

**P. S. O'Hegarty (1879-1955)**
Sinn Féin Fenian
*Keiron Curtis***Pub Date:** October 2012
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ISBN: 9780857285713**Category:** HISTORY / Europe / General
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Size: 229 x 152mm / 9 x 6**Rights Held:** World**Description**

The first comprehensive study of the significant nineteenth-century Irish political figure and ardent separatist P. S. O'Hegarty.

P. S. O'Hegarty (1879-1955): Sinn Féin Fenian provides a well-researched and engaging biography of a major figure within Irish nationalist politics. Standing at the epicentre of Ireland's revolution, this ardent separatist provided much original thinking on the central concerns of his day. Using O'Hegarty's fertile mind and prodigious literary works as a guide, this book explores the far-reaching political and cultural issues of early 20th century Ireland, such as what is meant by 'nation' and national identity, cultural and political tolerance, Republican Liberalism, and the nature (as well as the clash) of religion and the state. Of these and other important subjects still relevant today, O'Hegarty was a prolific writer and essayist, notably championing liberal and progressive ideas far ahead of his separatist contemporaries. Spanning Ireland's cultural and political revolution in the early 20th century, his career offers interesting insights into this crucial period, as well as the social and political climate of the Free State. His writings cast a keen and often iconoclastic eye on the developing Irish nation he helped create both as a noted Civil Servant and a social and literary critic.

Given that O'Hegarty is a name known to many Irish specialists, this full review of his separatist career will be a welcome addition to the growing canon of historical biographies of previously overlooked leading figures in this period. This biography also breaks new ground in revealing unknown aspects of this great figure's personality and life story. O'Hegarty counted among his inner circle political heavyweights such as Sinn Féin leader Arthur Griffith, IRB leader Michael Collins, and Bulmer Hobson, arguably the individual with whom he stood closest in political outlook. Despite sometimes quarrelling, O'Hegarty remained a source of wise counsel to all these men. Admired by both Griffith and Collins, O'Hegarty was privy to many private conversations and documents that reveal exciting new source material for the study of this crucial period relevant in shaping modern Ireland. Working within hugely influential movements such as Sinn Féin, the IRB, and the Gaelic League, P. S. O'Hegarty was often the thrusting sword from which the most stinging precise blows landed against the Irish Party and British rule in Ireland.

Readership: Irish historians, political scientists, undergraduate and graduate research students of Irish history and literature.

Contents

Acknowledgements; Preface; Introduction; The Fenian Past; The Gaelic League; The Anglo-Irish Literary Tradition; The Catholic Clergy; Sinn Féin; The Victory of Sinn Féin; The 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty; P. S. O'Hegarty and the Ulster Question; Notes; Bibliography; Index

About the Author

Keiron Curtis gained his PhD in Politics from Swansea University in 2005. Since 2004 he has worked as an Associate Lecturer at the University of Wales Cardiff, and more recently at the University of Wales Swansea and the University of Wales Institute Cardiff, teaching and supervising research students in history, politics and international relations.

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