

Conflict, Diaspora, and Empire

The actions of Irish nationalists in Britain are often characterised as a ‘sideshow’ to the revolutionary events in Ireland between 1912 and 1922. This original study argues, conversely, that Irish nationalism in Britain was integral to contemporary Irish and British assessments of the Irish Revolution between the Third Home Rule Bill and the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Darragh Gannon charts the development of Irish nationalism across the Irish Sea over the course of a historic decade in United Kingdom history – from constitutional crisis, to war, and revolution. The book documents successive Home Rule and IRA campaigns in Britain coordinated by John Redmond and Michael Collins, respectively, and examines the mobilisation of Irish migrant communities in British cities in response to major political crises, from the Ulster crisis to the First World War. Finally, *Conflict, Diaspora, and Empire* assesses the impacts of Irish nationalism in metropolitan Britain, from Whitehall to Westminster. The Irish Revolution, this study concludes, was defined by political conflicts, and cultures, across the Irish Sea.

DARRAGH GANNON is Head of Irish Studies at University College Dublin and Fulbright Irish Scholar at Georgetown University. He has previously held fellowships at the University of Melbourne, the University of Toronto, and New York University. He has published widely on the Irish diaspora and the Irish Revolution, including *Proclaiming a Republic: Ireland, 1916 and the National Collection* (2016) and *Ireland 1922: Independence, Partition, Civil War*, with Fearghal McGarry (2021). He currently serves as Vice President of the Global Irish Diaspora Congress.

Conflict, Diaspora, and Empire

Irish Nationalism in Britain, 1912–1922

DARRAGH GANNON
University College Dublin



Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-009-15827-5 — Conflict, Diaspora, and Empire
Darragh Gannon
Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009158275
DOI: 10.1017/9781009158299

© Darragh Gannon 2023

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions
of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take
place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

*A Cataloging-in-Publication data record for this book is available from the
Library of Congress*

ISBN 978-1-009-15827-5 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence
or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this
publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will
remain, accurate or appropriate.

Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	<i>page</i> vi
Introduction	1
1 Nationalists, Separatists, and the British Political Maze	18
2 Volunteers, War, and Rebellion	69
3 Nationalists, Republicans, and the Politics of War	121
4 Democracy, Citizenship, and the Irish National Ideal	159
5 Arms, Conflict, and Post-War Violence	212
Conclusion	273
<i>Index</i>	284

Acknowledgements

This has been a long time in writing. I've had the great pleasure of working with many wonderful colleagues at Cambridge University Press over the last five years, each of whom helped guide this book from proposal to publication. I am first and foremost indebted to Cambridge University Press Commissioning Editor Elizabeth Friend-Smith for her steadfast belief in this project. Liz has provided unerring support and necessary perspective throughout this process – for that, I am most grateful. I would like to acknowledge the work of Lisa Carter, Cambridge University Press Content Manager, whose patience and professionalism helped deliver this book to completion. Special thanks are due to Sujatha Kandan, who carefully copy-edited and proofed the manuscript, and Tanya Izzard, who expertly indexed the final publication. I am deeply appreciative, further, of the generosity of time, and thought, offered by Cambridge University Press's anonymous peer reviewers who kindly agreed to read, and provide feedback on, the original manuscript. The published monograph has been greatly enriched by their erudite and insightful responses to the arguments contained therein.

I've had the great privilege of working closely with some of the foremost historians in the field during the development of this book, notably Vincent Comerford, Enda Delaney, Richard English, Roy Foster, and Fearghal McGarry. Each of these scholars has offered invaluable guidance, support, and intellectual interest in my work over the course of my career. I'm most grateful for their mentorship, their scholarship, and, ultimately, their friendship.

The research for this book has been informed, and the writing process enlivened, by intellectual exchanges with friends and fellow scholars, among them John Boronovo, Richard Bourke, Ciara Breathnach, Gemma Clark, Marie Coleman, Mike Cronin, Justin Dolan Stover, Terry Dooley, Mark Duncan, Mel Farrell, Diarmaid Ferriter, Neil Fleming, Peter Gray, Keiko Inoue, Alvin Jackson, Heather Jones, Liam

Acknowledgements

vii

Kennedy, Michael Laffan, Georgina Laragy, Mary MacDiarmada, Don MacRaild, Edward Madigan, Ann Matthews, James McConnel, Seán McConville, Tim McMahan, Ian Miller, Ida Milne, Conor Morrissey, Mo Moulton, Conor Mulvagh, William Murphy, Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid, Margaret O’Callaghan, Mairtín Ó Catháin, Daithí Ó Corráin, Martin O’Donoghue, Eunan O’Halpin, Senia Pašeta, Colin Reid, Sharon Webb, Barry Whelan, and Tim Wilson. I look forward, as ever, to their comments.

This book was conceived at Maynooth University, completed at Queen’s University Belfast, and published during my tenure at University College Dublin. I’m thankful for the collegiality and support of so many colleagues at Maynooth University (Marian Lyons, David Murphy, Ian Speller), Queen’s University Belfast (Yassin Brunger, Kieran Connell, Alison Garden, Tom Hulme, Ashok Malhotra, Sean O’Connell, Olwen Purdue, Nik Ribiansky, Floris Verhaart, Kiera Williams), and University College Dublin (Kelly Fitzgerald, Regina Uí Chollatáin, Aoife Whelan) during this academic journey.

London invariably became a second home during the writing of this monograph. Research travel across the Irish Sea was made all the more amenable by the hospitality of friends. Dion Georgiou, Richard Keogh, and Edward Tynan offered welcome social reprieve during recurrent visits to the National Archives in Kew and the British Library at King’s Cross. The Habib family, meanwhile, hosted me during many arduous trips to the British Newspaper Library at Colindale. The Irish Embassy in London, moreover, has been incredibly supportive of this project, convening a commemorative event based on this book on the centenary of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 2021. I’m most grateful to Ambassador Adrian O’Neill for his generosity to introduce me, and my book, to the London-Ireland community.

This book is dedicated to my family. To my parents Jim and Paula, my brother Conor, and my sister Grace – for whom I’ve spent much too long in the year 1922 – thank you for your patience and understanding: back to the future! To Yulia – to whom I made a promise ten years ago that my PhD thesis would find itself onto our bookshelf one day – I’ve kept my promise.