

Ch. 2 - The Impact of the
Welfare State and the Leadership
of Lord Brookeborough, 1943 -
1963

Learning Intentions

In this chapter you will learn about:

- Basil Brooke's time as Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, from 1943 to 1963
- The introduction of the Welfare State and its impact on Northern Irish life
- The North's economy in the decades after World War II
- The Anti-Partition League and the IRA Border Campaign, 1956-1962

Northern Ireland And World War II

Basil Brooke Becomes Prime Minister

Lord Craigavon died in November 1940, having served as Northern Ireland's Prime Minister since 1921. Craigavon was replaced by John Miller Andrews. Andrews came in for much criticism because of his government's failure to defend Northern Ireland from air attack during the war, which resulted in over 1,000 fatalities when Belfast was bombed in 1941. In 1943 Andrews was replaced by the then Minister for Agriculture, Basil Brooke (later known as Lord Brookeborough).

Brooke had proved to be a very capable minister, and as Prime Minister he successfully oversaw Northern Ireland's passage through the remaining years of the war. British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** acknowledged Northern Ireland's contribution to the war effort when he said:

But for the loyalty of Northern Ireland and its devotion to what has now become the cause of thirty governments or nations, we should have been confronted with slavery and death, and the light which now shines so strongly throughout the world would have been quenched.

In response to the vital role Northern Ireland had played during the war, the British government was more prepared than ever to guarantee its position within the United Kingdom. It was also prepared to extend the benefits of Britain's post-war welfare to the province.



The Welfare State

Britain's traditional industries had collapsed following the end of World War I, leading to widespread unemployment and poverty. Some feared that a similar crisis might happen when World War II ended, as the war industries closed and men returned from the fighting. To prevent such hardship returning in post-war Britain, the economist William Beveridge produced the **Beveridge Report** in 1942. The report proposed a system of social insurance that would provide security for every member of British society, regardless of social class.

The Labour Party came to power in July 1945 on the promise that they would create a Welfare State in line with the recommendations of the Beveridge Report. Their goal was to improve healthcare, education, housing and social welfare, so that people would not have to experience the poverty of the 1920s and 1930s again. It was also believed that these measures would raise the overall standard of living and help to create a less divided society. Under Prime Minister **Clement Attlee**, the government began to introduce these reforms in the years after the war.

Adapted from The Making of Ireland (Third Editions) by Paul Twomey, educate.ie



Young boys playing on the street in the 1940s

The Welfare State and Northern Ireland

- The Labour Party's success in Britain was met with disappointment by the North's unionists because the party had traditionally been sympathetic to Irish nationalists. However, Attlee's government, which was taken up with rebuilding post-war Britain, largely overlooked the discrimination faced by Northern Ireland's Catholics. In 1946 Attlee and Brookeborough reached an agreement that gave Northern Ireland the same levels of welfare as the rest of Britain.
 - Brookeborough agreed to raise taxation in Northern Ireland to the same level as the rest of Britain, and to submit his budgets to the British Treasury (Department of Finance) for approval.
 - In return the British Government agreed to subsidise the running of a Welfare State in Northern Ireland.
- This agreement created **parity** (equality) in taxation and welfare assistance between Britain and Northern Ireland. It also restricted the Northern Irish government's control of taxation and spending, but this drawback was far outweighed by the advantages the new welfare regime provided:
 - All citizens were entitled to unemployment assistance and pensions.
 - Free healthcare was made available through the National Health Service (NHS).
 - Free secondary education was introduced.
 - Standards of housing and sanitation were improved.

