

Příloha k protokolu o SZZ č.....  
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Diplomant: Pavla Sedláčková

Aprobace: AJ-NJ/ZŠ

Recenzent\*)  
Vedoucí\*) diplomové práce  
Regina Helal, M.A.

## POSUDEK DIPLOMOVÉ PRÁCE

### One Island, One Republic Policy of the Irish Republican Army (téma)

#### The goals

The author's professed goal was to concentrate on the influence of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in Irish politics. In particular, as she states in the Introduction, she wanted to focus on the events usually referred to as the Irish War of Independence or Anglo-Irish War, sparked by the declaration of Irish independence in 1919.

#### Contents and structuring

The topic under review is presented chronologically, giving emphasis to names of the main actors, precise dates and places rather than the issues at hand and relevance. Thus when dealing with the historical background, the author first takes us to the very beginnings, and includes even the first primeval hunters and the country's Celtic roots. Two chapters (seven pages in total) take us up to the main topic which is dealt with in five chapters (26 pages). The remainder of the thesis is taken up by the events that unfolded during and after World War Two. We are subsequently brought up to the present time (2010), including the worldwide financial crisis. The personalities given most prominence are Irish leaders Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera.

#### Notes

- While reading this thesis, I was getting progressively lost despite the fact that I know Ireland and its modern history relatively well. I also had trouble identifying what was the main point of this endeavor: i.e. what was it that compelled the author to tell this story and/or what it is that we are meant to take away after reading all this.
- The author often had problems transferring her narrative from the particular into the general and vice versa, in my opinion. A couple of examples to illustrate this: (1) *They killed a barman in a pub and Ulster Unionist leader Terence O'Neill banned this organization under the Special Power Act which...* (page 39); *America wanted to invest money in Northern Ireland...Senator George Mitchell was told about the straight connection between violence and unemployment so he decided to solve this problem and send money* (page 48) .



- There is a profusion of names, whether of people or various organizations, and many characters are introduced without sufficient context. For instance, on pages 46 and 47 there are nine names, most mentioned for the first time; at least one of them is Bill Clinton, universally known, and another Margaret Thatcher, who also does not need any introduction. But the problem chiefly lies with names of people (or organizations) who are less known and being introduced for the first time: Brughna, Stack, Duffy, Barton, Childers, Mary MacSwiney, Cosgrave, O'Higgins, Mulcahy (all on page 21). The interesting character of Bernadette Devlin thus appears suddenly on page 39, with little introduction. And who is Robert Fisk? Who are Auxiliaries? (*The Auxiliaries raided a hotel*, page 15)
- If acronyms are used, they must always be introduced in brackets straight after the full term is used, and not several paragraphs afterwards!
- Similarly, there is profusion of dates. While the timeline of events is of course important, do we really need to know the exact dates for the various murders or strikes? On page 42 alone there are six exact dates, on page 43 there are four. All those dates, in addition to the abundance of names, lead the reader toward distraction and eventual confusion.
- Certain important terms and distinctions have been ignored, however. The term EIRE is mentioned at the beginning but is then used only once afterwards although it presents the best way to describe the Republic of Ireland. Northern Ireland should not be referred to as NI. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill should not be referred to as English Prime Minister Churchill. The word English is more frequently than not used to mean British as in: *the inhabitants of Northern Ireland had to fight side by side with Englishmen*.
- Pavla's English is sometimes unorthodox, but it would not distract the reader so much were it not for other shortcomings, as mentioned above. As it is, it sometimes becomes irritating: *De Valera decided to keep Ireland neutral as well as Switzerland on the continent* (page 34). *Robinson did not candidate again* (page 51). *Depression took its tool* (page 30).
- I will refrain from making any comments on the factual contents of this thesis; with the exception of one: the author states on page 15 that "*the last hunger strike was held in 1921*". Yet it is common knowledge that there was a drastic hunger strike in the H-block of the Maze prison in 1981.
- Last but not least, there is a distinct lack of attributions. The thesis is full of value judgments but we do not know where they are coming from. We are unable to make the distinction between Pavla's own assertions or reflections and those posited in print by other writers. Some examples: *Television and newspapers did not worry to deal with unpopular and awkward themes* (page 37). *The Roman Catholic Church lost part of its influence because of some scandals being disclosed*. (page 50). *Though Robinson was not reconsidering to be a big personality...she symbolized the progress of people's thinking and woman emancipation* (page 50).



**The presentation:**

In general, this work is well-organized and labeled. There are very few typographical errors.

**Overall evaluation**

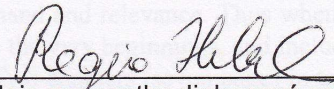
Despite the reservations expressed above, one feels that Pavla has done a great deal of reading on the topic. Her work is assessed as a DOBŘE.

**Questions:**

- Who among the actors you had described do you see as most charismatic?
- Who among the actors you had described do you see as most opportunistic, repulsive or downright evil?
- Can you outline the role of the European Union in helping to bridge the gap between Eire and Northern Ireland?

- dobře -

Návrh na klasifikaci diplomové práce: .....

  
podpis oponentky diplomové práce

13.5.

V Českých Budějovicích dne ..... 2010.....

Stupeň kvalifikace	výborně	velmi dobře	dobře	nevyhověl
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