers, the anti-draft movement and the propertied classes. The result however was general public resentment which then turned to fury. A few days after the Enrollment Act was passed, in March 6, , the Detroit Race Riot of erupted in Detroit , Michigan , as Irish rioted for days over the draft as well as targeting black workers. Four months later, on July 13â€”16, as the first draft being held in New York City , the mostly Irish working class of the city started the New York City draft riots. Stores were looted and offices of newspapers which supported the Union were ransacked and burned to the ground. The rioters then targeted black people as many rioters saw the American Civil War as a war to free the slaves and thus blamed them for the draft, as well as the war. Many black people were caught by the mob, stabbed, and lynched as a result. The city police were unable to halt a crowd which was ten times more numerous, and the rioting continued. Two days after the riot started, word came that the draft had been suspended. Federal troops returning from the Battle of Gettysburg were sent to the city to quell the riot and peace was finally restored in the streets of New York City more than a day later. More than people are thought to have died in the draft riots in New York City, which makes this the most deadly civil insurrection in American history. Seven Union generals were Irish-born while an estimated , Irish-Americans fought for the Union during the war. Irish-Americans living in the Union states often formed their own regiments, notably the 69th New York State Volunteers. The Volunteers flew a green flag with a golden harp on it, symbolizing Ireland.

**Chapter 8 : The Irish Civil War - 20th Century History of Ireland**

*The Irish Civil War was a conflict between Irish nationalists in over whether or not to accept the Anglo-Irish Treaty. The Treaty came about as a result of both political agitation and guerrilla warfare by the Irish Republican movement, organised respectively in Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army between and*

The reality of the Irish experience in the war was, as might be expected, more complex. Yet in some ways the Irish were different, not only from native-born soldiers, but from other immigrant groups as well. Although a smattering of Irish Catholics had lived in America since the colonial period, there was no significant immigration to the United States until the catastrophe of the Potato Famine set it in motion. The first non-Protestant group to arrive in large numbers, the Irish often faced both religious and ethnic prejudice from the then largely Anglo-Saxon population. Anti-Catholic, particularly anti-Irish Catholic, feelings led to the formation of the American or Know-Nothing Party, which enjoyed a brief period of influence in the early s before the growing sectional dispute pushed the Catholic immigrant issue to the sidelines. Certainly the masses of impoverished, uneducated Irish crowded into ethnic ghettos, with customs and sometimes a language that seemed alien, colored the nativist response. Our Celtic fellow citizens are almost as remote from us in temperament and constitution as the Chinese. Though the fast unraveling Whig Party made little effort to attract Irish support, the newcomers were welcomed by the Democratic Party. When the Republican Party emerged after to challenge the Democrats, it found relatively few Irish adherents. The presence in the party of former Know-Nothings, plus the strain of abolitionism in its New England adherents, rendered the Republicans suspect in the eyes of most Irishmen. Common Irish laborers found themselves in competition with free blacks in the North and in New Orleans. The abolitionist demand for the end of slavery provoked almost hysterical fear of a flood of liberated slaves marching north and ousting the Irish from their jobs by accepting lower wages. Although the Republican platform of called only for no further expansion of slavery, many Irish suspected that the demand was only a first step. Corcoran, colonel of the 69th New York State Militia, had won fame, or condemnation, for refusing to present his regiment for review when the Prince of Wales visited the city in Relieved of command for disobedience, Corcoran was facing court-martial when the war necessitated his reassignment to the regiment. The 69th was one of the first volunteer units to reach Washington in the secession spring, and fought well at First Bull Run, where Corcoran was captured. The feisty commander refused to give his parole, and remained a prisoner in Richmond until exchanged over a year later, emerging as the first Irish hero of the struggle. That left Meagher, whose conduct at Bull Run is still being debated, to take the lead in raising Irish troops for the new two- and three-year units authorized to replace the three-month volunteers. The ambitious Meagher, who played the Irish card to advance his own political interests, energetically began to organize what would become the Irish Brigade, patterned after the Irish brigades which fought for the Catholic powers of Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries. Meagher hoped the nascent brigade would become the nucleus of an Irish division. He won critical approval for the endeavor from Archbishop Hughes, even though the prelate voiced private misgivings. Ethnic regiments, Hughes confided to friends, were apt to fan ethnic divisiveness and lead to problems. Meagher signed up 3, volunteers in New York, winning a brigadier generalcy for himself in the process. A number of support organizations soon emerged dedicated to maintaining the Irish regiments and their families. Maria Daly, wife of prominent jurist and social and political leader Charles P. Daly undertook to expand health care for wounded brigade members near the front and at home in New York. By the end of the year, it was caring for 1, youngsters. Likewise Catholic nuns, predominately Irish, served as military nurses at the front and in hospitals in New York. The latter two were quickly combined into one regiment, the 28th Massachusetts, which was attached to the Irish Brigade in December just before Fredericksburg. In Pennsylvania prominent businessman Dennis Heenan received permission to form a unit of Irish soldiers. Recruiting went slowly until Corcoran, finally exchanged in August , visited Philadelphia, where his fiery speeches led to a spike in enlistments. Of the approximately , Irish-born soldiers in the Federal armies, about one-third came from New York. Ambitious Irish New Yorkers fanned out across the country, encouraging state governors to approve the

