

The Troubles

Headings	Notes
<p>THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND</p> <p>THE NEW STATE OF NORTHERN IRELAND</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Unionists wanted to remain in the United Kingdom, as part the Government of Ireland Act 1920. This separation of the north and south of Ireland into two different states was called partition with the six counties of Armagh, Antrim, Down, Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh forming Northern Ireland. The new state was set up in 1921 and had a form of Home Rule with its own parliament at Stormont which was dominated by Unionists. Stormont was in control of internal affairs such as education, health care and law & order. Its first prime minister was Sir James Craig. Northern Ireland would send 12 MPs to Westminster from 1920 which dealt with defence and foreign affairs. Joseph Devlin led the nationalists in Northern Ireland. They did not take their seats at Stormont for six years in protest against the new state. In 1922, Northern Unionists officially declined to join the Irish Free State. Two-thirds of Northern Ireland's population were Protestants, most of whom were Unionists. One-third were Catholics, most of whom were nationalists. The Unionist government felt threatened by the nationalist minority.
<p>NORTHERN IRELAND, 1920-1963</p> <p>THE SECTARIAN STATE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new Northern Ireland state was sectarian; it actively discriminated against Catholics. Some areas in which this discrimination took place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerrymandering: electoral constituencies were drawn to ensure that Unionists always won elections. Unemployment amongst Catholics was double that amongst Protestants. Unionist ministers urged business to 'wherever possible employ Protestant lads and lassies'. The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), Northern Ireland's armed police force, was almost exclusively Protestant. The B-Specials were a part-time special constabulary unit of the RUC, known to be anti-Catholic and violent. Protestants were allocated public housing over Catholics while Catholic schools received less funding than Protestant schools.
Keywords	Summary
<p>Government of Ireland Act</p> <p>Northern Ireland</p> <p>Home Rule B-Specials</p> <p>James Craig Unemployment</p> <p>Stormont Violence</p> <p>Sectarian Discrimination</p> <p>Gerrymandering</p> <p>Royal Ulster Constabulary</p>	

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WORLD WAR II AND THE WELFARE STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast was heavily bombed during the Belfast Blitz in 1941. However, the Northern Irish economy benefited from the increased demand for food and machinery. After the war, the British government created its new welfare state. This programme of spending made education and healthcare free to everyone, built more public housing and increased social welfare payments. The funding available to Catholic schools was greatly expanded, resulting in a new generation of well-educated Northern Irish Catholics who would go on to challenge the discrimination their community faced.
THE O'NEILL YEARS, 1963-1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1963, Terence O'Neill became Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. He declared that he wanted to 'build bridges between our two communities'.
O'NEILL'S ECONOMIC POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O'Neill used tax breaks and grants to attract new industries and foreign businesses. However, these benefits were best felt in the predominantly Protestant east while the Catholic west remained undeveloped.
RELATIONS WITH CATHOLICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> O'Neill tried to improve relations with Catholics and was the first Northern Ireland Prime Minister to visit Catholic schools and hospitals. In 1965, he met with Taoiseach Seán Lemass. O'Neill's openness made Catholics optimistic at first that positive change was coming. However, changes in housing or employment policies were not seen.
UNIONIST OPPOSITION TO O'NEILL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 1965, Unionist opposition to O'Neill was growing as he was accused of betraying Unionists. Reverend Ian Paisley of the Free Presbyterian Church launched an '<i>O'Neill Must Go</i>' campaign.
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholics began to campaign more actively for a change in their status. In the late 1960s, new Catholic and nationalist leaders emerged, including Gerry Fitt, John Hume, Austin Currie and Bernadette Devlin (McAliskey).

Keywords	Summary
Belfast Blitz Welfare State Terence O'Neill Tax Breaks and Grants Seán Lemass Ian Paisley <i>O'Neill Must Go</i> John Hume Bernadette Devlin (McAliskey)	

