

Raita Merivirta

THE GUN AND IRISH POLITICS

EXAMINING NATIONAL HISTORY IN
NEIL JORDAN'S *MICHAEL COLLINS*



Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
CHAPTER 1	
Introduction	I
CHAPTER 2	
The Untold Story of Irish History	7
Films and History	7
Cinema and Ireland	13
Neil Jordan and the Film 'like a National Institution'	22
CHAPTER 3	
The Soldier: 'Everything's possible if you wish hard enough'	31
1916 Easter Rising: Introducing the Characters	31
War of Independence	47
The Good, the Bad and the Heroic	60
Michael Collins: A Romantic National Hero?	76
CHAPTER 4	
The Statesman: 'I signed my death warrant'	91
Collins versus de Valera	91
The Split	107
The Civil War and the Death of Collins	118
CHAPTER 5	
Back to the Future: A View of the 1990s	131
Michael Collins: The Lost Leader	131
Northern Ireland	138
Irish National Cinema and Hollywood	151

CHAPTER 6	
Conclusion	165
Bibliography	173
Index	185