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Protestant Nationalists in Ireland, 1900–1923

From the turn of the twentieth century until the end of the Irish Civil War, Protestant nationalists forged a distinct counterculture within an increasingly Catholic nationalist movement. Drawing on a wide range of primary and secondary sources, Conor Morrissey charts the development of nationalism within Protestantism, and describes the ultimate failure of this tradition. The book traces the re-emergence of Protestant nationalist activism in the literary and language movements of the 1880s and 1890s, before reconstructing their distinctive forms of organization in the following decades. Morrissey shows how Protestants, mindful of their minority status, formed interlinked networks of activists and developed a vibrant associational culture. He describes how the increasingly Catholic nature of nationalism – particularly following the Easter Rising – prompted Protestants to adopt a variety of strategies in an attempt to ensure their voices were still heard. Ultimately, this ambitious and wide-ranging book explores the relationship between religious denomination and political allegiance, casting fresh light on an often-misunderstood period.

CONOR MORRISSEY is Lecturer in Irish/British History at King's College London. He previously held appointments at the National Museum of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, and Hertford College, University of Oxford.

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To my parents

Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	page viii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	ix
<i>Irish-Language Terms Used</i>	xi
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xii
Introduction	1
1 Radicals, c. 1900–1910	20
2 Dissidents, 1900–1910	45
3 Converts, c. 1910–1916	78
4 Militants, 1912–1916	107
5 Rebels, 1916–1917	131
6 Outsiders?, 1918–1921	149
7 Revolutionaries, 1919–1923	180
8 Free Staters, 1922–1923	203
Conclusion	216
<i>Bibliography</i>	225
<i>Index</i>	244

Tables

3.1 Denomination of Protestant advanced nationalist women	<i>page</i> 91
3.2 Father's occupation of Protestant advanced nationalist women	92
3.3 Geographic origin of Protestant advanced nationalist women	93
8.1 Denomination of Irish Protestants in the National Army	209
8.2 Denominational comparison between Protestants in the National Army and Protestants in the Irish Free State, 1926	209
8.3 Father's occupation of Protestants in the National Army	210
8.4 Military rank of Protestants in the National Army	210
8.5 Geographic origin of Protestants in the National Army	212

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Irish-Language Terms Used

<i>Ard fheis</i>	Annual party conference
<i>Céili/Céilithe</i>	Irish dancing session/sessions
<i>Clan na Gael</i>	‘Family of the Gaels’: separatist organisation sister of the IRB
<i>Coisde Gnótha</i>	Gaelic League executive
<i>Comhluadar Gaodhalach na Fiadhnuise</i>	Irish Guild of Witness
<i>Craobh na gCúig gCúigi</i>	Branch of the Five Provinces
<i>Cumann</i>	Branch of society
<i>Cumann Gaedhealach an Cólaiste</i>	College Gaelic Society (QUB)
<i>Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise</i>	Irish Guild of the Church
<i>Cumann na nGaedheal</i>	‘Society of the Gaels’: Republican front in the 1900s; later Irish Free State political party
<i>Cumann na Saoirse</i>	‘Society of Freedom’: Pro-Anglo-Irish Treaty women’s group
<i>Dáil Éireann</i>	Irish parliament
<i>Feis/Feiseanna</i>	Festival/festivals
<i>Fianna Fáil</i>	‘Soldiers of destiny’: political party, 1926–
<i>Na Fianna Éireann</i>	‘Soldiers of Ireland’: republican youth group
<i>Sinn Féin</i>	‘We ourselves’: political party, 1905–
<i>Taoiseach</i>	‘Chief’: prime minister of Ireland
<i>Teachta Dála</i>	‘Deputy to the Dáil’: Member of Parliament

Abbreviations

AOH	Ancient Order of Hibernians
BL	British Library
BMH, WS	Bureau of Military History, Witness Statements
CBS	Crime Branch Special Records
CCCA	Cork City and County Archives
CD	Contemporary documents
<i>CIG</i>	<i>Church of Ireland Gazette</i>
<i>DIB</i>	<i>Dictionary of Irish Biography</i>
DL	Deputy Lieutenant
DSO	Distinguished Service Order
<i>Ff</i>	<i>Freeman's Journal</i>
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
GOLI	Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland, Belfast
GPO	General Post Office, Dublin
ICA	Irish Citizen Army
<i>II</i>	<i>Irish Independent</i>
ILPI	Independent Labour Party of Ireland
IPHRA	Irish Protestant Home Rule Association
IRA	Irish Republican Army
IRB	Irish Republican Brotherhood
<i>IT</i>	<i>Irish Times</i>
IWA	Irish Women's Association
MAD	Military Archives, Dublin
McC	Denis McCullough papers
MRIA	Member, Royal Irish Academy
MSPC	Military Service Pensions Collection
NAI	National Archives of Ireland
NLI	National Library of Ireland
PFOI	Protestant Friends of Ireland
PNS	Protestant National Society
PRONI	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast
QC	Queen's Counsel

List of Abbreviations

xiii

RCBL	Representative Church Body Library, Dublin
RCPI	Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
RIC	Royal Irish Constabulary
TCD	Trinity College Dublin
TD	<i>Teachta Dála</i>
TNA	The National Archives, Kew
UCD	University College Dublin
<i>UG</i>	<i>Ulster Guardian</i>
UIL	United Irish League
ULT	Ulster Literary Theatre
UVF	Ulster Volunteer Force
VC	Victoria Cross