



**AOH Sean MacBride Division 2
Montgomery County Pa.**

The Life and Times of Seán MacBride

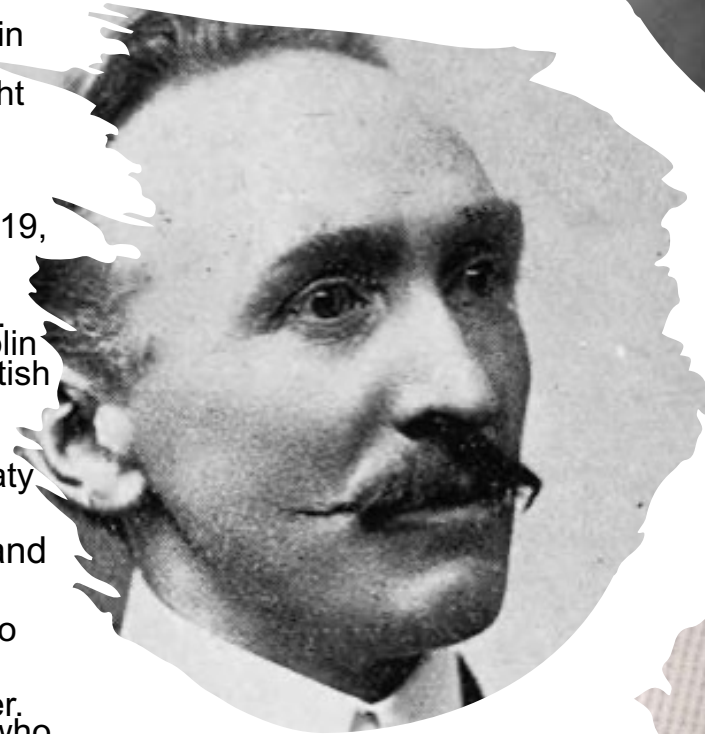
Born: 26 January 1904, Paris, France
Died: 15 January 1988, Dublin, Ireland

Author: Charles A Wilson, AOH DIV II Historian

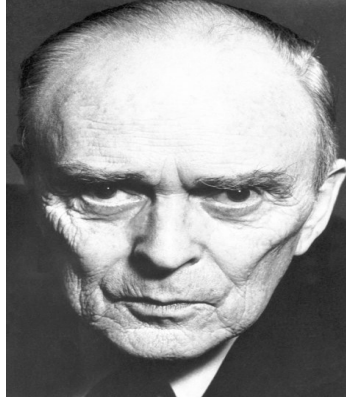
Seán MacBride

EARLY YEARS

- MacBride's mother was Maud Gonne, the daughter of an English colonel stationed in Dublin, she became devoted to the cause of Ireland and its poor after seeing evictions in Donegal in the 1880s. Also known as the Joan of Arc of Ireland. She was also an inspiration for some of W.B. Yeats most beautiful poems
- His father was a Fenian, Major John MacBride, executed in 1916 for his part in the Easter uprising. He was also a County Mayo man who formed the Irish Brigade that fought against the British in the Boer War in South Africa
- In 1918 the young MacBride joined the Fianna, which had been founded by his mother's close friend and prison companion, Constance Markievicz. At the beginning of 1919, without his mother's knowledge he falsified his age and joined the IRA. He had also enrolled as a student at UCD, which helped to conceal his IRA activities from his mother. He was a member of B company of the 3rd Battalion, Dublin Brigade He took part in the concluding battles with the British before the Irish Republic was founded in 1921, and in the civil war that followed
- Accompanied Michael Collins to London for the 1921 Treaty negotiations when he was 17
- British sent him to prison three times - in 1918, 1922 and 1930.
- MacBride backed Eamon de Valera in the latter's refusal to accept Northern Ireland's continuing union with England.
- MacBride broke with the IRA in 1937 and became a lawyer. He proceeded to defend IRA prisoners in Irish prisons who had been condemned to death.