The Social Impact of the Welfare State

Healthcare

- The British government set up the **National Health Service (NHS)** to provide free healthcare for all citizens. This had a significant impact in Northern Ireland, which lacked the means to offer adequate health services to its population. In July 1948 the Northern Irish government established the **Northern Ireland Health and Social Care Service**. This publicly-funded service (paid for by general taxation) was made responsible for the provision of free healthcare to all citizens.
- The new service was a huge development socially. Before this, only the wealthy could afford to pay for private healthcare, while the majority relied on an outdated public service. Now patients could attend their own doctor and have their treatment and medicine paid for. Those who wished to have private healthcare could still pay for it. Great improvements were made to the quality of healthcare:
 - Citizens received free GP and dental care.
 - A **Tuberculosis Authority** was set up to combat TB. This was a common disease amongst those living in poor housing and was easily spread by coughing, sneezing and poor sanitation. TB was responsible for a high number of fatalities each year, especially among young adults. In 1946 the number of deaths from TB were 83 per 100,000. There were on average 20 people dying from tuberculosis every week. By 1959 this figure had fallen to two people per week. The disease was finally eradicated by the early 1970s.
- Local health authorities were responsible for healthcare at a local level. This included the provision of maternity and children's services.



The NHS provided basic medical services to all

Healthcare

- These improvements resulted in Northern Ireland having the lowest death rate in the UK by 1962, having previously had the highest death rate in 1939. By 1965 Northern Ireland had a mortality rate of approximately 1,300 per 100,000 people compared to 1,500 per 100,000 in England and Wales.
- Hospitals came under the administration of the **Hospitals Authority**, which was also responsible for planning and building new hospitals. Not all Catholic independent voluntary hospitals were willing to transfer their administration to the new authority, however, as they wished to maintain their Catholic ethos, something which the Hospitals Authority refused to allow. Belfast's **Mater Hospital**, which was run by the **Sisters of Mercy**, believed that if it transferred it would lose its independence, and might be required to provide information on contraception and abortion.
- However, the government insisted that hospitals were either in or out of the system. If they chose to opt out, they would not be funded by the State. The Mater chose to remain outside (it only fully integrated into the NHS in 1972), and therefore it continued to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Catholic community, philanthropic organisations and funds raised by the football pools. Though it was a Catholic institution, the Mater offered healthcare to the local Protestant community as well.
- However, the refusal of hospitals such as the Mater to transfer to the Hospitals Authority meant that Catholics continued to fund these services, while also paying tax towards the running of the NHS. Despite choosing to remain outside the welfare system, many Catholics were resentful towards the Protestant majority, who enjoyed the full benefits of the Welfare State from its foundation.

Education

- Following the partition of Ireland in 1920 the Protestant and Catholic Churches ran Northern Ireland's education system. Education was almost entirely denominational. In 1923 the Unionist government offered increased funding to schools that agreed to transfer to state control. These schools were to be prohibited from teaching religion during the school day. The Catholic Church refused to transfer its schools, so initially received just 50% of the grants available to them. This created a large disparity between the quality of facilities and student-teacher ratios in Catholic and Protestant schools, which did transfer to state control. This disparity was only reduced in the 1960s. The prohibition on teaching religion was removed in any case, so that Protestantism was in effect taught in state schools.
- The refusal of the Catholic Church to transfer their schools damaged educational outcomes for their students. Many Catholics left school after primary level, meaning that their job prospects were greatly reduced. This further exacerbated the levels of poverty in Catholic areas of Northern Ireland. The disparity between Catholic and Protestant education also helped to strengthen religious division and distrust in children from an early age.
- The Welfare State brought a number of important reforms in education. In 1947 the Northern Irish government introduced the **Education Act**. Under the Act:
 - Education became compulsory for all children up to the age of 15.
 - The **11-Plus examination** was introduced at the end of primary education. The results of the examination determined which type of secondary school a student would attend.

Education

- Funding for voluntary (Catholic) schools was increased from 50% to 65%.
- Grants were made available for third-level education.
- School dinners and milk were provided to students.
- These reforms helped to increase the uptake of education at all levels, particularly at secondary and third level. The top 25% of students who passed the 11-Plus were given free places in **grammar schools**. These schools focused on academic subjects, and prepared students for university. The remaining 75% of students generally went to **secondary modern schools**, where the focus was on skills-based education, with subjects such as woodwork and mechanical studies being taught.
- Catholic voluntary schools received an increase in funding to the value of 65% of their costs. This helped Catholic schools to progress, though they continued to lose out on even greater funding. While grants were made available to students attending Catholic schools, up to 20% still had to pay fees. Meanwhile, state schools were given building grants and a level of funding that secured free education and better facilities for their students.