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CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 1967, the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) was formed. Its aims were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to have the B-Specials disbanded• an end to discrimination in housing and employment.• 'one man, one vote' in local elections• an end to gerrymandering• 'British Rights for British Citizens'• NICRA used peaceful means to achieve change, modelling itself on the Civil Rights Movement led by Dr Martin Luther King Jr in the US. It organised marches, petitions, legal aid for people discriminated against and boycotts of businesses.• Many Unionists dismissed NICRA as a 'republican plot' against Northern Ireland.• The government banned marches but some went ahead. In October 1968, clashes took place between marchers and the RUC in Derry and Belfast.
THE END OF THE O'NEILL ERA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The British government forced the Unionists in Stormont to announce some changes to housing and voting.• In April 1969, O'Neill's party forced him to resign. He was replaced as prime minister by James Chichester-Clark.
THE BEGINNING OF THE TROUBLES THE BATTLE OF THE BOGSIDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violent clashes continued throughout 1969. In August, the Battle of the Bogside took place:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Riots occurred when a march by the Unionist Apprentice Boys passed through the Catholic Bogside area of Derry.• Rioters drove the RUC out of the Bogside, throwing stones and homemade firebombs. They raised barricades across the streets and declared the area 'Free Derry'.• The violence spread to Belfast, where Unionist rioters attacked Catholic homes.• The British government ordered the British army onto the streets.
Keywords	Summary
Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) Dr Martin Luther King Jr. James Chichester-Clarke Battle of the Bogside Apprentice Boys Free Derry British Army	

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<p>THE VIOLENCE ESCALATES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were soon clashes between both sets of rioters and the soldiers. • Terrorist paramilitary groups emerged. Terrorism is the use of fear and acts of violence to try and change society/government policies. • These groups targeted the security forces (RUC and army) as well as innocent civilians.
<p>THE IRA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1969, the Northern Irish members of the IRA broke away from their Dublin-based command. This group became known as the Provisional IRA, or 'Provos'. • They attacked the RUC and the army, planted bombs in Britain and Northern Ireland, and killed innocent civilians alleged to be working for the British. • The IRA's political wing was Sinn Féin, led by Gerry Adams from the mid-1980s.
<p>THE LOYALISTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loyalists are Unionists who are willing to use (or support the use of) paramilitary violence to defend the Union. • Two loyalist paramilitary groups, the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and the Ulster Defence Association (UDA), were set up. They attacked Catholic civilians in revenge for IRA attacks.
<p>NEW POLITICAL PARTIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1970, the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) was set up. It was a nationalist party founded by civil rights leaders, including Gerry Fitt and John Hume. It rejected the use of violence and was more concerned with improving lives in Northern Ireland than with pursuing a united Ireland. • In 1971, the Reverend Ian Paisley set up the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). It opposed any compromise with nationalists and wanted the IRA dealt with harshly.
<p>INTERNMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1970 and 1971, the IRA carried out attacks on the security forces and organised youths in Catholic areas to throw stones and riot. In response, the army held house searches on the Catholic homes. • In August 1971, the Northern Irish Prime Minister Brian Faulkner introduced internment – the arrest and imprisonment of people without trial. Many innocent people were arrested and held, while most IRA leaders escaped to the Republic.
Keywords	Summary
<p>Paramilitary Terrorism Provisional IRA Sinn Féin Gerry Adams Loyalists Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) Ulster Defence Association SDLP Gerry Fitt John Hume Ian Paisley Brian Faulkner DUP Internment</p>	

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INTERMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Catholics were arrested even though loyalist terrorist were also active. More people joined the IRA as a result of internment.
BLOODY SUNDAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 30th January 1972, NICRA organised a march in Derry to protest against internment. Roughly 15,000 people marched even though it had been banned. • The British army was sent into the Bogside following reports of an IRA sniper. Catholic youths threw stones at an army barricade. The soldiers opened fire on the crowd, killing 14 unarmed protesters while a further 13 were injured. • Soldiers claimed they were fired upon but no evidence of this was ever found. • The actions of the British soldiers on Bloody Sunday drew protests around the world. In Dublin, protesters burned down the British Embassy.
THE SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In March 1972, the British government decided to introduce direct rule from London and suspend the Stormont parliament. • Willie Whitelaw was appointed Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Whitelaw wanted to set up a power-sharing government so that nationalists and Unionists would govern together. • In December 1973, the Sunningdale Agreement was signed by the leaders of the Unionist Party (Brian Faulkner) the SDLP (Gerry Fitt), the British government (Edward Heath) and the Irish government (Liam Cosgrave). • This established a power-sharing executive. A Council of Ireland was also to be set up, consisting of politicians from Northern Ireland and the Republic, to promote cross-border cooperation in areas such as farming, policy and the economy. • In January 1974, the executive took office.
THE ULSTER WORKERS' COUNCIL STRIKE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IRA continued its campaign of violence, saying that the Sunningdale Agreement would not advance a united Ireland. • The DUP and many members of the Unionist Party opposed power-sharing with nationalists, and especially the Council of Ireland.