Irish formations in other states while securing commands for themselves. Scattered Irish regiments were formed in the West, but the East provided the bulk of officially designated Irish units. As the final elements fell into place for the fielding of the Irish Brigade, New York created another brigade of Irishmen. Promoted to brigadier while a prisoner, Corcoran had returned from Confederate captivity as the leading Irish hero, whose presumed importance was enough to rate him an invitation to dinner with Lincoln. Although the two were old friends and comrades in Irish nationalist causes, Corcoran had no intention of leaving Meagher in command of the largest Irish military organization. Although many regiments in the Federal army possessed an ethnic character in the sense of being made up primarily of soldiers from one national group, the Irish units were unique. No other ethnic group was allowed to create and field officially designated ethnic regiments as the Irish did. There were numerous regiments in the Union Army that were considered German, the other large immigrant group at the time. But they were German by membership, officers and sometimes language. Nor did the German-dominated regiments carry flags emblazoned with the symbols of their ancestral homeland. With the exception of the 11th Pennsylvania, which carried the state flag, the regiments in the Irish Brigade and Corcoran Legion carried the Irish green flag with gold harp, usually with a Gaelic battle cry added for effect. The special consideration extended to the Irish in creation of those units testified to their political power and the eagerness of political figures, from Lincoln down to state legislators, to channel Irish energies into support for the Union cause. Recruiting appeals for the Irish regiments centered on several points. For openers, Irish leaders such as Meagher and Corcoran insisted that their men were natural born fighters, a claim repeated so often that both the Irish and non-Irish came to believe it. Such blandishments were not unusual, and recruiters among the other ethnic groups used similar arguments. German regiments, for example, included many former soldiers who believed their experience made them more formidable in combat than native-born Americans, let alone the Irish. This sense of ethnic rivalry sometimes encouraged enlistment as well. But the inducements aimed at the Irish contained two elements absent from those aimed at other Northerners. The first was religion. A major attraction for Irish volunteers was the guarantee of a Catholic chaplain. The second was a sense of Irish nationalism, whose analog was seldom if ever found among the other immigrant communities. Many of the Irish leaders who raised regiments — such as Meagher, Corcoran and James Mulligan, who organized the Irish 23rd Illinois in Chicago — were members of the Fenian Brotherhood. The Fenians, a not-so-secret organization active in both the United States and Ireland, aimed to overthrow British control and establish an Irish republic. As far as Corcoran and many others were concerned, a major purpose of the Irish participation in the war was the acquisition of military skills and experience. But in the end, for most enlistees the strongest motive dealt more with the needs of the Irish in America. Indeed, despite the wartime and historical fame of the Irish units, Irish Catholics, in relation to their percentage of the general population, were the most underrepresented of the various ethnic groups in the Federal armies. The evolving situation caused many Irishmen to view their effort in the war with a sense of contingency. Unsurprisingly, relations between Yankee officers, especially New England abolitionists, and the Irish were often strained. Robert Gould Shaw, who later led the black 54th Massachusetts, harbored a typical nativist disdain for the Irish that he made little attempt to conceal and which intensified as he made contact with Irish soldiers. On the other hand, it may have been true. More than a few commanders, including several Irish-born officers, described the process of instilling discipline and order in many of the Irish regiments as tough going. Irish-born Colonel Patrick Guiney, who took over the 9th Massachusetts after Malvern Hill in June, was criticized for his tough discipline. They need to be handled as severely as justice will permit when they do wrong. Irish troops were less inclined to behave well for superiors — particularly upper class, Anglo-Saxon officers. Additionally, Fenianism — or opposition to it — and the urban politics that were a major element of their civilian life often promoted discord in Irish units. Most Irish recruits came from large cities, where many had been gang members or members of the rivalry-ridden volunteer fire companies — the two often interchangeable. This experience led to a skeptical, sometimes combative attitude toward any authority but their own. This was especially true when the authorities involved were Yankee Brahmins whose anti-Irish attitudes were well attested and frequently on display, a factor that never occurred to officers like Shaw. Alcohol consumption and drunkenness was a chronic problem among all Civil War regiments. Although it might be dismissed as