Education

- Between 1947 and 1952 the number of students attending second level doubled. More Catholics also went to school as a result of the improvements in education - in 1961, 46.6% of primary school students were Catholic. By 1964 there was a total of 95,000 students, Protestants and Catholics, in second level. The South, with almost twice the population of the North, had 85,000 students in second level at that time.
- Grants and scholarships were offered to students who qualified for third level. Overall there was a significant increase in the number of students receiving a high level of education in Northern Ireland, especially among those from less well-off families. By 1960 there were over 3,500 students attending Northern Ireland's only university, Queen's College, Belfast. By the mid-1960s the government was planning a second university to cater for the growing numbers going on to third level. These educational reforms produced an educated and skilled workforce, which helped to shape developments in Northern Ireland in the following decades. The higher level of education among Catholics would also feed into the emergence of the civil rights movement in the late 1960s.



Class full. All education levels grew in the post-war years

Housing

- The first report on housing in Northern Ireland, published in 1944 by the Planning Advisory Board, revealed that almost 45,000 homes in Northern Ireland were unfit to live in. That same year the Planning Advisory Board's Housing Committee estimated that there was an immediate need to build 100,000 houses in Northern Ireland. Unlike the rest of Britain, which had begun the process of clearing its slums in the 1930s, housing in Northern Ireland remained vastly inadequate until the end of the 1940s. The German bombing raids on Belfast during the war had also destroyed or damaged some 50,000 homes in the capital.
- The government's **Housing Act** of 1945 set up the **Northern Ireland Housing Trust** as a public body responsible for improving housing. The Housing Trust, working with local authorities and private enterprise, constructed 113,000 homes over the next 15 years. The Trust received its funding from government and was required to repay this with interest. Housing Trust homes were rented to tenants, which helped the Trust to fund itself.

Housing

- While the Trust intended that social housing would be allocated on the basis of need, a number of local authorities allocated houses based on religion, and offered most of their houses to Protestants. This practice was particularly prevalent in areas west of the River Bann, where many councils allocated housing to the Protestants in order to strengthen their political support. This was most noticeable in areas such Derry and Omagh. The behaviour of these local councils strengthened the Catholic community's mistrust of the Northern Irish authorities. Yet despite evidence of discrimination, a 1971 report revealed that four out of every ten Catholic families were housed in local authority homes, compared to three out of every ten Protestant families. However, the report did reveal inequalities in housing conditions between Catholics and Protestants, illustrated by the fact that only 63% of Catholic homes had hot water and indoor washing and toilet facilities, compared to 72% of Protestant homes.

Social Welfare

- In 1947 the British government introduced a new **National Insurance Fund** to provide social welfare payments for those in need. The system was funded by employees' insurance payments, which went towards social welfare payments for the elderly, unemployed, sick, widowed and orphaned. The payments were generous and gave a greater level of social security than had ever previously been available. Payment was also much higher than welfare payments in the South.

Weekly welfare benefits in Northern Ireland and the Republic 1969		
	Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland
Unemployment benefits for a single man	£4.50	£3.25
Unemployment benefit for a married man with two children	£9.20	£7.25
Widow's pension	£4.50	£3.25



Social welfare offered a basic standard of living to the elderly and less well off

Source: *Following in Father's Footsteps: Social Mobility in Ireland* by Michael Hout (Harvard University Press, 1989)

