

**HIU34579 The IRA from 1923 to 2005 (Brian Hanley)**



This module examines the history and politics of the Irish Republican Army from the conclusion of the Civil War to end of the modern conflict in Northern Ireland. The IRA has always claimed a continuity in its ideas and activities. But in reality, it has often embraced distinctly different politics and mobilized different constituencies, depending on the circumstances. This module will look at the IRA's armed campaigns, but also its political initiatives; at allied organizations such as Cumann na mBan and Fianna Éireann; at the variety of rivals it has contended with and at how it has been viewed by broader Irish society. Despite sometimes being labelled a 'secret army', the IRA is one of the best documented revolutionary organizations in the world and a wide variety of this material is accessible to students. We will also examine how the IRA has featured in popular culture and explore debates about its legitimacy.