

KALMUN'26

House of Commons Study Guide

Agenda Item: The Troubles

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1. Introduction to the Committee

Introduction to the House of Commons

The House of Commons is a parliamentary body, located in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is the lower house of the Parliament of the

United Kingdom. The parliament's meetings are mostly in the place of the Palace of Westminster. This palace is mostly used by parliamentary procedures, and it is located in London, England. The House of Commons is a body which is operated via an elective system. Elections mostly consist of 650 members of Parliament. The House of Commons began to evolve in the 1200s and the 1300s. It primarily became the House of Commons of Great Britain in 1707 with the event of the political union with Scotland. In addition, in the year of 1801 it became the House of Commons for Ireland after the political union of Great Britain and Ireland. Finally, in 1922, it became the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland after the independence of the Irish Free State. The English word common or commune, meant "of general, public, or non-private", is used in the name of the Parliament and it upholds the meaning of a parliament that serves for the public.

Rules of Procedure

Language: English is the official and only language in this parliament. Any other language will be considered "out of order". Any delegate who does not follow this rule will be warned and punished.

Delegations: Each delegate is representing a Member of the Parliament. Each MP (Member of the Parliament) only has the right to uphold one (1) vote in each voting procedure. There will not be any privileges to front benchers, Prime Minister, or any delegate who has an important role.

Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker: The openings and closings of the sessions are determined by Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker. Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker is the authority over the Members of the Parliament, and holds the full control of the proceedings throughout the meetings. Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker holds the right to advise the Members of the Parliament to move along any course throughout the debate. Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker is obligated to follow the rules, as well as the delegates, of the committee and will remain responsible to the Secretary General. Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker is a selected person from the Committee Board. No Member of the Parliament has the right to object to anything that the Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker states or presents.

Quorum: Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker may start the sessions and permit the debate if at least $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the committee is present in the session. The presence of the quorum is collected with a simple roll call. The roll call will be conducted at the beginning of every session to reach the quorum. The session cannot start if the quorum isn't reached.

Attitude: All of the Members of the Parliament are expected to behave in a formal and virtuous attitude between each other and to the committee staff. Mr/Mrs/Ms

Speaker has the authority to implement an order to any Member of the Parliament to ensure that all rules are complied by all MPs.

Electronic Devices: Any kind of electronic device usage including mobile phones, laptops, tablets is prohibited in moderated caucuses during debating unless stated otherwise by the Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker. Unmoderated caucuses are the only times when a Member of the Parliament is permitted to use electronic devices if it maintains the purpose of conducting something related to the committee.

Chronology of the Prime Minister Questions (PMQs): First session of every day shall start with PMQs.

All of the PMQs start with the Prime Minister briefly explaining a general statement about the agenda. This statement must include the PM's party's position and goals about the presented agenda item's problems.

Secondly, the Leader of the Opposition Party (who is the former Prime Minister) asks 6 questions regarding the agenda item. These questions are entertained one by one, the PM is expected to answer a question after it is directed, the Opposition Leader is expected to wait for the PM's answer to ask another question. The questions can be prepared beforehand, also they can be about anything. The questions don't have to be related to the agenda item, they can be about any topic that the House of Commons is authorized to handle.

After the Leader of the Opposition Party finished with their questions, backbench MPs are allowed to only ask one question per person. 15 questions (meaning that 15 Backbench MPs) are chosen by the Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker in a PMQ. After the backbench questions are done, the PMQs will be suspended.

Rules of the PMQs:

PMQs are expected to be highly dynamic, with the ambiance of a heated debate, but with order and decorum between the PM and the MPs.

MPs hold the right to jeer or cheer during the session, meaning any Member of the Parliament may make a sound which indicates that they are supporting/condemning the speaker. The positive sound which suggests support is "AYE" and the negative sound which suggests condemnation is "NO".

Each question and response must be done briefly, straight to the point. No long speeches are allowed during the Prime Minister Questions. The Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker has the right to interrupt the speaker to address that the question that the MP asks seems too long or too inefficient to be entertained.

PMQs are mostly expected to be entertained for the first 30 minutes in the first session of every day. If the procedure seems to cross 30 minutes, the Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker upholds the authority to extend the PMQs.