Adapted from *The Making of Ireland (Third Editions)* by Paul Twomey, educate.ie

Social Welfare

- The introduction of the Welfare State had a remarkable impact on Northern Irish society. Historian James Loughlin points out that:
- *by 1955 significant progress was made in house-building and provision of water and sewerage, while health and welfare services had expanded beyond all recognition. Moreover, with the addition of national assistance, family allowances - especially beneficial to large Catholic families - and non-contributory pensions, Northern Ireland, within a decade, had passed "from the status of an exceptionally backward area to full membership of the welfare state". (The Ulster Question Since 1945 by James Loughlin)*
- During the 1930s the average per capita income in Northern Ireland had been approximately 55% of the average in Britain. By 1950 this had risen to 68% due to increases in welfare payments and the improvements brought in by the Welfare State. Healthcare and education were of a far higher standard than their equivalents in the South during the same period. This gave unionists the opportunity to highlight how successful being part of the United Kingdom actually was. This was reinforced by the poor state of the Irish Republic's economy during the same period. The Republic would not have free secondary education until 1968 and was unable to provide the same level of free healthcare or social housing during the 1950s. Increased welfare and access to education also led to the emergence of a more prosperous Catholic community, who now had greater expectations of being treated as equals in Northern Ireland.

Exam Questions

During the period 1949-1969, what was the significance of developments in education, health and housing in Northern Ireland? (2018) HL (similar 2013 HL)

Write a short paragraph on the Welfare State in Northern Ireland. (2015 and 2018) OL

Northern Ireland's Economy after World War II

Industry

- Northern Ireland's economy began to fall behind the rest of Britain in the years immediately after World War II. While England enjoyed growing employment in modern industries such as car manufacturing, the North's traditional industries began to decline. The demand for linen dropped considerably as modern synthetic textiles such as nylon and rayon became popular. Northern Ireland also faced competition from cotton-producing countries. Some of the largest linen mills, including the York Street and Brookfield mills in Belfast, were forced to close. This had a further impact on the North's clothing industries, such as shirt-making.
- The shipbuilding industry was also badly hit. It faced renewed competition from countries such as Germany and Japan, and the new popularity of air travel also damaged shipbuilding. By the late 1950s the industry was in steady decline. By 1970, shipbuilding and linen made up less than 25% of industrial employment, whereas in the 1950s it had been 50%.

Employment in Northern Ireland's Traditional Industries			
Industry	1950	1960	1970
Textiles	72,800	58,000	44,800
Clothing	32,500	25,100	24,600
Shipbuilding	24,200	24,100	9,800

Agriculture

- Northern Ireland's agricultural sector remained one of its largest sources of employment in the years after the war, accounting for almost 25% of all those employed. However, modern technology reduced the labour intensity of farming. Using modern machinery such as tractors, milking machines and other advances, farmers employed fewer workers on their farms. In 1950 the number employed in the agricultural sector was around 13,500; by 1962 this had dropped to 9,100. By the 1960s agriculture was responsible for less than 17% of all employment in Northern Ireland. While there were fewer people working on farms, thanks to modern machinery agricultural output increased by almost 80%.



Agriculture remained an important sector in the Northern economy

Government Support for Industry

- As the North's traditional industries declined, the government took steps to aid industrial growth in other areas. This was driven by the Unionist government's fear that, if the economy continued to worsen, they would lose the electorate's support. In 1945 the government announced the first **Industries Development Act**, which offered incentives such as sites, grants and loans to new industries as well as subsidies to boost employment in older industries. The aim was to help existing factories expand and to attract new ones. By 1963 the government's efforts had helped create some 50,000 jobs. The construction of schools and hospitals also provided employment in the short term.
- However, unemployment continued to rise during Brookeborough's time as Prime Minister. It was really only towards the end of his career that younger politicians convinced him of the need to introduce a series of measures that would modernise older industries and attract foreign direct investment to combat economic stagnation. These included:
 - 1954-1962: Industries Development Acts
 - 1961-1964: Aid to Industry Acts, assisting struggling companies in order to maintain employment
 - 1964-1967: Industrial Advice and Enterprise Acts.

