



A SHORT  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
**1916**  
RISING

BY CALUM BEATTY





In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century the British Empire invaded Ireland, taking control of Irish lands, suppressing their Catholic religion and silencing their language. Ireland attempted many rebellions but were heavily defeated each time.





**However at noon, Easter 1916 a rebellion would take place that would alter the path of Irish history forever. The goal of the rising was to bring Britains 800 year rule to an end.**

The group of rebels formed a party known as the Irish Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.). Their leader, Thomas Clarke soon installed Padraig Pearse as one of their leaders. Padraig Pearse was a pacifist who soon came to the conclusion that peaceful methods could not succeed.

Other revolutionary's to join the I.R.B. were Joseph, George and Jack Plunkett, Thomas Mac Donagh, Eamon DeValera, William Pearse, James Connolly and Countess Markievic.



**“There is one thing worse than bloodshed and that is slavery.”**

- Padraig Pearse

# IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY

Leaders in the Insurrection, May, 1916



Most of the rebel leaders were teachers and poets and never held a gun. The rebels knew the British would win but they hoped it would inspire more people to fight for their country.

The rebels needed at least 100,000 troops to take over the main buildings of Dublin. They would also need money to fund the rebellion. Many Irish immigrants in America sent money home to support the rebels.

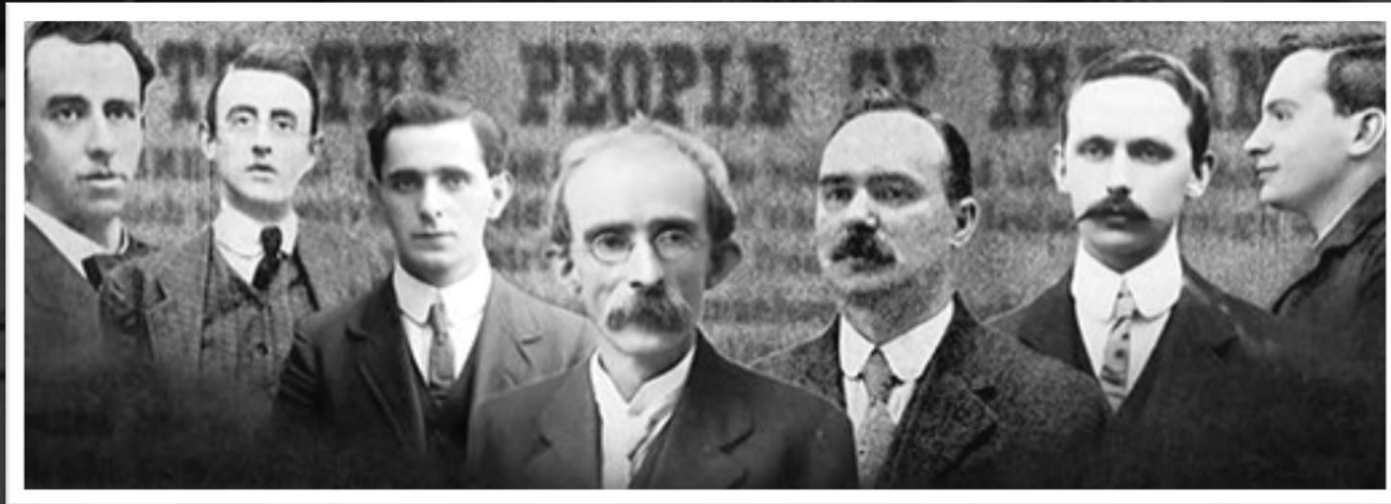


Pearse felt with Britain involved in WW1 it was time for the rebellion.

The Rising would begin in the centre of the city at the GPO. Guns would be needed for the rebellion and a former English knight, Sir. Roger Casement, who had defected to the rebels cause struck a deal for 20,000 guns from Germany.

Sadly they never made it as Britain found out about this plan and ceased the weapons.





The day before the rising, rumours spread across the nation that the rising was being cancelled, causing great confusion.

The rebels, realising they would be outnumbered and out-armed vowed to proceed.

At noon on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 1916, Pearse and 1500 men set out to free Ireland. George Plunkett, one of the rebels leading his team to the post, hijacked a tram. On the way he collected fares from all 52 troops and paid the conductor with a thank you and exact change.



The rebels captured the GPO with very little resistance and hoisted the tri-colour flag above the building. Pearse and his comrades read the proclamation at the entrance of the GPO, declaring the Irish Republic as a sovereign independent state.



British gunships responded at once and started targeting the rebels positions, occupied buildings and civilians. One of the worst urban pictures of destruction from a capital city in Europe came from Dublin ruins in 1916.

By Saturday the rebels were overpowered. Just 5 days after they began, Pearse ordered his men to surrender.

Dublin was destroyed. Many died and thousands were injured. Many Irish viewed the rebellion as disastrous and irresponsible.







One thing the Irish and English could finally agree on was their hatred of the rebels. However the Irish view towards the rebels would change with the course of history. The rebels were marched on the road to Kilmainham jail while the Dubliners protested, throwing rotting fruit at them.



The British began by executing the rebel leaders. The manner in which they were executed caused great outrage and as a result made martyrs of the rebel leaders.

This led to the halting of the executions, one of the rebel leaders, Eamon DeValera was spared and was later released from prison.

DeValera plotted the next rebellion which would become known as the War of Independence in 1919. It ended two years later in a partial win for Ireland. Irelands Northern land would still belong to Britain and that still remains the case to this day.

