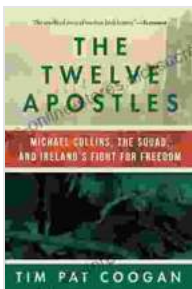


Michael Collins, the Irish Republican Army's "Big Fellow," and the Struggle for Irish Freedom

Michael Collins was born in 1890 in County Cork, Ireland. He was the son of a farmer and attended local schools. After completing his education, he worked as a clerk in Dublin. In 1916, Collins joined the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), a secret society dedicated to Irish independence.



The Twelve Apostles: Michael Collins, the Squad, and Ireland's Fight for Freedom by Tim Pat Coogan

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 7304 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 288 pages
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Collins quickly rose through the ranks of the IRB and became a key figure in the planning of the Easter Rising of 1916. The Easter Rising was an attempt by Irish republicans to overthrow British rule in Ireland. The rising was ultimately unsuccessful, but it helped to galvanize Irish nationalist sentiment.

After the Easter Rising, Collins was interned by the British authorities. He was released in 1917 and became a leading figure in the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The IRA was a guerrilla army that fought against British rule in Ireland. Collins was a brilliant military strategist and led the IRA to several successful victories against the British.

In 1919, Collins was elected to the First Dáil Éireann, the parliament of the Irish Republic. He served as Minister for Finance in the Dáil government. In 1921, Collins was one of the Irish delegates who negotiated the Anglo-Irish Treaty with the British government. The treaty established the Irish Free State, a self-governing dominion within the British Empire.

Collins supported the Anglo-Irish Treaty, but it was opposed by many Irish republicans. The treaty led to the Irish Civil War, which was fought between the pro-treaty and anti-treaty factions of the IRA. Collins was assassinated by anti-treaty IRA members in 1922.

Michael Collins was a complex and controversial figure. He was a brilliant military strategist and a dedicated Irish nationalist. However, he was also ruthless and ambitious. Collins' legacy is still debated today, but there is no doubt that he was one of the most important figures in the Irish struggle for independence.

The Squad

The Squad was a secret unit of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) that was founded by Michael Collins in 1919. The Squad's mission was to assassinate British intelligence officers and other officials who were involved in the suppression of Irish independence.

The Squad was made up of some of the most dedicated and ruthless members of the IRA. They were known for their discipline and their ability to carry out their missions with precision.

The Squad carried out a number of high-profile assassinations, including the killings of British intelligence officer Sir Henry Wilson and Auxiliary Division officer Colonel Gerald Smyth.

The Squad was disbanded in 1921 after the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed. However, many of its members went on to play leading roles in the Irish Free State.

Ireland's Fight for Freedom

Ireland's fight for freedom from British rule began in the 12th century with the Norman invasion of Ireland. The Normans established a colony in Ireland and ruled the country for over 800 years.

In the 19th century, Irish nationalism began to grow. The Irish people were inspired by the American Revolution and the French Revolution. They began to demand their own independence from British rule.

In 1916, the Easter Rising was an attempt by Irish republicans to overthrow British rule in Ireland. The rising was ultimately unsuccessful, but it helped to galvanize Irish nationalist sentiment.

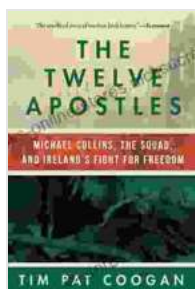
After the Easter Rising, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was founded. The IRA was a guerrilla army that fought against British rule in Ireland. The IRA fought a long and bloody war against the British, but eventually achieved its goal of Irish independence.

In 1921, the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed. The treaty established the Irish Free State, a self-governing dominion within the British Empire. The treaty was opposed by many Irish republicans, and it led to the Irish Civil War.

The Irish Civil War was fought between the pro-treaty and anti-treaty factions of the IRA. The pro-treaty forces were led by Michael Collins. The anti-treaty forces were led by Éamon de Valera.

The Irish Civil War ended in 1923 with the victory of the pro-treaty forces. The Irish Free State was established as an independent state.

Ireland's fight for freedom was a long and bloody struggle. However, the Irish people eventually achieved their goal of independence.



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