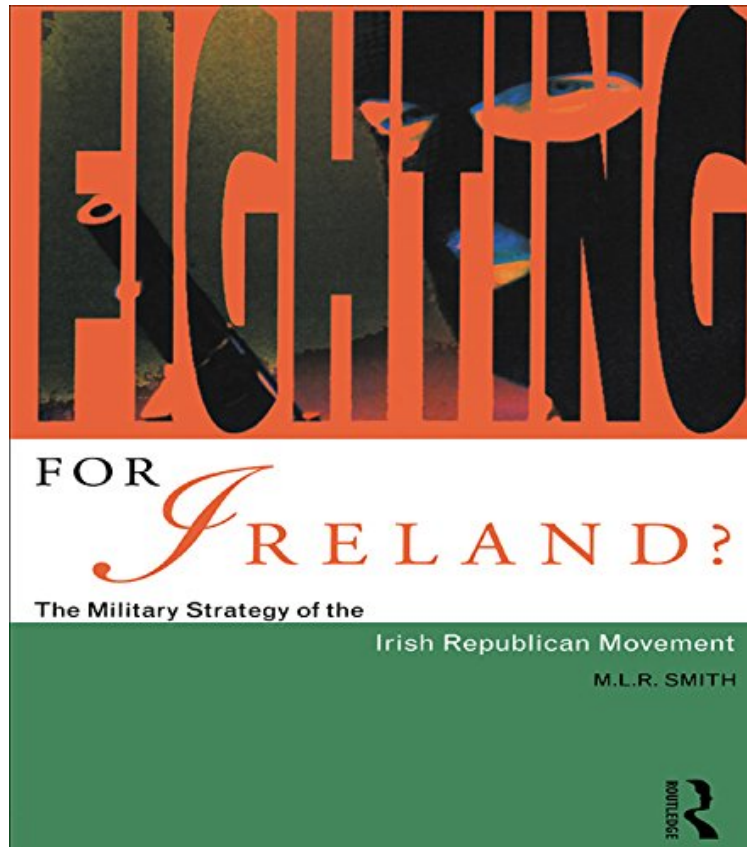


Fighting for Ireland?: The Military Strategy of the Irish Republican Movement

Von M.L.R. Smith

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Von M.L.R. Smith : Fighting for Ireland?: The Military Strategy of the Irish Republican Movement before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Fighting for Ireland?: The Military Strategy of the Irish Republican Movement:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.
Unbiased examination of IRA strategy Von Ein Kunde An interesting, dispassionate analysis of IRA strategy from 1969 onwards. Smith is not concerned with moralizing, and takes no position on the justness of the IRA's campaign. Rather, he looks at the methods and strategy of the IRA and how well they have (or haven't) advanced the IRA's interests. He doesn't seem to consider the IRA's goal of a united and free Ireland as realistic, and continually evaluates the IRA's position in the most pragmatic terms possible. This can be somewhat off-putting for someone wrapped up in the principles of Irish Republicanism, but it is thought provoking and these are probably the kind of arguments that were used to bring the IRA's campaign to an end by pragmatists within it and within its political allies in Sinn Fein. For this reason it is a valuable book for Irish Republican supporters to read. For people not very familiar with the struggle in the north of Ireland, this book is probably not the best place to start. I would suggest reading a broader and more general

history first, such as "The IRA" by Tim Pat Coogan, which is excellent for those with no previous knowledge of the subject (and even for those of us who do have some). Then come back to this book.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The fallacies of the IRA Von Ein Kunde M.L.R. Smith did an extraordinary job of portraying the military history of the IRA. He explicates the Anglo-Irish Treaty and implores the pragmatic achievements of Michael Collins. From the Civil War and henceforth, Smith examines the lapse of political ends in the IRA or the irregulars. He compares the fallacies in the bombing campaigns throughout the fifties to the philosophies on Von Clausewitz' "On War." Never were there any political motives in the campaigns led by Sean Russell. Furthermore, One cannot expect to be victorious in limited warfare in Northern Ireland where the Protestants make up two-thirds of the population. An excellent military analysis of the IRA. Recommended to all readers.

Kurzbeschreibung Fighting for Ireland? is the first in-depth account of the evolution of Irish Republican strategy. It is highly topical in the light of the faltering peace process and the growing speculation over the IRA's next move: further violence or a new non-violent strategy? This new, updated paperback edition is essential reading for those who wish to disentangle the complex issues and motives behind IRA violence. M.L.R. Smith challenges many assumptions about the IRA, pinpointing the organisation's successes as well as its missed opportunities. He demonstrates the tension the movement has experienced between ideology and strategic reality regarding the use of force, illustrating how doctrinal purity has sometimes hampered the IRA in the pursuit of its goals. Contrary to the Irish Republican movement's vigorous and assertive public face Smith uncovers an organisation characterised more by a sense of chronic insecurity than by certainty and continuity. Pressestimmen "So much has been written about the Northern Ireland conflict that it is difficult to imagine anything new to say ... This book has sufficient novelty and quality to be a breath of fresh air." - "Times Higher Education Supplement" "[Smith] has read copiously, and with great insight, the publications, statements and speeches of Republicans. He shows that the IRA is not the self-confident, single-minded organization that it and its analysts suppose it to be, but one that is chronically insecure, and wracked by contradictory notions of what it stands for, and of how to achieve its ends." - "The Economist" "Extensively researched, intellectually reasoned and plausibly articulated, Smith's work...brings to the study of republicanism a powerful analytical framework.... Other books, and there are many, acquire the status of "also rans" when placed alongside works of this calibre." - "Irish Political Studies" "It is...a pleasure to find a book which examines the fundamental issue of the methods, aims and objectives of the Irish Republican movement, and does so from an unusual and thought provoking perspective." - "Defense Analysis" Kurzbeschreibung Fighting for Ireland? is the first in-depth account of the evolution of Irish Republican strategy. It is highly topical in the light of the faltering peace process and the growing speculation over the IRA's next move: further violence or a new non-violent strategy? This new, updated paperback edition is essential reading for those who wish to disentangle the complex issues and motives behind IRA violence. M.L.R. Smith challenges many assumptions about the IRA, pinpointing the organisation's successes as well as its missed opportunities. He demonstrates the tension the movement has experienced between ideology and strategic reality regarding the use of force, illustrating how doctrinal purity has sometimes hampered the IRA in the pursuit of its goals. Contrary to the Irish Republican movement's vigorous and assertive public face Smith uncovers an organisation characterised more by a sense of chronic insecurity than by certainty and continuity.