

Celtic Leadership and the Foundation of Irish Resistance

By Daniel DeFrisco

This paper looks towards the root of rebellious fervor surrounding modern Gaelic cultures, primarily Ireland but to a lesser extent Scotland and Wales. To anyone who knows anything of Irish history, they could remember the frequency of the resistance and rebellions against any force stationed against them, starting with the Vikings, followed by the Normans, and then the English. For over a millennia, the Irish were under assault from other various groups, and for a majority of that time they were occupied by an outside force. Despite all that time, they never really assimilated into the ruling culture. Certainly some cultural cornerstones tapered off, the druids were replaced by priests, but they held onto a fierce sense of individuality. I believe that the root of this can be seen by the numerous Celtic leadership we know about leading to the medieval era. The progression slowly changing the culture to one where resistance is valued even if it is unsuccessful. I hope to prove using Irish folklore and the history of Celtic Leadership to show that the culture of resistance in Ireland is unique and an interesting topic to study.