Seán MacBride



- Sean MacBride was the last veteran of the War of Independence and the Civil War to still play a major part in Irish and international politics
- **Founder of the Political Party Clann na Poblachta;** "Family/Children of the Republic") – 1946 to 1965
 - Ideology. Irish republicanism / social democracy
 - Political Position. Center / left
- His new political party put Eamon de Valera out of office after 16 years
- **The Clann na Poblachta** party appealed to disillusioned young urban voters and republicans. Many had become alienated from Éamon de Valera's Fianna Fáil, the main republican party in Ireland, which in the view of more militant republicans had betrayed their principles by executing IRA prisoners in the unrest in Ireland during WWII
- Clann na Poblachta also drew support from people who were tired of the old Civil War politics and wanted more concern for social issues. In post-war Europe many people blamed the social evils of unemployment, poor housing, poverty and disease for the rise of fascism and communism. This new mood influenced people in Ireland also. Some people saw Clann na Poblachta as a replacement for Fianna Fáil. Others saw in it a replacement for the marginalized Sinn Féin, others still a break from the traditional pro- and anti-treaty Civil War division. The new party grew rapidly during 1947.
- The party was influenced by social democratic policies such as United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, British prime minister Clement Attlee's welfare state, and elements of European Christian Democracy as well as Irish republicanism.

Seán MacBride

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- After World War II he was for a few years Minister for External Affairs for Ireland. He played a leading part in the establishment of the Council of Europe, and in the preparation of the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950
- Role: President of the International Peace Bureau, Geneva, Switzerland; President of the Commission of Namibia, United Nations, New York, USA
- One of the founders of Amnesty International
- The Nobel Peace Prize 1974
- Prize motivation: “for his efforts to secure and develop human rights throughout the world”
- Honors:
 - American Medal of Justice (1975)
 - Lenin Peace Prize (1977)
 - UNESCO Silver Medal (1980)
 - Many honorary degrees from universities.
- <https://youtu.be/ILB04WTwPDc?si=NWE5Eyx67wZbydw5>



TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



- **Uachtaran ma hEireann**

- This is the president of Ireland. This person is the head of state in Ireland and the supreme commander of the Irish Defense Forces.
- The president holds office for seven years, for a maximum of two terms. The president is elected directly by the people, although there is no poll if only one candidate is nominated, which has occurred on six occasions to date. The presidency is largely a ceremonial office, but the president does exercise certain limited powers with absolute discretion. The president acts as a representative of the Irish state and guardian of the constitution.

- **Taoiseach**

- The Irish word [taoiseach](#) means "chief" or "leader", and, was adopted in the 1937 Constitution of Ireland as the title of the "head of the Government or Prime Minister". It is the official title of the head of government in both English and Irish

- **Tánaiste**

- The deputy head of the government of Ireland and thus holder of its second-most senior office. The Tánaiste is appointed by the President of Ireland on the advice of the [Taoiseach](#).
- **Tanistry** is a [Gaelic](#) system for [passing on titles and lands](#). In this system the **Tanist** (Irish: [Tánaiste](#); [Scottish Gaelic](#): is the office of heir-apparent, or second-in-command, among the (royal) Gaelic [patrilineal](#) dynasties of [Ireland](#), [Scotland](#) and [Mann](#), to succeed to the [chieftainship](#) or to the [kingship](#).
- The word is preserved in the Republic of Ireland's government, where the prime minister is the [Taoiseach](#) while the deputy prime minister is the [Tánaiste](#).

- **Department of the Taoiseach**

- In supporting the work of the Taoiseach and government, the Department of the Taoiseach works with other departments to implement policy primarily through the cabinet committee structure
- Also supports the government's policy priorities, the department is responsible for liaising with the President and the [Houses of the Oireachtas](#)
- The following are the Department of the Taoiseach main divisions:
 - [European Union Division](#)
 - [International Division](#)
 - [Britain and Northern Ireland Division](#)
 - [Economic Division](#)
 - [Social Policy and Public Service Reform Division](#)
 - [Government Secretariat](#)
 - [Protocol and General Division](#)
 - [The Parliamentary Liaison Unit](#)
 - [Information and Records Management Unit](#)

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS



OIREACHTAS or Parliament. Equivalent to the U.S. Congress. The Oireachtas is the only body that has the power to make laws for Ireland

