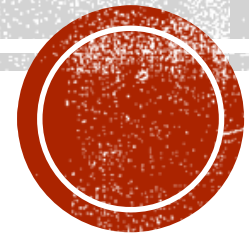


# **HISTORY OF CONFLICT**

## **THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

---



# NORTHERN IRELAND

- Capital: Belfast
- Languages: English, Irish Gaelic, Ulster-Scots
- Main religion: Christian (Protestant and Catholic)
- Patron Saint: Saint Patrick
- Government: part of the UK, with its own Assembly. Parliament Buildings, often referred to as **Stormont** because of its location near Belfast, is the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly, the devolved legislature for the region.



# BACKGROUND DATA

The current population of Northern Ireland is 1.5 million. 55% of the population is Protestant, 45% Catholic.

In the past, the two groups placed their emphasis on different elements of the problem.



# PROTESTANTS BELIEVED

- Have a constitutional right to the land
- Preserving the Union with Britain
- Resisting the perceived threat of a United Ireland



# CATHOLICS BELIEVED

- Northern Ireland remains a National struggle
- Self determination
- A struggle against unfair practices by the Unionist government between 1920-1970



# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The proximity of Britain and Ireland has led to a long history of interaction and linkage.





# CREATION OF IRISH FREE STATE / NORTHERN IRELAND



- In 1921, the island of Ireland was partitioned by the British government. The 26 southern counties gaining independence from Britain, while the 6 northeastern counties remained part of the United Kingdom



# NORTHERN IRELAND

- At the time, the 6 northeastern counties had a Protestant majority (65/35)
- Ethnic bias in the distribution of housing and welfare services lead to more turmoil between the two sides





# BEGINNINGS OF “THE TROUBLES”

---

- Started in the 1960's -Civil Rights Campaign

Catholics-inspired by the worldwide civil rights movement

Protestants – saw this as a threat to Northern Ireland's existence – responded violently to demonstrations



# “THE TROUBLES”

- 1969 – London deployed the British Army to restore order.
- To most Catholics, they were seen as protectors of the Northern Ireland state and repressive majority population.
- The cemetery of Milltown in Belfast has become synonymous with republicanism. IRA volunteer Bobby Sands, who died on hunger strike on 5 May 1981, is buried in the cemetery. Fellow hunger-strikers, are also buried there.



# MORE ABOUT THE TROUBLES

- Terrorist attacks involved violence and bombings.
- More than **3,500** people died and many suspected terrorists went to prison for years without a trial.
- The conflict officially ended in 2005 with the decommissioning of the IRA



# CREATION OF PARAMILITARY GROUPS



- The creation of the Provisional Irish Republic Army (PIRA –later shortened to IRA) was organized in response to British engagement into the civil rights movement.
- The IRA gained members during the 1970's and became more violent in their tactics.



# CREATION OF PARAMILITARY GROUPS



- Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF)
  - Loyalist Paramilitary Group.
  - Formed primarily in response to IRA, also used violence to help its cause.



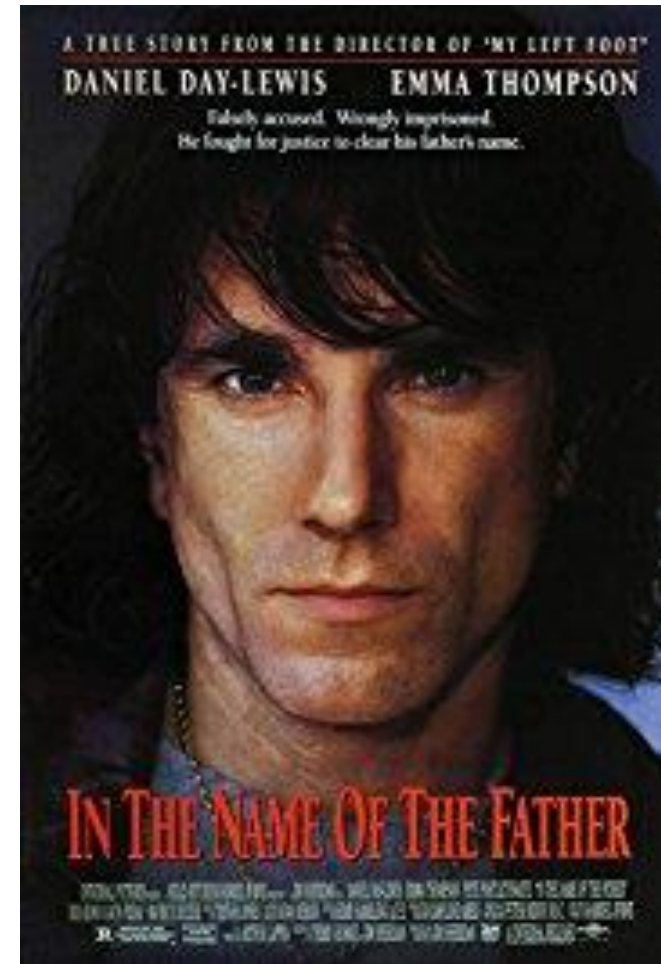






# FILMS ABOUT THE TROUBLES

- In the Name of the Father
- Bloody Sunday
- Omagh
- Five Minutes of Heaven





# BLOODY SUNDAY

- It deals with the events of 30th January 1972 in Derry. It focuses on a central group of characters who were involved in a civil right march on that day. The main action of the film is the disintegration of a peaceful protest into a violent conflict and the death of thirteen Catholic civilians.



