

FINDINGS ON THE LADIES

1. The initial War for Independence drew clear lines between people and their relationships. The Civil War perverted most of these pre-established relationships and distorted the connections. This distortion in real life led to one-time colleagues murdering Michael Collins.
2. Ireland is an oft-used case study in the study of terrorism, but usually only as a model of selective terrorism. The analysis of the female resistance during the war for independence and the subsequent civil war serves as a lasting example of the role of women in selective combat. This model can be seen later with the Chechyan Black Widows and the Tamil Birds of Freedom.
3. Unlike other revolutionary fights, the women in the Irish War for Independence served alongside of the men as equals. This was driven not by a lesser respect for the women, but a deeper societal respect towards the power of the mother, similar to the early American concept of Republican motherhood.
4. Michael Collins' respect of women drove the success of the women's resistance in the War for Independence. Women make successful spies and covert operatives because of an inherent innocence. Collins often called on this innocence to help him escape difficult situations, as in the case of a run-in with Royal Irish Constabularies. In this instance, he had one of his female companions pretend to faint. The absolute trust of Michael Collins and the knowledge that he saw strength in behaviors typically deemed weakness led the woman to pretend to faint instantly. Collins' respect for the seemingly gentle nature of the women allowed the weakness of the British soldiers to be exploited for the War for Independence.
5. The value of a link analysis is shown through this study of early 20th century conflict. They show the interconnectivity of the resistance and the reliance on a network, not individual action. This analysis does not consider many of the males involved in the resistance who interacted with the female spies; when they are included in their full scope, an even more telling story can be told. Without the support of the female spies, the Irish resistance would have died.
6. Many women involved in the resistance were not named in the analysis, simply because of size constraints. This model demonstrates, however, the reach of the women involved in the War for Independence. This is a sampling as women were involved from Coast to Coast in propaganda, gun-running, spying, code-breaking, and supporting the political mission. It was a nationwide effort that truly reached every corner of the Irish Republic.