

## **corrado on IRA**

ideologically, terrorists from the fascist right to the radical left operate across europe

terrorists both nationalist/ethnic and ideological

def of political terrorism:

explicitly political tactic

employed by self-appted individuals

who belong to clandestine groups

who want to destabilize a political regime

by provoking the govt to retaliate

thereby encouraging a repressive response

and sowing dissension in the ranks

of those in power

mode: to generate fear and confusion among noncomatants

undermine confidence in govts political and miliatry forces

what are favorable conditions for tm?

sympathy or at least tolerance

highly visible social group that sees itself as oppressed in political  
and/or economic terms

need concrete symbol of repression--

historical acts that involve govt violence

against a group

they need historical precedents, need to show continuity with past, need to show need for drastic  
and violent action

question      what is sinn fein?

## **Doris Lessing, The Good Terrorist**

1919–, British novelist, b. Kermanshah, Persia (now Iran).

She was brought up on a farm in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and in 1949 went to England, where her first novel, *The Grass Is Singing* (1950), was published.

one of the major writers of the mid-20th cent. and an influential figure among feminists,

Lessing writes on a wide variety of themes:

Rhodesia, women, communism, and animals.

Distinguished for its energy and intelligence, her work is principally concerned with the lives of women—

--their psychology, politics, work,  
--relationship to men and to their children,  
--and their change of vision as they age.

In her later books she has mainly focused on efforts by individuals to resist society's pressures toward marginalization and acculturation.

Throughout Lessing's work run currents of realism and fantasy, each of which dominate in some novels and mingle in others.

Her fiction includes a series of five novels collectively entitled *The Children of Violence*, which concern a semiautobiographical character named Martha Quest (1952-69).

One of her most influential works, *The Golden Notebook* (1962), a study of the struggles of a woman writer, is considered a classic of feminist fiction.

*The Good Terrorist* (1985)

*The Sweetest Dream* (2001), a semiautobiographical tale of the 1960s.

To dramatize the plight of unknown novelists, Lessing wrote two novels, *The Diary of a Good Neighbour* (1983) and *If the Old Could* (1984), under the pseudonym of Jane Somers; they were ignored by critics until Lessing revealed their true authorship.

The Council, to discourage squatters,  
have sent in workmen to make the place uninhabitable, but  
that will hardly stop Alice.

She is a veteran of some fourteen years experience in squats and communes and here is a house which, judging by the smell coming from upstairs, can use her talents.

Jasper is grudgingly proud of the way she knows how to confront officials, to wheedle the connection of water and electricity, to eliminate squalor

-- though predictably some of their new comrades make snide remarks about Alice's bourgeois domesticity, saying she cares more for curtains than issues.

No one, however refused the delicious soup she concocts so economically and can expand to unthinkable quantities when a party congress is called.

According to an established pattern Jasper lets Alice look after him (though he never allows any physical closeness)

...and then complains that other people exploit her.

The fact that they have been living off Alice's mother

for the past four years is ignored, a matter of expediency for which they are far from grateful.

When Alice sees no alternative to stealing money from her father, Jasper is enraged to discover that she holds any back for emergencies.

Still, Alice cannot imagine life without Jasper and she sees herself as a committed revolutionary.

When she isn't so busy nesting, she liked to be on the battlefield: picketing, being bound over and, best of all, spray-painting slogans.

She is aware that the latest aim of the C.C.U. (Communist Centre Union) is to help the I.R.A., but is increasingly concerned about activities in the squat next door - what is buried in their garden and why there is a whiff of slick K.G.B. professionalism amidst their bungling English zeal.

She is barely conscious of her deeper alarm about the plans hatching under her won roof: the dabbling with explosives, the ill-formed objectives, the disregard of consequences.

Doris Lessing has superbly portrayed the tensions and ironies of a certain kind of militant left-wing living today, drawing her characters with eloquent subtlety.

She is attuned to the accents of the commune - posh tones slipping out when least appropriate.

(Alice suspects that at least one accent was modelled on Coronation Street.)

tensions in the novel:

1. Individual idealism is nicely balanced against the behaviour of the group;
2. English communism against manipulation from outside;
3. the impulse to revolution against the dangers of amateurism.

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