negative stereotyping, there is evidence to suggest that it plagued the Irish units more than most. Father Corby, chaplain to the Irish Brigade, admitted that alcohol was the special curse of the Irish. As the struggle raged at Antietam, Meagher was carried from the field on a stretcher, leaving command to Colonel John Burke. Meagher claimed that some sort of injury caused him to leave the battle, but accounts spread that he was drunk and fell from his horse. He was also missing in action at Fredericksburg. When the Irish Brigade made its famous charge its commander was not on the field. Meagher claimed that after ordering the brigade forward he was forced to go to the rear to find a horse because an ulcer in his knee made it impossible for him to continue. Others present accused him of skulking, and few in the Irish community stepped forward to defend him. Hogan of the 88th New York, whose men advanced closest to the stone wall, the farthest point Union soldiers reached that day. Meagher stayed with the Irish Brigade through Chancellorsville, although a dark cloud had settled permanently on his reputation. When his request to take his regiments back to New York for rest and recruitment was denied, he resigned. Citing the heavy losses suffered by his men, he wrote the War Department: That Brigade no longer exists. Two years after the war, while serving as acting territorial governor of Wyoming, he tumbled from a steamer into the Missouri River and drowned. He had been drinking at the time. Despite the impediment of serving under an alcohol-fogged blowhard, the Irish Brigade won renown in the Virginia campaign. The Corcoran Legion, however, was shunted off to the relative backwater of Suffolk, Va. James Longstreet, who was seeking supplies in the area. On April 12, Corcoran shot and killed Lt. Edgar Kimball in a dispute over a countersign. Instead of being court-martialed, Corcoran was given command of a division, including his brigade, in the Washington defensive perimeter. On December 22, , after spending the day socializing with Meagher, who had come to visit him, Corcoran shrugged off warnings and headed out in the dark on a horse with a reputation for being difficult. The beast threw Corcoran in a ditch and then managed to fall on top of him. He died from his injuries the next day. When the Corcoran Legion finally saw heavy fighting during Lt. The brigade had been decimated at Antietam and Fredericksburg. The 63rd and 69th New York suffered 60 percent casualties in the first battle alone. Of the 1, Irish Brigade troops present when Maj.

### Chapter 9 : The Politics of the Irish Civil War by Bill Kissane

*Description. The start of the Irish Civil War was signalled by the artillery bombardment of the Four Courts in Dublin on 28 June A week later, the Four Courts was gutted and O'Connell Street a smouldering ruin, but the anti-Treaty IRA was driven from the city.*