Unmoderated Caucus:

An unmoderated caucus is the time period where the casual debate format is paused, and every delegate is allowed to move around the committee, interact with other delegates. The unmoderated caucus is still a formal ground where following the rules of attitude and following the official language is obligated. An unmoderated caucus can be entertained with a motion proposal by any delegate in the House. An unmoderated caucus can be entertained only at the times when the floor is open. An unmoderated caucus is only prohibited to be taken if a moderated caucus hasn't been entertained yet. Every session should contain a moderated caucus before an unmoderated caucus. The delegate that is proposing an unmoderated caucus must determine a total time, which cannot be lower than 5 minutes and longer than 20 minutes. There is no need to state an individual time limit, since there will be no individual speakers in this caucus. This motion has the privilege to be voted first (before the moderated caucus motions) and it requires a simple majority to pass. Unmoderated caucuses are usually entertained when there is a need for a space to write deals and hansards, which are the official documents of the House of Commons.

Moderated Caucus:

A moderated caucus is the time period where casual debate between parties and delegates are formed. In a moderated caucus, there is a need to specify a topic, an individual speaking time, a total time which is divisible to the individual speaking time. This caucus does not have a voting priority over the unmoderated caucus. A motion to a moderated caucus can only be raised whenever the floor is open for any kinds of points and motions. The caucus proceeds with Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker choosing MPs to speak about the motion that has been raised. Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker has the right to interrupt the MP if they go beyond the time limit or if they go off-topic.

Points: Points are raised to clarify any necessities. There are 5 different kinds of points. All of these different kinds of points serve different purposes. A point is presented by raising a placard. Mr/Mrs/Ms Speaker has the right to give an objection to a point. Delegates cannot interrupt a speaker while the speaker delegate is raising a point.

Point of Order: Raised by a delegate if that certain delegate thinks that the chairboard surely has made any procedural mistake. This point can be perceived as "rude" or "unprofessional" by some chairboard members. It is up to the chairboard's decision to accept it or not.

Point of Personal Privilege: Raised by a delegate if that certain delegate has personal wishes and discomforts regarding the situation they are in. (e.g. closing the window, turning on the lights) The admin will be assigned to fix the discomfort that the delegate raised a personal privilege point for.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Raised by a delegate if that certain delegate believes that there have been problems regarding the procedure, is mostly believed to be a less rude version of the Point of Order. The chairboard has to accept and make an explanation due to the parliamentary inquiry.

Point of Information: Raised by a delegate if that certain delegate has the need to gain a clarification regarding the agenda and the process. Simply can be asked as a question. The chairboard must make an explanation due to clarify the information that the delegate is suggesting.

Point of Personal Privilege due to Inaudibility: Is the only point which can interrupt a speaker. Means that a delegate is going through difficulties while trying to follow a speaker's speech due to the speaker's voice tone. The speaker that this point is directed at will be asked to kindly raise their voice.

Motions: Motions are proposals that specify the process of the committee in terms of the topic. A motion can be raised by any delegate. A motion can be raised at any time that the floor has been established to be open by the chairboard. The most preferred way to raise a motion is these:

Motion to have a moderated caucus to discuss...(topic): Raises a proposal of a moderated caucus.

Motion to have an unmoderated caucus to discuss...(topic): Raises a proposal of an unmoderated caucus.

Motion to extend the current caucus.: Raises an extension motion with the same topic, same individual speaking time. The extension caucus must be shorter than the actual caucus. An extension caucus must be raised if the delegate believes that there must be more time to speak about the previous caucus' topic.

Motion to terminate the current caucus.: If there is still time to speak but no MPs wishing to speak, this motion can be raised. It finishes a caucus.

Motion to suspend the meeting.: Must be raised at the end of every session.

2. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The Troubles were a generally known nationalist conflict in Northern Ireland. This conflict reigned for approximately 30 years, starting from the late 1960s and ending in 1998. The Troubles are also known as the Northern Ireland conflict throughout the globe. The conflict is deemed to have completely concluded with the “Good Friday Agreement” that established a ceasefire between both parties in 1998. Even though the conflict mostly took place in Northern Ireland, there were some circumstances where the ongoing violence spilled over into different locations in different countries, such as the Republic of Ireland, Britain and Europe.

