

# THE SEPARATIST TERRORISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND SOUTH TYROL

This degree thesis is written with the aim to analyze similarities and differences between two terroristic phenomena that have developed during the European twentieth century: the separatist terrorism in Northern Ireland and South Tyrol.

Through the study of their historical evolution in the first chapter we will go through the history of the dramatic Irish *Troubles*. The historical route begins with the Treaty of December 6, 1921 arriving to the Good Friday Agreement of 10 April, 1998. In the first two paragraphs, therefore, we will discuss the historical causes of the genesis of Irish terrorism through the description of the social and political landscape of the first half of 1900; in the second section we will focus, in particular, on the rising of the *Irish Republican Army* analyzing the structure, the ideas and the most charismatic characters. The storytelling of the events will try to highlight the actions and the individual decisions that will inevitably change the future of the IRA and *Sinn Féin*.

Following this course, we will come to the last two paragraphs of the first chapter and we will trace the rise of the man who shocks the evolution of Irish irredentism and facilitates the start of negotiations with unionists and the British to get the final act of the Good Friday Agreement: Gerry Adams. The historical narration, then, continues having the charismatic leader of *Sinn Féin* and the IRA as protagonist: we will go deep into the plans, intentions and the content of the secret talks that will take place with the British and the Catholic clergy in the second half of the twentieth century. In this way, the story will alternate between the description of the clandestine diplomacy with the one that, however, took place in the daylight and that smelled of gunpowder. Twists, betrayals and war stories fill the pages of the first chapter on Irish nationalism.

The aim will be to give to the reader an overview of what happened in Northern Ireland both on the public stage of terrorism and behind the scene of diplomacy. A situation that will make

us aware of how, sometimes, the decisions and intentions of one man could alter the destiny of an entire island.

In the second chapter we are going to deal with the historical sensitive issue of South Tyroleans since the Treaty of London of 1915 until the beginning of the twenty-first century, we will analyze the historical circumstances and, also in this case, the secret plots that manipulated the natural course of events.

In the first two paragraphs we will try to understand the causes that led to the rise of a terrorist separatist South Tyrolean, we will talk about the thorny management of Italians frontiers after World War I and we will deal with the decisive geopolitical purposes that will find, just in South Tyrol, an area of fundamental importance in the perspective of ideological confrontation with the Soviets. Above all, we are going deep to the process that will lead to the creation of clandestine *Stay-Behind nets*, clandestine networks of Western intelligence services, functional to keep the tension high and to take prompt action against "the reds" in case of need.

In the last two paragraphs of the second chapter we will analyze how the struggle of identity and independence of South Tyrolean will be exploited to satisfy essential geopolitical needs and how of the battle German nationalist consider romantic nothing will stay.

We will drive the double track of diplomacy and terrorist actions that will grow up to the grant of the Italian government about the autonomy to the province of Bolzano, only after the end of the Cold War.

In the last two paragraphs, the protagonists of the story will be, this time, the plots of clandestine networks in Europe and the descriptions of the campaigns of dynamite *Befreiungsausschluss Südtirol*.

The purpose of the historical narration will be to lead the reader through the delicate dynamic that will be a clash in Alto Adige, getting to understand the responsibilities of the Italian government and the Austrian about the increasing of violence and, of course, getting to give a picture of the general *modus operandi* of terrorism irredentist South Tyrol.

In the last chapter, finally, we will address a comparison between sociological, historical and political of the two situations analyzed trying to understand the original objectives and later, the kind of relationship among the central government and the level of ideologization and

radicalization. Especially we seek to understand, through a constant comparison between the two situations, how negotiations and secret contacts are able to manipulate the succession of historical events in order to understand the respective agreed resolutions to the conflict.

Our script will be, definitively, a path behind the appearance, a path that will try to find out what really happened and the unknown: an invisible thread through the identity terrorism.