

The Brookeborough years 1943–1963

Headings	Notes
BROOKEBOROUGH'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord Brookeborough was Prime Minister of Northern Ireland from 1943 to 1963.
LORD BROOKEBOROUGH AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World War II ended shortly after he took over. It had strengthened the unionists because British leaders resented the South's neutrality and were grateful to Northern unionists for their support. • When the South declared a republic and left the British Commonwealth in 1949, the British brought in the Ireland Act. It guaranteed that Northern Ireland would remain part of the United Kingdom as long as the majority of people in the North wanted it.
THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE WELFARE STATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1945, the British Labour Party won the general election. It introduced reforms in education, health and social welfare which were known as the Welfare State. • Because Northern Ireland was part of the United Kingdom, its people shared in these reforms. But because Northern Ireland was poorer than Britain, the British taxpayer paid most of the extra cost.
REFORMS IN EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1947 a new system of primary, secondary and third-level education was set up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children in their last year at primary school did an exam called the 'Eleven Plus'. • The top 25% of pupils got free places in grammar schools. If they did well, they got scholarships to go to university. • The remaining 75% went to free secondary modern schools. They got a practical education and most of them left school at 14 or 15. • Schools under the control of local councils got full grants for building and maintenance. Their pupils did not have to pay fees. Catholics would not send their children to these schools, so they were mainly Protestant. • Catholic-owned schools got 65% of the cost of building and maintenance. Up to 80% of their pupils received scholarships but the rest had to pay fees.
THE IMPACT OF EDUCATIONAL REFORMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new education system gave bright but poor boys and girls a first-class education that their families could never have afforded to pay for. • Children from both communities benefited, but as there were more poor Catholics than Protestants, Catholics gained most.
Keywords	Summary

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EXAM QUESTIONS	<p>1. What were the main political, social and economic developments within Northern Ireland between 1945 and 1963 while Lord Brookeborough was Prime Minister? How was Northern Ireland affected by developments in one or more of the following? (HL 2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education• Health• Housing
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The Welfare State

1. General Election 1945 – Labour Party introduce the Welfare State.
2. Care for people in health, education and welfare
3. Higher taxes in return for (a) free healthcare – the NHS (b) free education (c) higher rates of pensions and unemployment benefits
4. British government provided extra money to NI to allow Stormont to introduce the Welfare State in the North
5. Unionists initially resisted the Welfare State fearing it would benefit Catholics and threaten Unionist Rule
6. Eventually implemented and NI became more prosperous and left the Republic far behind in social and economic terms

Education

1. Education Act 1947 – responsibility on local councils to provide education
2. Many Protestants concerned it reduced the role of religious instruction in schools
3. Implemented the 11-plus exam. Allowed the top 20% to attend grammar school. The rest would follow a more 'technical' programme
4. Local authorities had to provide free medical inspection and treatment, transport, milks, meals and books in schools
5. Large school grants meant the majority of students did not pay fees
6. Numbers attending second-level increased by 100% by 1952
7. Catholic bishops complained that state grants were lower for voluntary Catholic schools
8. Negotiations saw grants increased to 65% and to 100% when a school allowed local council representation on its school committee
9. Catholics benefited from increased spending at third-level

Housing

1. Before WW2 poor housing in Catholic and Protestant working class areas
2. In Derry Catholics lived in overcrowded houses and flats
3. Many houses had no running water or toilet facilities
4. Northern Ireland Housing Trust set up in 1945 – power to borrow money to build houses
5. By 1960s the Trust had built 113,000 new houses
6. Allocation of houses by the Trust did not discriminate between Catholics and Protestants
7. Local authority houses were controlled mainly by Unionists – discrimination

Health Care

1. Health service in North under-funded and poorly serviced
2. Welfare State led to major changes
3. General medical, dental, pharmaceutical and eye services free to all
4. Increased spending on hospitals
5. Catholic Mater Hospital in Belfast insisted on remaining independent – deprived of state funds
6. New screening programme for TB reduced cases

Economy 1943-63

1. By 1950s the post-war boom had faded. NI was most disadvantaged area of UK
2. Increased urbanisation
3. Traditional industries in trouble
4. Rising unemployment
5. In 1961 10,000 men laid off from shipyards
6. Traditional methods of discrimination were not preventing growing opposition from Protestants
7. Brookeborough forced to resign

Economy under O'Neill

1. Concentrated on attracting foreign industry
2. New town of Craigavon built (100,000)
3. Investment of £450million in infrastructure to attract industry
4. Major road-building programme
5. Building of second university
6. Strategy successful in attracting foreign multinationals
7. Most companies located east of the R. Bann – did not help high unemployment among Catholics
8. British Government blamed uneven development for rise of Civil Rights Movement

The Brookeborough Years

1. N.I. Prime Minister from 1943
2. Staunch Unionist and member of Orange Order
3. Believed Catholics were enemies of N.I. and should not be given any power
4. In 1933 stated about Catholics 'I have not one about my place' and appealed to Loyalists 'wherever possible, to employ good Protestant lads and lassies'

The IRA Border Campaign

1. Dec. 1956 IRA launched 'Operation Harvest'
2. Mainly attacks on RUC stations near the border
3. Brookeborough implements internment
4. Southern Government also use internment
5. IRA campaign has little effect
6. Few Catholics in the North supported the campaign
7. IRA call off campaign in 1962
8. 12 IRA men and 6 RUC men killed

Brookeborough Resigns

1. Linen and ship-building in decline
2. Unemployment high
3. N.I. Labour Party winning Unionist seats in 1958 and 1963
4. Unionists force Brookeborough to resign as PM in 1963
5. Replaced by Terence O'Neill
6. Brookeborough did little except maintain the status quo