



The Troubles

2.5 IDENTIFY the causes, course and consequences of the Northern Ireland Troubles and their impact on North-South and Anglo-Irish relations

Term	Definition
Article 2 and 3	The parts of the Irish Constitution of 1937 that claimed control over the entire island of Ireland.
B-Specials	A part-time Protestant police force, operating between 1920 to 1969, set up to defend against IRA violence.
Civil Rights	The rights of people to fundamental freedoms, irrespective of race, sex or religion.
Democratic Unionist Party	Founded in 1971 by Rev. Ian Paisley, the DUP opposes any weakening of the union between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.
Economic Change	A change in the structure of the economy or in the way an economy works.
Emigration	Movement of people from their birth country to settle in another country.
Gerrymandering	Redrawing electoral boundaries to control the outcome of elections.
Hunger Strike	The refusal of all food until demands are met.
Internment	The arrest and imprisonment of suspects without trial.
Irish Republican Army	A republican paramilitary group. In 1969, it split into the Official IRA and Provisional IRA. The Provisional IRA conducted a campaign of violence during the Troubles.
Loyalists	A supporter of the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Modernising	Changing to modern ideas and ways.
Political status	To be treated as political prisoners rather than as ordinary criminals.
Power-sharing government	Nationalists and Unionists governing Northern Ireland together.
Royal Ulster Constabulary	The RUC was the police force in Northern Ireland from 1921 to 2001, when it was replaced by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
Sectarian	Describes a society divided by religion, where each group displays prejudice against the other.
Sinn Féin	A nationalist political party that acted as the political wing of the IRA during the Troubles. Its leader from 1983 to 2018 was Gerry Adams.
Social and Democratic Labour Party	A nationalist political party that sought to achieve a united Ireland by peaceful means. Its leader from 1979 to 2001 was John Hume.
Social change	Change in society, in the way people behave or in culture.
Stormont	The parliament or assembly of Northern Ireland.
Terrorism	The use of fear and acts of violence to try to change society or government policy for a political or ideological purpose.
The Troubles	A period of violence and unrest in Northern Ireland beginning in 1968 and continuing until the mid-1990s.
Ulster Defence Association	A loyalist paramilitary group, the UDA conducted a campaign of violence during the Troubles.
Ulster Unionism Party	The political party in control of Northern Ireland from 1921 to 1972. When the Northern Ireland Assembly was set up in 1998, UUP leader David Trimble became first minister.
Ulster Volunteer Force	A loyalist paramilitary group established in 1969, the UVF conducted a campaign of violence during the Troubles.
Unemployment	Being without a job, or the number of people without jobs.

Causes	Course and Consequences
<p>Partition of Ireland: The partition of Ireland in 1921, which created a separate Northern Ireland state with a Protestant majority, led to tensions and discrimination against the Catholic minority.</p> <p>Civil Rights Movement: The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s highlighted inequalities in Northern Ireland and demanded equal rights for Catholics in areas such as housing, employment, and voting.</p> <p>Discrimination and sectarianism: Discrimination against Catholics in areas such as housing and employment, as well as sectarianism and tensions between the Protestant and Catholic communities, contributed to the escalation of violence.</p> <p>Political and institutional failure: The failure of political and institutional structures in Northern Ireland to address these issues and provide a fair and just society for all led to frustration and anger among the Catholic community.</p> <p>Paramilitary groups: The emergence of paramilitary groups such as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) who used violence to pursue their political goals, exacerbated the conflict and led to a prolonged period of violence and bloodshed.</p>	<p>The Battle of the Bogside: The Battle of the Bogside was a violent confrontation between Catholic residents and the police in the Bogside area of Derry in August 1969. The event marked a turning point in the conflict, as it led to the deployment of British troops in Northern Ireland for the first time. The confrontation was sparked by tension between the Catholic minority and the Unionist-dominated government, and it quickly escalated into widespread violence that lasted for three days. The violence resulted in the deaths of several people and led to the formation of armed paramilitary groups on both sides of the conflict.</p> <p>Bloody Sunday: Bloody Sunday was a tragic event that took place on January 30, 1972, when British soldiers opened fire on unarmed civil rights protesters in Derry, killing 13 people and injuring many others. The event sparked widespread outrage and led to a significant increase in support for the Irish Republican Army (IRA). It also damaged the reputation of the British government and military, as it became clear that the soldiers had used excessive force and that there had been a cover-up of the events. The event contributed to an escalation in the conflict and led to further violence and unrest.</p> <p>Hunger Strikes: The Hunger Strikes of 1981 were a pivotal moment in the conflict, as Republican prisoners in Northern Ireland's Maze prison went on a hunger strike to demand political status. The strike lasted for 10 weeks and resulted in the deaths of 10 prisoners. The strikes drew international attention to the conflict and led to significant support for the Republican cause. The deaths of the hunger strikers resulted in widespread protests and further violence, and the event helped to fuel tensions between the Republican and Unionist communities.</p> <p>Sunningdale Agreement: The Sunningdale Agreement was a failed attempt to establish a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland in December 1973. The agreement was a significant moment in the conflict, as it represented an attempt to find a political solution to the conflict. However, the agreement was opposed by loyalist paramilitary groups, who saw it as a threat to their dominance in Northern Ireland. The opposition led to a general strike and the collapse of the agreement in May 1974. The failure of the agreement highlighted the deep divisions between the Unionist and Nationalist communities and demonstrated the difficulty of finding a political solution to the conflict.</p> <p>The Anglo-Irish Agreement 1985: The Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 represented a significant moment in the conflict, as it recognized the need for power-sharing between Unionists and Nationalists in Northern Ireland and gave the Irish government a formal consultative role in Northern Ireland's affairs for the first time. The agreement was opposed by many Unionists, who saw it as a threat to their position in Northern Ireland. The opposition led to further violence and unrest, but the agreement helped to pave the way for future peace negotiations. The agreement demonstrated that the conflict in Northern Ireland was not just an internal matter, but was also a concern for the British and Irish governments, who recognized the need for a political solution to the conflict.</p>

Impact on Northern Ireland and the Republic

The IRA ceasefire of August 31, 1994, was a significant moment in the conflict, as it paved the way for peace negotiations and a resolution to the conflict. The ceasefire came after years of violence and unrest, and it was a welcome relief for many people in Northern Ireland. The ceasefire was followed by a period of intense negotiations, ultimately leading to the Good Friday Agreement.

The Loyalist ceasefire of October 13, 1994, was another significant moment in the conflict, as it further helped to reduce violence and bring an end to the conflict. The ceasefire was declared by the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), the Ulster Defense Association (UDA), and other loyalist paramilitary groups. The ceasefire was an important step towards the Good Friday Agreement.

The Good Friday Agreement was a landmark peace agreement signed on April 10, 1998, between the British and Irish governments and the political parties of Northern Ireland. The agreement established a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland and provided a framework for resolving the conflict through peaceful means.

The Omagh Bombings were a tragic event that took place on August 15, 1998, when a car bomb exploded in the town of Omagh, County Tyrone, killing 29 people and injuring many others. The bombing was carried out by a dissident faction of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), and it led to widespread condemnation of violence and increased pressure on paramilitary groups to declare ceasefires.

The establishment of a power-sharing government in Northern Ireland following the Good Friday Agreement was a significant moment in the conflict. The government, known as the Northern Ireland Executive, is made up of representatives from both Unionist and Nationalist communities, and it has responsibility for many of the devolved powers of the Northern Ireland Assembly. The establishment of the government helped to promote greater cooperation and collaboration between the two communities.

