

# The National Question

*Nationalism and Socialism*  
*National sovereignty and defence*  
*of the Nation State*

**C Desmond Greaves**

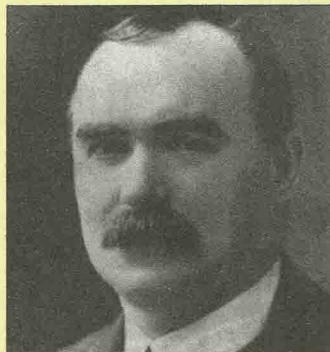


Commemorating  
the centenary of  
the birth of  
C Desmond Greaves

*and*

75th Anniversary of

**Connolly  
Association**



Introduction by  
RMT General Secretary  
Bob Crow

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## The National Question

Desmond Greaves and the *Irish Democrat* were amongst the first to oppose the then Common Market and warn that the European Union would enable the transnational corporations to dominate globally. He strongly advocated that the most important political task for all democrats and the labour movement is to defend the nation-state as the only mechanism which has evolved to impose controls on private capital. He points out the EU is six broken empires joined together in a temporary alliance.

Today there are signs that the pieces of these empires are being patched back together in another effort to exploit the undeveloped world. He also stated that the EU would revitalise capitalism.

Greaves pioneered the idea of a civil rights movement to bring together equality between Unionists and Nationalists to end the partition of Ireland. He advocated that the best ally in this political quest was the labour and trade union movement in Britain which could be influenced by the Irish community.

In the introduction RMT General Secretary Bob Crow says: "[RMT] is a democratic organisation and is formed of a community of transport workers. The union is organised on a national basis because, as Greaves outlines, democracy is based on community and the nation is the highest level of community at which it can operate effectively.

"EU diktats privatising our national infrastructure, destroying British manufacturing and attacking workers rights originate in the think-tanks of monopoly corporations and are implemented through the EU institutions which are the antithesis of democracy and accountability".

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