Keywords	Summary
Bloody Sunday (1972) British Army Direct Rule Willie Whitelaw Power-Sharing Sunningdale Agreement Council of Ireland Ulster Workers' Council Strike	

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THE ULSTER WORKERS' COUNCIL STRIKE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In May 1974, the Unionist Ulster Workers' Council held a general strike. Goods could not be transported, factories were shut down and the electricity supply was shut off. The executive resigned. The Sunningdale Agreement had failed and direct rule from Westminster resumed.
STALEMATE TERRORIST GROUPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The IRA adopted a tactic they called 'spectaculars' – staging large-scale attacks on the British mainland to make Britain want to exit Northern Ireland. One spectacular was the Birmingham Pub Bombings of November 1974 which killed 21 people and injured another 182. The IRA carried out frequent attacks in Northern Ireland targeting the RUC and the army. However, many innocent civilians were killed. Loyalist terrorist groups also attacked civilians to terrify the Catholic community. In May 1974, the Dublin and Monaghan Bombings killed 33 civilians and injured 300 when a series of car bombs went off during rush hour. The UVF claimed responsibility. The RUC and British army also killed civilians while attempting to stop both sides. Catholic civilians were the higher casualty rate due to these forces being mostly British and Protestant.
HUNGER STRIKES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the late 1970s, IRA prisoners in the Maze Prison outside Belfast demanded 'political status' – to be treated as political prisoners rather than as ordinary criminals. In 1981, prisoners led by Bobby Sands went on hunger strike, generating sympathy around the world. During the strike, Sands was elected as a Westminster MP for Sinn Féin. The Irish government wanted the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to concede to some of the strikers' demands. Thatcher refused to back down and Sands died after 66 days. Nine more prisoners died before the IRA called off the hunger strike. The IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, began to take part in Northern Irish electoral politics.
Keywords	Summary
Ulster Workers' Council Strike Direct Rule Spectaculars Birmingham Pub Bombings Dublin and Monaghan Bombings Hunger Strikes Bobby Sands Margaret Thatcher	

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<p>THE SEARCH FOR PEACE, 1985-1998</p> <p>THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT 1985</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald and Margaret Thatcher agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to increase security cooperation. that the Republic would have a role in the running of Northern Ireland. Unionists staged huge demonstrations against this; Thatcher ignored their protests.
<p>THE IRA AND LOYALIST CEASEFIRES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two governments worked to bring the Northern Ireland parties together and also held secret talks with the IRA and Sinn Féin. This eventually resulted in the Downing Street Declaration of December 1993. The declaration set out the terms for all-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland. Only parties committed to peace could be involved. In August 1994, the IRA called a ceasefire. In October 1994, loyalist groups called a ceasefire.
<p>THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT 1998</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four years of difficult talks and negotiations followed the ceasefires. Direct talks began under the chairmanship of US Senator George Mitchell. The parties and politicians involved were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ulster Unionists: David Trimble SDLP: John Hume Sinn Féin: Gerry Adams Irish government: Bertie Ahern British government: Tony Blair Ian Paisley's DUP refused to engage in talks with Sinn Féin. Just before Easter 1998, the Good Friday Agreement (GFA) was reached. Its main terms were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> power sharing between the political parties cross-border bodies to link the north and south that the Republic would give up its constitutional claim on Northern Ireland the surrender of weapons by terrorist groups (decommissioning)
Keywords	Summary
<p>Anglo-Irish Agreement (1985)</p> <p>Garret FitzGerald</p> <p>Margaret Thatcher</p> <p>Downing Street Declaration</p> <p>George Mitchell</p> <p>David Trimble John Hume</p> <p>Gerry Adams Bertie Ahern</p> <p>Tony Blair Ian Paisley</p> <p>Good Friday Agreement</p>	

