

# Ireland War of Independence: United Friends, Divided Loyalties

The Irish War of Independence was a conflict fought between the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the British government from 1919 to 1921. The war began as a campaign of guerrilla warfare by the IRA, which sought to establish an independent Irish republic. The British government responded with a campaign of reprisals, which only served to increase support for the IRA. In 1921, the two sides agreed to a ceasefire and a treaty that established the Irish Free State.



## Spies: Ireland's War of Independence. United friends ... divided loyalties

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 528 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 256 pages



The war had a profound impact on Irish society. It led to the division of Ireland into two separate states, the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland. It also led to a wave of sectarian violence, as Protestants and Catholics clashed over the future of Ireland.

The war also had a significant impact on the lives of individual Irish people. Many people were killed or injured in the fighting. Others were forced to

flee their homes or were interned in prison camps. The war also caused a great deal of economic hardship.

### **The United Friends**

Despite the divisions that the war caused, there were also many examples of friendship and cooperation between people from different backgrounds. One such example was the friendship between Michael Collins and Harry Boland. Collins was the leader of the IRA, while Boland was a Protestant who had joined the IRA. The two men worked closely together during the war, and they remained friends until Collins' death in 1922.

Another example of friendship during the war was the relationship between Ernie O'Malley and Seán Russell. O'Malley was a Catholic from Dublin, while Russell was a Protestant from Belfast. The two men met while fighting in the IRA, and they became close friends. They remained friends until Russell's death in 1940.

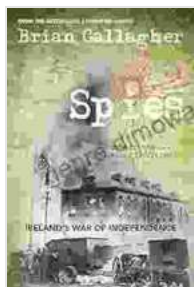
### **The Divided Loyalties**

Not all friendships survived the war. Many people were torn between their loyalty to their friends and their loyalty to their country. One such example was the friendship between Tom Barry and Dan Breen. Barry was a Catholic from Cork, while Breen was a Protestant from Tipperary. The two men had been friends since childhood, but they found themselves on opposite sides of the war.

Barry joined the IRA, while Breen joined the British Army. The two men fought against each other in the war, and they remained enemies until Breen's death in 1969.

The Irish War of Independence was a complex and divisive conflict. It led to the division of Ireland into two separate states, and it caused a great deal of hardship and suffering. However, it also produced some remarkable stories of friendship and courage.

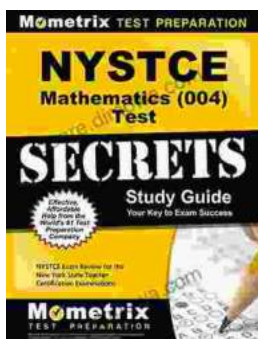
The Irish War of Independence was a watershed moment in Irish history. It led to the establishment of the Irish Free State, and it had a profound impact on the lives of individual Irish people. The war also produced some remarkable stories of friendship and courage, which serve as a reminder that even in the darkest of times, there is always hope.



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