Government Support for Industry

- These measures were quite successful. Many new foreign companies set up factories in Northern Ireland from the 1960s onward, including Michelin Tyres, Courtaulds, DuPont and Goodyear Tyres. These companies created almost 20,000 jobs by 1969, helping to offset the decline in the North's traditional industries. Despite these successes, unemployment continued to remain high, running at 9.5% in 1963, much higher than in the rest of the UK, which had an average of 2.6% unemployment in the same year. As well as that, many of these new companies were established east of the River Bann, which was dominated by the Protestant majority.
- Unemployment in the Catholic community remained much higher than in the Protestant community. In the 1950s unemployment was over 10% among Catholics, while it was less than 5% among Protestants. The fact that the majority of these new companies were established east of the River Bann was seen by Catholics as evidence of continued discrimination, because their areas received little or no investment. The government's policy of favouring the mostly Protestant areas was labelled as the **West of the Bann Policy** by critics. This once again contributed to division between Northern Ireland's two communities.

Unemployment in Northern Ireland, 1971-1981		
Industry	1950	1960
Male Catholics	17.3%	30.2%
Male Protestants	6.6%	12.4%
Female Catholics	7%	17.1%
Female Protestants	3.6%	9.6%

- Ulster Unionist Party
- Nationalist Party
- Northern Ireland Labour Party
- Republican Labour
- National Democrats
- Ulster Liberal
- Independent



Modern industry built on the North's traditional skills in engineering and manufacturing

Key Terms

- **West of the Bann Policy:** The Bann is the longest river in Northern Ireland and largely divides the State between east and west. During the 1960s and 1970s, when foreign businesses were establishing factories in Northern Ireland, most of them went to the areas east of the River Bann, which was predominantly Protestant. To Catholics this was seen as a deliberate attempt on the part of the Unionist government to keep nationalist areas west of the Bann, such as Derry city and Dungannon, in poverty.

Impact of Government Policy

- Even though there was a decline in the North's traditional industries in the post-war years, industrial output actually grew by 5% each year between 1958 and 1970. This was due to direct investment from Britain. Despite the growth in industrial output, unemployment in Northern Ireland remained higher than the rest of Britain, at about 7% between 1949 and 1963. During the 1960s the number of foreign companies establishing businesses in Northern Ireland grew significantly. Many of these focused on light engineering and new technologies, which gave good employment to the North's well- educated workforce.
- The Unionist Party faced some criticism for its failure to fully deal with unemployment, and the **Northern Ireland Labour Party (NILP)** won some seats in Stormont as a result. In 1958 and 1962 the Labour Party won four seats in Belfast constituencies, with the support of unionist voters. While the number of seats they won was small, it caused alarm in the Unionist Party, which feared this might undermine the position they had enjoyed since the 1920s. The Unionist Party still dominated the political scene, but its drop in support weakened Brookeborough's leadership.

Political Developments

The Anti-Partition Movement

- Ten nationalist MPs were elected to Stormont in the 1945 election. Later, some of them, including Eddie McAteer, held a convention to discuss uniting Northern Irish nationalists into one movement to campaign against the partition of Ireland. This convention led to the creation of the **Irish Anti-Partition League**. Though it did not succeed in uniting all nationalist groups in Northern Ireland, the league began a campaign for a united Ireland, and held rallies in Northern Ireland, Britain and the South to gain international support for the reunification of Ireland. The league also hoped to win support from Éamon de Valera's government in the South.
- In 1948, Fianna Fáil was replaced by the first inter-party government. The Anti-Partition League received support from the new Minister for External Affairs, **Seán MacBride**, who was a former Chief of Staff of the IRA and leader of the republican **Clann na Poblachta** party. **John A. Costello**, leader of the inter-party government, also said that his government would '*assert the Irish nation's right to complete territorial unity and absolute freedom*'. In September 1948 Costello announced that his government intended to declare the South a republic.
- The Anti-Partition League saw this as the right opportunity to demand that Ireland be reunified. On 21 December 1948 Costello's government passed the Republic of Ireland Act, which was to come into force in April 1949 to coincide with the anniversary of the 1916 Rising. In January 1949 Costello met with other political parties to agree a strategy to aid the Anti-Partition League. They decided that they would raise funds to support the league's election campaigns in Northern Ireland. However, the Dáil's support for the Anti-Partition League met with a cool response in the North, where unionists saw it as a threat to their links with Britain.