The Troubles are usually described as an irregular war. At the same time, it was a political and nationalistic issue that was fuelled by historical events that led to a bunch of misunderstandings and overpowered aggression. In the conflict, as a factor, a heavy ethnic and sectarian dimension participated in the violence to gain control and be the authority of the land of Northern Ireland. A sectarian group that participated in this conflict was the unionists. They were mostly Protestant. Protestant unionists and loyalists wished to remain Northern Ireland as a part of the United Kingdom, as it was before. Another sectarian group that fuelled the conflict to spark was the nationalists. They were mostly Catholic, and they were discriminated against, due to the fact that they were Catholic. Irish Catholic nationalists and republicans wanted Northern Ireland to be independent from the United Kingdom, they wanted it to gain its sovereignty. The beginning of the conflict was when the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association decided to raise a friendly campaign in order to end the discrimination that was directed towards the Catholic nationalist, which remained as a minority at the time. To gain the rule, the Protestant unionist government attempted to suppress the Catholic protests which seemed like a threat to the government authority. The police organisation of Northern Ireland was standing beside the Protestant government, following the Protestant sector's rules, so the organisation was widely known by the Catholic community for sectarianism and police brutality. The following increasing tensions started the August 1969 riots and the deployment of British troops to Northern Ireland, and this was known as the British Army's longest operation ever for a long period of time. During this series of operations, more than 3500 people were killed in the conflict field. The casualties were 52% were civilians, 32% were members of the British security forces, and only 16% were people from the paramilitary groups, both Protestant and Catholic, meaning that both Unionist and Nationalist. After the conflict, there was a period of time where both parties agreed upon a peace process: The Northern Ireland peace process. This procedure led to ceasefires and discussions between the main political sides. The peace discussions resulted with the Good Friday Agreement of 1998, which was the agreement that made Northern Ireland a self-government that works on the basis of “power-sharing” and it also consisted the acceptance of the principle of consent, commitment to civil and political rights, parity of esteem between two communities, police reform, military disarmament and early release of prisoners. However, Northern Ireland never became able to gain its

full sovereignty with a separate law that initiated the primary importance of independence.

Humanity did not prefer to refer to this conflict as the Northern Ireland conflict. In contrast, they chose to pick the name “Troubles”. This name was chosen because it has been used as a symbol for violence over the centuries to this day. It was adopted to refer to the escalating violence in Northern Ireland after 1969 over the decades.

3. Key Terms and Definitions

Unionists: Political term for the people who wanted Northern Ireland to remain united with the United Kingdom. The Unionist people mostly believed in the Protestant sect, so in this article they may sometimes be referred to as Protestant.

Loyalists: A synonym for the term Unionists. This word will be used for more militant supporters of Unionism.

Nationalists: Political term for the people who wanted Northern Ireland to unite with the Republic of Ireland, apart from the United Kingdom. The Nationalist people mostly believed in the Catholic sect, so in this article they may sometimes be referred to as Catholic.

Republicans: A synonym for the term Nationalists. This word will be used for more militant supporters of Nationalism.

Irish Republican Army: A paramilitary organization that has the purpose of ending British ruling in Northern Ireland. They have the main aim of achieving Irish unification with the independence of Northern Ireland.

Loyalist Paramilitaries (UVF...) : Armed groups who have the common aim of protecting Ireland’s position, which is the unity in the United Kingdom.

Partition: The division of Ireland into two parts. With the Partition event, Northern Ireland remained as a part of the United Kingdom. Southern Ireland, which is commonly known as the Republic of Ireland, became an independent state.

Civil Rights Movement: An activism movement that was done by the Catholic community to show their protest for the aim of gathering peace to establish equal rights in the 1960s.

Bloody Sunday: The major event that became a turning point. In this event, British soldiers started a shooting targeted to civil rights protesters who were unarmed.

Paramilitary: An armed group that is not connected to the official military of that certain government.

Peace Walls: Barriers that were constructed to separate Catholic and Protestant communities from each other.

Good Friday Agreement: A peace agreement that created a power-sharing government with both nationalists and unionists, which helped to end most of the violence.

4. Historical Background

4.1. 1609-1791

The conflict started in 1609, when Protestant Scottish and English settlers were given some land. The given land was escheated from the native Irish government in the process of Plantation of Ulster. Due to this plantation, the Protestant Scottish and English settlers were widely known as planters. Plantation of Ulster was a colonisation of the Irish area that is called Ulster. The plantation was conducted by people from Great Britain. This resulted in a start of a conflict between the native Irish Catholics and the so called planters. This mentioned conflict started two significant religious clashes between Catholic and Protestant sides. The first war is known as the Irish Confederate Wars (1641-1653). And the second war is known as the Williamite War (1689-1691). In both of these wars, Protestant side was the one who gained a victory. English dominance in Ireland was ensured by the laws that stated the minimizing of religious, legal and political rights of anybody that did not obey the state church, meaning that people had to follow Protestant rules and limitations around the country. This law sparked more competition for Northern Ireland territory. The restrictions were mostly aimed at the Irish Catholic people's ability to rent houses and areas, because they were banned from buying land before. With the newly introduced law, the Catholic people were finally allowed to buy land and enter different kinds of trades with different intentions and goals. This created polarisation between Protestant and Catholic communities due to various reasons. In addition, this polarisation created a reduction in Protestant reformers.

