The Dynamiters

In the 1880s a New York-based faction of militant Irish nationalists conducted the first urban bombing campaign in history, targeting symbolic public buildings in Britain with homemade bombs. This book investigates the people and ideas behind this spectacular new departure in revolutionary violence. Employing a transnational approach, the book reveals connections and parallels between the ‘Dynamiters’ and other revolutionary groups active at the time, and demonstrates how they interacted with currents in revolution, war and politics across Europe, the United States and the British empire. Reconstructing the life stories of individual Dynamiters, and their conceptual and ethical views on violence, it offers an innovative picture of the dynamics of revolutionary organisations as well as the political, social and cultural factors which move people to support or condemn political acts of violence.

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The Dynamiters

Irish Nationalism and Political Violence in the Wider World, 1867–1900

Niall Whelehan
To Eli
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Chronology, 1867–1900

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 1867 | 5 March. IRB attempt insurrection in Ireland.  
  7 May. Dynamite patented by Alfred Nobel.  
  23 November. Public execution of three Fenians in Manchester.  
  13 December. Explosion at Clerkenwell prison kills twelve people. |
| 1874 | 10 October. Article calling for an urban guerrilla war published in *The Irish World*. |
| 1876 | 4 March. Skirmishing Fund launched in *The Irish World*. |
  14 July. Great Railroad Strike begins in West Virginia. |
| 1879 | 21 October. The Irish National Land League founded in Mayo. |
| 1881 | 14 January. Explosion at Salford Barracks causes one death.  
  13 March. Assassination of Tsar Alexander II.  
  16 March. Explosive device found at the Mansion House, London.  
  10 June. Attempted bomb attack at Liverpool Town Hall.  
| 1882 | 26 March. Bomb attack at Weston House, Galway.  
  6 May. The Phoenix Park assassinations. |
| 1883 | 20 January. Three explosions in Glasgow.  
  15 March. Explosions at the Local Government Board Offices and *The Times* offices in London. |
4–5 April. The ‘Gallagher Team’ arrested in London and Birmingham.
29 July. Patrick O’Donnell kills James Carey off the coast of South Africa.
30 October. Two explosions on the London Underground.
1884 25–6 February. Explosion at Victoria Railway Station and bombs discovered at three London Underground stations.
30 May. Explosions at Scotland Yard, the Carlton Club and residence of Watkin Wynn, London.
13 December. Explosion under London Bridge. Three bombers blow themselves up but no other injuries.
24 January. Explosions at House of Commons, Tower of London and Westminster Hall.
1886 4 May. Bomb thrown during demonstration in Haymarket Square, Chicago.
1887 Plot to attack the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations in London organised by agents provocateurs.
1891 26 October. Explosive device thrown into The National Press office in Dublin.
31 December. Explosion in a cellar of Dublin Castle.
1892 11 and 27 March. Two bomb attacks attributed to Ravachol in France.
25 April. Théodule Meunier bombs the restaurant where Ravachol was arrested, killing two people.
24 December. Explosion at Dublin Castle which kills one constable.
1893 6 May. Explosion at Dublin Four Courts.
7 November. Santiago Salvador throws an Orsini bomb into Barcelona’s Teatro Liceo, killing twenty-two people.
25 November. Small explosion at an army barracks, Dublin.
9 December. Auguste Vaillant throws a bomb into the lower house of the French parliament.
1894 12 February. Emile Henry explodes a bomb in a train-station café in Paris.
24 May. Sante Caserio assassinates the French president, Sadi Carnot.
1896      12 September. Irish nationalists arrested in Glasgow, Boulogne and Rotterdam for planned bomb attack.
1897      8 August. Michele Angiolillo assassimates Antonio Canovas, Spanish Prime Minister.
1898      10 September. Empress Elizabeth of Austria assassinated by Luigi Luccheni.
1900      21 April. Explosion at a dam in Thorold, Ontario near US border.
          29 July. Gaetano Bresci assassimates Umberto I, king of Italy.
## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBS</td>
<td>Crime Branch Special</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSORP</td>
<td>Chief Secretary’s Office Registered Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUA</td>
<td>American Catholic History Research Center and University Archives, Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMP</td>
<td>Dublin Metropolitan Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRP</td>
<td>Desmond Ryan Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Dynamite Monthly</em></td>
<td><em>Ireland’s Liberator and Dynamite Monthly</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>HHC</td>
<td><em>Hansard</em>, House of Commons debates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRB</td>
<td>Irish Republican Brotherhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCIHP</td>
<td>Maloney Collection of Irish Historical Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAI</td>
<td>National Archives of Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NLI</td>
<td>National Library of Ireland</td>
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<td>NYMA</td>
<td>New York Municipal Archive</td>
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<td>NYPL</td>
<td>New York Public Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODRPP</td>
<td>O’Donovan Rossa Personal Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCR</td>
<td>Police and Crime Records</td>
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<td>PRO</td>
<td>Public Record Office</td>
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<td>TCD</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>TNA</td>
<td>The National Archives of the United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>SSD</td>
<td>Secret Service Division</td>
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<td>UCDA</td>
<td>University College Dublin Archives</td>
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