# SUNDAY BLOODY SUNDAY BY U2

- I can't believe the news today  
Oh, I can't close my eyes  
And make it go away  
How long?  
How long must we sing this song?  
How long, how long?  
'Cause tonight, we can be as one Tonight
- Broken bottles under children's feet  
Bodies strewn across the dead end street  
But I won't heed the battle call  
It puts my back up  
Puts my back up against the wall
- Sunday, Bloody Sunday Sunday, Bloody Sunday  
Sunday, Bloody Sunday, Sunday, Bloody Sunday (alright)
- And the battle's just begun  
There's many lost, but tell me who has won  
The trench is dug within our hearts  
And mothers, children, brothers, sisters torn apart



# U2 THEMSELVES SAID:

- "We're into the politics of people, we're not into politics. Like you talk about Northern Ireland, 'Sunday Bloody Sunday,' people sort of think, 'Oh, that time when 13 Catholics were shot by British soldiers'; that's not what the song is about. **That's an incident, the most famous incident in Northern Ireland and it's the strongest way of saying**
- 'How long? How long do we have to put up with this?' I don't care who's who – Catholics, Protestants, whatever. You know people are dying every single day through bitterness and hate, and we're saying why? What's the point?
- They long for a unified Ireland but they don't share the violent way in which IRA was acting.



# FORMATION OF THE PEACE PROCESS

- As the two sides fought against each other for most of the 1970's and early 1980's, it became evident that progress was never going to be made using force. Instead, the IRA and UVF began aligning with political parties in Northern Ireland as a way to fight for their goals.



# 1979: JOHN PAUL II WENT TO IRELAND

- You carry in your hearts the treasures which Irish history and culture have given you, but you also share in the problems that Ireland faces.
- Permit me, to recall a phrase of the Gospel, a phrase that we must remember even when its consequences are particularly difficult for us to accept: **"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you". I have before my mind the painful events that for over ten years have been taking place in Northern Ireland. I am sure that all young people are living these events very deeply and very painfully, for they are tracing deep furrows in your young hearts.** These events, painful as they are, must also be an incitement to reflection. They demand that you form an interior judgment of conscience to determine where you, as young Catholics, stand on the matter.
- "Love your enemies": These words of Jesus take away hate. I beg you to reflect deeply : what would human life be if Jesus had never spoken such words? What would the world be if in our mutual relations we were to give primacy to hatred among people, between classes, between nations? What would the future of humanity be if we were to base on this hatred the future of individuals and of nations?
- Sometimes, one could have the feeling that, before the experiences of history and before concrete situations, love has lost its power and that it is impossible to practise it. And yet, **in the long run, love always brings victory**, love is never defeated. And, I could add, the history of Ireland proves that, if it were not so, humanity would only be condemned to destruction.



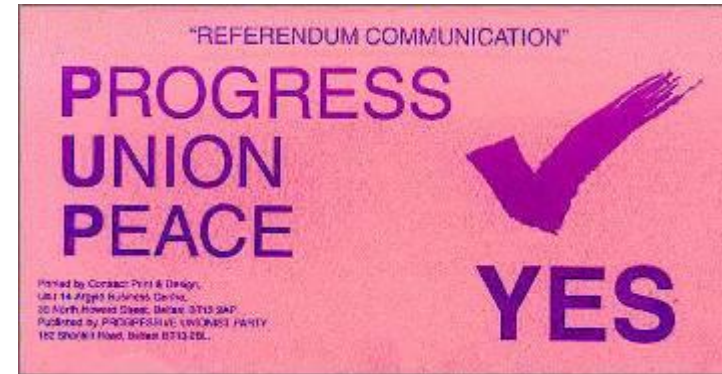
# SINN FEIN- REPUBLIC IRELAND

Sinn Fein – The  
political wing of  
Republicanism and  
the IRA.  
Leader-Gerry Adams



# PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST PARTY AND DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY

Progressive  
Unionist-  
Was involved in  
discussions  
leading to  
negotiations  
between  
the parties.



Democratic Unionist- Continues  
to remain loyal to Britain





# CONTINUING TOWARDS PEACE- “FRAMEWORKS FOR THE FUTURE”

- Starting in the early 1990's, steps were being taken by both sides to show their willingness to live in peace.
  - The ceasefire of 1994 by the IRA was seen as a positive sign that would eventually bring both sides to diplomatic relations for the first time in several decades.