4.2. 1791-1912

Throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th century, sectarian violence between Protestants and Catholics continued to be a very important topic that was a problem of Northern Ireland. An institution was formed by Protestant people who uphold the aim of gathering and memorializing Protestant faith and loyalty to the heirs of William of Orange. William of Orange was once the King of England. This organisation was

called “The Orange Institution” because of the King’s name. Acts of Union 1800 were the acts that planned to merge the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland. With the Acts of Union 1800 a new political framework, which was in favor of Great Britain, was formed when the Irish Parliament was abolished due to various reasons that contained political factors and actors. The two governments aligned together and came to life with a new name that contained both of the governments as a union, which was the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. As a result, the Protestants’ and Catholics’ ties became closer due to this union that advertised peace as a primary aspect that seemed to be necessary to keep the government and the people together as a complete country. With this union of Great Britain and Ireland, many of the restrictions on Catholics that were a vital aspect that kept the Catholic people prejudiced towards the British government were removed and this procedure was named “Catholic inclusion”. Catholic inclusion was achieved in the 19th century, specifically 1829, with eliminating official discrimination that was in the legal regulations of the government towards the Catholics in Ireland, the campaign to repeal the 1801 Union failed. Catholic communities still had nationalist intentions, they did not fully obey the British government and its rules that were altered to gain sympathy of the Catholics as it seems. Towards the end of the 19th century, a Home Rule movement was used to define the division between Catholic nationalists that wanted to re-establish the Irish Parliament, and Protestant unionists who were scared of becoming the minority under an Irish Parliament that is dominated by Catholic representatives. Apart from their community, some Catholics were supportive of continuing union with Great Britain. They were a part of the unionist group. These groups were the main political factors that shaped the late 19th and early 20th century Ireland.

4.3. 1912-1922

In the second decade of the 20th century, the Irish government was on the edge of being accepted by Britain's perspective. However, some Protestant unionists were resisting the acceptance of the Irish government and the possibility of Ireland becoming an independent state. The reason for this resistance was the unionists’ fear of a future which was controlled by an overwhelmingly Catholic country that is dominated by the Roman Catholic Church. The Protestant citizens of Northern Ireland did not want to be ruled under these harsh Catholic conditions. In 1912, the Protestant unionists signed the Ulster covenant. This agreement made them pledge to resist Home Rule movement by military force if that became necessary at some point of the conflict. To achieve this agreement fully, they formed the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force. To have a response to this force, nationalists formed a community which was called the Irish Volunteers. This voluntary group was formed in 1913 to have an army that opposed the Ulster Volunteer Force. Due to the beginning of WW1, a civil war between the unionist and nationalist sides was temporarily postponed in Ireland. The First World War also delayed a possible resolution of the question of probable Irish independence. When the First World War

ended, the circumstances were available for a civil war, so the Irish War for Independence followed. This civil war for independence led to the sovereignty of the Irish Free State in 1922. What we mean by the Irish Free State is the part of Ireland which contained 26 of the 32 Irish states. Ulster was particularly in the six states which became Northern Ireland, which was not included in the Irish Free State. The unionists in Ulster won the election with a majority over 67%. The Government of Ireland Act in 1920 parted Ireland into two territories, Southern Ireland and Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland remained as a part of the United Kingdom, while Southern Ireland became independent. All of the Irish Free State cities are located in Southern Ireland, which means that all of Northern Ireland remained dependent on the United Kingdom. Unionists were pretty satisfied with this partition, but in nationalists' perspective, this was an illegal division of Ireland against the will of the majority of its citizens. A total of 557 people were killed in sectarian violence from 1920 to 1922. Most of these people were Catholic nationalists. This resulted in social divergency between the Catholics and Protestants.

4.4. 1922-1966

A remaining part of the Irish Republican Army survived after the Irish Civil War. These remaining parts of the Irish army were mostly marginalised. The government of Northern Ireland passed the Special Powers Act in 1922. This special act gave strengthening powers to the government and also the government's police to detain suspects without having any trial. This act continued to be used against the nationalist Irish Catholics way longer than the violence. From a unionist perspective, Northern Ireland's nationalists were utterly disloyal. Nationalists were determined to deploy unionists into a united Ireland from the perception of a strong unionist. This situation was a threat to justify a preferred type of way of treatment from unionists in various areas such as housing, employment and other fields. The highly increasing generality of larger families among Catholics was seen as a threat by the Protestants due to the possibility of a rapid growth of Catholic nationalists in population. There were several campaigns, such as the Northern Campaign in the 1940s and the Border Campaign between 1956 and 1962, which aimed to reduce broad popular support among nationalists. After the Irish Republican Army cancelled its widely known campaign in 1962, Northern Ireland became more stable for several years.