The Ireland Act, 1949

- In response to the Republic of Ireland Act, the British government passed the **Ireland Act** in June 1949, dashing the hopes of the Anti-Partition League. The Ireland Act recognised the Irish Republic, but also stated that Northern Ireland was part of the United Kingdom and would remain so unless the parliament of Northern Ireland voted to change its status. The Ireland Act stated categorically:
 - *In no event will Northern Ireland or any part thereof cease to be a part of his Majesty's dominions and of the United Kingdom without the consent of the parliament of Northern Ireland.*
- The government in the Irish Republic was dismayed by this step, which confirmed the partition of the country by effectively giving the Unionist government a veto over any future relationship between Northern Ireland and the Republic. After the Ireland Act was introduced, MacBride and the Anti-Partition League worked to convince the British and Unionist governments to agree to the unification of Ireland, but without success. The league's support went into decline from 1950 onwards. It held marches in Derry in 1951 and 1952, flying the flag of the Irish Republic, but these actions resulted in violence as the RUC attempted to confiscate the flag. In 1956 the leadership of the Anti-Partition League resigned, bringing the movement to an end. The peaceful methods of the Anti-Partition League were soon replaced with an outbreak of violence, when the IRA embarked on a new campaign.

The IRA Border Campaign, 1956-1962

- In the early hours of 12 December 1956, the IRA launched **Operation Harvest**, also known as the Border Campaign. Members of the IRA in the Republic crossed the border to carry out coordinated attacks against targets in Northern Ireland. Attacks occurred over the following days, including raids on RUC barracks on 14 December. Most were not very successful. Brookeborough responded quickly.
- On 21 December many border roads were closed and the rest patrolled by the RUC and B-Specials. Suspected members of the IRA were interned without trial.
- Brookeborough's methods were only partially successful. The IRA continued to carry out raids over the following months and years. In one attack on a Fermanagh RUC barracks on 31 December 1956, two IRA men, Seán South and Fergal O'Hanlon, were killed. Their deaths sparked a rise in sympathy for the IRA among nationalists in the North and South.
- However, despite some success for Sinn Féin in the South, the Border Campaign was largely ineffectual. De Valera's government also introduced internment in July 1957, which greatly hindered the IRA's ability to cross the border to escape capture in the North.
- Having achieved little success, and with little or no support from nationalists North and South, the IRA called off the Border Campaign in February 1962. Over the six years of the campaign, 12 IRA volunteers and six members of the RUC were killed, while it cost the governments of Northern Ireland and the Republic over £1 million in damage and security expenses. The failure of the campaign to win widespread support demonstrated that the IRA had by the early 1960s lost its relevance in nationalist Ireland.



An RUC border patrol in the late 1950s

Adapted from *The Making of Ireland (Third Editions)* by Paul Twomey, educate.ie

Brookeborough's Attitude to Nationalists

- Despite Brookeborough's successes in relation to the economy and welfare, he remained a divisive figure for the nationalist community. He had made the following call at a unionist rally in March 1934:
- *I recommend those people who are Loyalists not to employ Roman Catholics, 99 per cent of whom are disloyal. I want you to remember one point in regard to the employment of people who are disloyal ... You are disfranchising yourselves in that way... You people who are employers have the ball at your feet. If you don't act properly now, before we know where we are we shall find ourselves in the minority instead of the majority. (Ireland in the Twentieth Century by Tim Pat Coogan)*
- His statement highlighted much of the unionist attitude towards the Catholic community. There was a fear that if Catholics were treated equally, Protestants would lose their privileged position in Northern Ireland.
- However, once Brookeborough became Prime Minister in 1943, his attitude towards Catholics became more tolerant. When the government introduced welfare reforms in health and education, there were unionists who resented paying higher taxes for the care of Catholics. Brookeborough argued that if Catholics came to see the benefits of the new welfare system, they might come to accept the Northern Irish State and its government. Brookeborough also called on the RUC to enforce a ban on controversial Orange Order marches through nationalist areas.