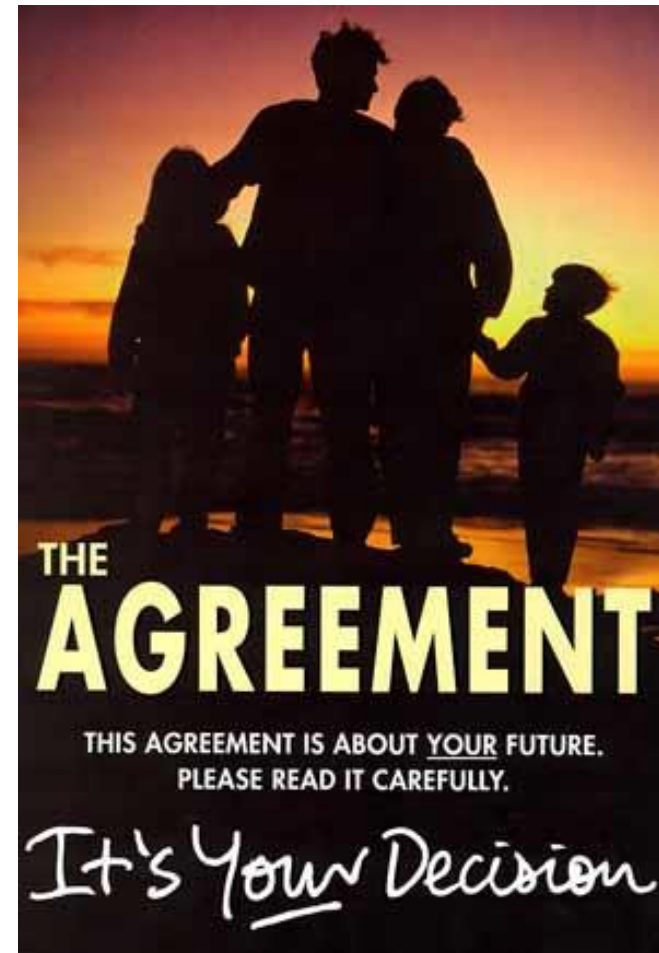


# GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

## APRIL 1998 (2018: 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY)

The agreement reached 5 main points:

1. Future constitutional status was in the hands of its citizens
2. If the people wanted to unite, they could by voting
3. Current constitutional position remains within the UK
4. Citizens could be Irish, British, and both
5. Republic of Ireland would drop territorial claim



# ***AT POLL SALACH BY MICHAEL LONGLEY***

Easter Sunday, 1998

*While I was looking for Easter snow on the hills*

*You showed me, like a concentration of violets*

*Or a fragment from **some future unimagined sky***

*A single **spring gentian** shivering at our feet.*



# DERRY (A.K.A LONDONDERRY)



# DERRY-LONDONDERRY

- The city of Derry, or Londonderry, is the second largest in Northern Ireland behind the capital, Belfast.
- Said to have been founded in the 6th century by Saint Colmcille (or St Columba), Derry was renamed Londonderry in 1613 upon the award of its Royal Charter by King James I.
- Through the siege of the walled city in 1689 to its key strategic role in World War II, Derry has been influential in the shaping of the world around it. In 2013, it holds the honour of being the UK's first City of Culture.
- The name Derry is an anglicisation of the Irish name Daire or Doire meaning "oak grove"
- The old walled city lies on the west bank of the River Foyle, which is spanned by two road bridges and one footbridge. The city now covers both banks (Cityside on the west and Waterside on the east). The city district also extends to rural areas to the southeast. The population of the city proper (the area defined by its 17th-century charter) was 83,652 in the 2012 Census, while the Derry Urban Area had a population of 105,066.





# DERRY

- Derry is close to the border with County Donegal, with which it has had a close link for many centuries. The person traditionally seen as the 'founder' of the original Derry is Saint Colmcille, (Columba) a holy man from Tír Chonaill, the old name for almost all of modern County Donegal (of which the west bank of the Foyle was a part before c. 1600). Derry and the nearby town of Letterkenny form the major economic core of north west Ireland.



# SEAMUS HEANEY (1939-2013)

- He was born in Northern Ireland and attended Queen's University in Belfast
- Heaney's major poetic collection was *North* (1975), which digs into Northern Ireland's ancient history to explore roots of political unrest in the country.
- In addition to his poetry, he wrote also several books of essays. He was awarded the **Nobel Prize** in Literature in 1995.
- Heaney's poems are a fusion of **myth**, personal **reminiscence** and contemporary Irish history. Heaney's poems often use the metaphor of **digging**, the poet's work is seen as a form of archeology, excavating linguistic, cultural and historical treasures which lie under the surface of life. He is also digging into his own inner memory, which is linked to his **rural childhood** and Catholic upbringing.





# ACT OF UNION BY SEAMUS HEANEY

- ....No treaty

I foresee will salve completely your tracked

And stretch-marked body, the big pain

That leaves you raw, like opened ground, again

- Nessun trattato
- Intravvedo che possa del tutto sanare  
il tuo corpo/
- Tracciato di solchi e smagliature, il  
grande dolore/
- Che ti lascia ferita, come terra aperta,  
terreno aperto, ancora/



# FUTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND?

- With continued peaceful agreements, the hopes of those in Northern Ireland is to move forward and begin a new chapter in what was been a struggle to co-exist for the past several decades and begin the healing process.
- They didn't vote for Brexit