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THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT 1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the reform of the RUC and gradual withdrawal of most British soldiers• A referendum on the GFA passed by 71% in Northern Ireland and 94% in the Republic.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In 2005, the IRA announced the end of its armed campaign.• In 2007, Ian Paisley of the DUP and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin were elected as First and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland.
JOHN HUME (1937-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Hume was born in Derry City in 1937. He was a teacher and became active in the local community, helping to found the Derry Credit Union. He campaigned for better housing in Derry and for a university to be established. He also became involved with the civil rights movement.• Hume was a founding member of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) in 1967. He strongly believed that only peaceful means should be used to bring about change.• In 1969, Hume was elected to Stormont as an MP. A year later, he helped to found the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP).• In 1973, Hume was appointed Minister for Commerce in the Sunningdale Power-Sharing Executive.• 1979 saw Hume replace Gerry Fitt as the leader of SDLP as well as his election to the European Parliament.• He supported the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985.• Between 1988 and 1993, Hume held talks with Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Féin. He was harshly criticised for this as the IRA was still active. In response, he said he was willing to “talk to anyone, any time” to achieve peace. His work paid off with the IRA ceasefire in 1994.• Hume is considered the main architect of the Good Friday Agreement (1998). He was awarded the Noble Peace Prize alongside UUP leader David Trimble for their work.• In 2004, he retired as leader of the SDLP.• In 2010, he was named ‘Ireland’s Greatest’ in a public poll by Irish Nationalist broadcaster, RTÉ.
Keywords	Summary
Referendum Ian Paisley Martin McGuinness John Hume Gerry Adams NICRA SDLP Sunningdale Agreement European Parliament Good Friday Agreement Noble Peace Prize	

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JOHN HUME (1937-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Hume died in Derry at the age of 83 in 2020.• World leaders and figures from all parts of the Irish political landscape paid tribute to Hume's achievements. Current SDLP leader Colum Eastwood described Hume as 'the modern-day inheritor of a peaceful nationalist tradition stretching back to Daniel O'Connell and Charles Stewart Parnell in the nineteenth century'.
LEGACY OF THE TROUBLES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While the Good Friday Agreement was signed between the two governments and most of the main Northern Irish political parties in 1998, some 3,500 people were killed during the course of the Troubles.• The long relationship between Britain and Ireland had often been one of conflict. The violence during the three decades of the Troubles should also be seen in the historical context of religious discrimination dating back to the plantations of the late 1500s and the early 1600s, as well as the advent of physical force nationalism in 1798.• Northern Ireland was, and remains, a divided society: each community feels its grievances against the other. Three decades of violence did little to improve this but the failure of that violence to change the status of Northern Ireland did highlight the futility of terrorism.
Keywords	Summary
Daniel O'Connell Charles Stewart Parnell Parliamentary Nationalist 3,500 deaths Conflict Religious discrimination Physical Force Nationalism Divided Society	

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Keywords	Definitions
Article 2 and 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parts of the Irish Constitution of 1937 that claimed control over the entire island of Ireland.
B-Specials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A part-time Protestant police force, operating between 1920 to 1969, set up to defend against IRA violence.
Civil Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rights of people to fundamental freedoms, irrespective of race, sex or religion.
Democratic Unionist Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founded in 1971 by Rev. Ian Paisley, the DUP opposes any weakening of the union between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.
Economic Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A change in the structure of the economy or in the way an economy works.
Emigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of people from their birth country to settle in another country.
Gerrymandering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redrawing electoral boundaries to control the outcome of elections.
Hunger Strike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The refusal of all food until demands are met.
Internment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The arrest and imprisonment of suspects without trial.
Irish Republican Army	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supporter of the union between Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
Modernising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing to modern ideas and ways.
Political status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be treated as political prisoners rather than as ordinary criminals.
Power-sharing government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationalists and Unionists governing Northern Ireland together.
Royal Ulster Constabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes a society divided by religion, where each group displays prejudice against the other.
Sinn Féin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in society, in the way people behave or in culture.
Stormont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parliament or assembly of Northern Ireland.
Terrorism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of fear and acts of violence to try to change society or government policy for a political or ideological purpose.
The Troubles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A period of violence and unrest in Northern Ireland beginning in 1968 and continuing until the mid-1990s.
Ulster Defence Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A loyalist paramilitary group, the UDA conducted a campaign of violence during the Troubles.
Ulster Unionism Party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A loyalist paramilitary group established in 1969, the UVF conducted a campaign of violence during the Troubles.
Unemployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being without a job, or the number of people without jobs.