Brookeborough's Attitude to Nationalists

- The West of the Bann Policy, where foreign companies were encouraged by favourable grants to establish themselves in areas with large Protestant populations east of the Bann, was further evidence of the Unionist government's efforts to secure electoral support for itself. Furthermore, well-educated Catholics found it difficult to gain senior positions in the public sector. In 1951 it was estimated that Catholics, who were 33% of the population, made up just 12% of 1,095 non-manual positions in the North's local authorities.

Assessing Brookeborough's Premiership

- Brookeborough's time as Prime Minister was largely successful. However, in his latter years many Unionist backbench MPs were concerned that he was not tackling the economy effectively. The Northern Ireland Labour Party's success in winning a number of seats in the 1950s and 1960s was seen as a threat to the supremacy of the Unionist Party. There was pressure on Brookeborough to resign, which he did at the age of 75 in 1963. He was replaced as Prime Minister by **Captain Terence O'Neill**.
- Brookeborough's period as Prime Minister was largely peaceful, and under his leadership there were indications that some Catholics were coming to accept the Unionist government. Some Catholics voted for the Unionist Party in the 1959 general election. However, despite this slight progress, Northern Ireland remained a much-divided society.
- In commenting on Brookeborough's career, historian Graham Walker notes that:
- *Brookeborough's achievements over twenty years were substantial: the Unionist Party maintained essential unity, the anti-partitionist project was thwarted, and a potentially difficult post-war relationship with Britain under Labour was managed to the long-term benefit of Northern Ireland's full participation in the welfare state and new educational opportunities ...*
- *Indeed any assessment of Brookeborough has to take account of his failure to respond positively - or force the British government to respond-to the economic woes of his latter years. Brookeborough then presided over the most serious breakdown in the confidence of the Protestant community, especially the urban working class, in the Unionist Party, something which would have far-reaching effects. (A History of the Ulster Unionist Party: Protest, Pragmatism and Pessimism by Graham Walker)*

Recap

You should now be able to:

- Explain why the years following World War II saw a number of important developments in Northern Ireland
- Appreciate how the introduction of the Welfare State brought improvements in education, housing and social welfare
- Assess why, despite these positive developments, sectarian tensions remained Recognise the impact the passing of the Ireland Act in 1949 had on Northern Ireland's status in the United Kingdom
- Underline why a significant minority in the nationalist community still demanded an end to partition Discuss why the IRA's Border Campaign won little support

Questions: Revision

1. What were the origins of the Welfare State?
2. What was the significance of the 1946 agreement reached between the Northern Irish and British governments?
3. Briefly discuss the impact of reforms in healthcare in Northern Ireland.
4. What were the controversies that surrounded the introduction of the new health system?
5. What improvements were made to education during the years 1945-1963?
6. Why did Catholics not receive the full benefit of the improvements in education between 1945 and 1963?
7. Briefly outline the developments that took place in housing and social welfare.
8. Why did Northern Ireland's traditional industries decline in the years following World War II?
9. What steps did the Unionist government take to attract foreign investment and were these measures successful?
10. What was the West of the Bann Policy?
11. What was the Irish Anti-Partition League?
12. How did the British government respond to the Republic of Ireland Act, 1948?
13. How did the governments, North and South, respond to the IRA's Border Campaign?
14. What attempts did Lord Brookeborough make to be more conciliatory towards Northern Ireland's Catholic community?

Higher Level Questions

- 1.1. What were Sir Basil Brooke's (Lord Brookeborough's) successes and failures as Prime Minister, 1945-1963?
2. Why did Northern Ireland's Protestant and Catholic communities remain divided during the period 1945-1963?
3. What impact did the establishment of the Welfare State have on Northern Irish society?
4. What events led to the passing of the Ireland Act 1949 and how did nationalists in Northern Ireland respond to it?

Ordinary Level Questions

1. Write a short paragraph on one of the following:
 - a. The Irish Anti-Partition League
 - b. The IRA Border Campaign
 - c. The Ireland Act 1949
 - d. The Welfare State.
2. Write a brief account of Northern Ireland's economy in the period 1945-1963.
3. What developments took place in the provision of housing in Northern Ireland in the period 1945-1963?