

ANNOTATION

This diploma thesis deals with women who played an active part in the struggle for Irish independence in the years 1890-1921. The women who I mainly focused on weren't mere auxiliaries to men. Even though Ireland at that time was a highly conservative country, where the role of both sexes was strictly divided, these women managed to challenge social conventions. They founded their own national organizations, which (perhaps in their size, definitely in their prominence) had then no equivalent in other European countries. They used every opportunity to assert themselves in political as well as military fields and some of them even took up high political posts. Therefore besides depicting the actual activities of women on behalf of the national movement, this work is trying to evaluate the mutual relationship between nationalism and the question of women's emancipation. The main events of the Anglo-Irish conflict then provide the background for this work. According to this the diploma is divided chronologically into three main chapters, which deal with the periods before and after the first world war. That is because the world war contributed largely to the breakout of the Easter uprising and the following rise of a mass revolutionary movement in Ireland. The diploma ends with gains of a dominion for the southern part of the island. Although some radicals continued in their fight for full sovereignty of a united Ireland, they were only a handful of the Irish population and women slowly dissipated from the main events in the state again.

Keywords: Ireland, 20th Century, Nationalism, Feminism