

## SOCIAL SCIENCES PROPOSAL SAMPLE

### **Abstract**

After multiple failed attempts for independence, such as the Easter Uprising of 1916, Ireland declared independence in 1919. This declaration resulted in the Black and Tan War, which saw an escalation of violence by both sides. With the signing of the Anglo-Irish treaty in 1921 came a civil war between the Pro-Treaty forces and Irish Republican Army (IRA) Partition in 1922 did not solve the conflict in Ireland, but made it more polarized and sectarian. In seeking to understand the struggle to transform Irish nationalism into a coherent vision for a state, Eamon de Valera is of particular importance.

Using documents from the end of the trade war in 1938 to 1945, I will seek to explore de Valera's influence in forming the Irish state. Narrowing in on World War II provides the opportunity to examine the experiences of both political elites and the citizenry within Ireland and Northern Ireland. While Ireland declared a state of emergency during World War II, Northern Ireland fought for the Allied side. I will research the resulting tension between political elites and popular opinion throughout de Valera's leadership in World War II.

### **Research Plan**

I will spend three weeks during my break in between terms at University of Oxford working through secondary sources. During this time, I will gain insight on the best potential archives to access documents on both de Valera, as well as newspapers from the period.

The archives at University College Dublin possess an extensive array of documents on de Valera, in addition to those of Kathleen O'Connell, his personal secretary.