outbreaks rather than one strong national movement, the whole insurrection was in truth a patchwork of disconnected actions.’ (Pelling, 2003, p10). These ‘disconnected actions’ made it easy for the British militia to quickly smother any sign of uprising. Mistakes were also made in organising attacks, allowing the British army time to gather troops and ensure no serious threat could establish itself. According to Kee they had an ‘essential lack of strategy in their movements’. (Kee, 1980, p65). With the thorough lack of proper planning came swift and harsh action from government troops which promptly ended the vast majority of these small insurrections, creating a meek outlook for the hopes of the Rebellion. Absence of cohesion in the movement meant that individual opinions and ideas began to take hold, soon the United Irishmen were torn between those who wanted a political revolution and a social revolution. Petler explains that, ‘the movement had been preoccupied by its internal differences.’ (Petler, 1985, p493). Class divisions fuelled by sectarian tensions meant that many of the Defenders hoped the rebellion may allow for the opportunity to regain land or property, this was not a hope shared by the United Irishmen who were of Protestant ascendancy class, causing further factions to appear within the society. ‘Some in the Defender movement saw the war as a part of what might become a more social revolution, perhaps even leading to a more equal share of wealth. (Pelling, 2003, p9-10).

The severe lack of organisation also effected the security at meetings, which meant informers were granted access to confidential information about potential outbreaks. These informers would then relay information to the government forces which granted the troops ample time to put down rebel attacks. Bartlett comments that, ‘every important proceeding of the United Irishmen was known to the government’. (Bartlett, 1998, p23). One such informer was Thomas Reynolds. Reynolds, ‘gave the information that led to the arrest of the Leinster Directory.’ (Richey, 1839, p294). Interestingly, a vast majority of informers were born from the Society of United Irishmen itself, these informers had not started out as such but with growing concerns forming in the British Government came an increase in methods of terror used to extract information. The Government set upon flogging and hanging anyone who they suspected to be insurgent or involved with the rebels in any way. ‘Although some stood the torture to the last gasp sooner than become informers, others did not.’ (Kee, 1980, p63). Subsequently, this would have no doubt resulted in