4.5. Late 1960s

Civil rights campaign and unionist backlash

In March and April 1966, nationalist republicans made shows such as parades across Ireland. These parades, which may seem as protests from a unionist perspective, marked the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rebellion. This rebellion was an armed insurrection in Ireland, and it aimed the establishment of an independent Irish Republic in April 1916. At the time the Irish Republican Army was not giving any

armed interaction because the army itself was weak enough, however, some unionists warned the nationalists of a new campaign against Northern Ireland and against nationalists' will of freedom. In April and May 1966, the Unionists Volunteer Force, which was known as the UVF, started bombings in various Catholic areas that are mostly civil such as houses, schools, and business buildings. On 21st of May 1966, the Unionists Volunteer Force issued a statement that declared war against the Irish Republican Army and anyone supporting their actions and overall pathway. The supporters of the Irish Republican Army were mostly Catholic nationalists, so this was negative news for them. The Unionists Volunteer Force once shot a Catholic civilian, as he was on his way home on 27th of May 1966. This marked their violence on civilians, which indicated that they have gone too far. As one month passed, the Unionist Volunteer Force shot three Catholic civilians when they were leaving a pub, and one person was killed. These killings of different civilians continued, and at some point, became normalized. In the mid 1960s, a civil rights campaign which wasn't shown as violent began in Northern Ireland. The campaign's goals were giving an end to various topics such as job discrimination, eliminating housing allocation, making Northern Ireland's people able to vote for wide elections because only householders were able to vote only in local elections at that time, equalizing the power of nationalists' and unionists' vote, reform the police force to be more fair on the country's people and more topics. On 24th of August 1968, the civil rights movement and its participants made its first march in two provinces, from one province to another, in Northern Ireland. The loyalists that were against this movement of freedom attacked the marches and held counter organisations to get the marches banned forever. Because of the lack of police that countered the attacks, nationalists saw the Protestant authorities as backing the loyalists and allowing the attacks by supporting the loyalist forced actions. On 5th of October 1968, a march was successfully banned by the Northern Ireland government, and the police surrounded the people at the marching area and used harsh violence against the marchers. More than a hundred people were injured at the incident, and all of the situation was filmed by radio television companies and shown around the world on broadcast. This incident caused outrageous rage among the Catholic nationalists. This was a highlighted incident throughout the whole series of violent suppressings. It may seem as enough, but it was only the start, and this fact was one of the things that the population did oversee.

August 1969 riots and aftermath

There was a civil rights organisation called NICRA which stands for Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association. On 19th of April, there were conflicts between the civil rights organisation (NICRA) and its marchers and the police force in Northern Ireland (RUC). The aforementioned conflicts started when the police force entered one of an uninvolved Catholic civilian's house, and used violent techniques on his family and the civilian himself. On 12th of August 1969, the Protestant loyalists were allowed to march throughout the province of Bogside, anywhere that they wished in the city itself. On that day, some missiles were launched between loyalists

and nationalist civilians, meaning that both sides of the conflict began to make bombardments on each other. The nationalists were bombarding the RUC with stones and petrol bombs. In addition, the RUC police forces used huge amounts of armoured vehicles and deadly water cannons. This continuous fight reigned for 3 days. It was also known as the Battle of Bogside, due to the province that it happened in. In response to these catastrophic events, nationalists started protesting the police force at RUC's own bases. Some of these protests sparked some clashes and attacks in the RUC bases, meaning that the both sides engaged in conflict again. Loyalists responded by invading various districts, and burning some civilians' houses and different kinds of business buildings down. These sectarian attacks are known to this day as the worst assaults on Catholic districts since the year of 1920. There were battles which occurred within gun involvement between nationalist civil forces and the RUC. Even a nine year old child was killed in an event of firing in a district that was dominated by the nationalist population. During the event, he was asleep in his bed and got shot by a bullet that passed through two walls, so the killing of this nine year old child was not intentional. A nationalist on the television condemned the RUC's hideous actions and also stated that the Irish Government lacks observing and taking action upon that innocent people are getting injured and having obliged to go through worse scenarios. The same person called for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force to have a ceasefire and continue the conflict on the table, peacefully negotiating. On 10th of September 1969, the British Army started a construction which aimed to be the first peace wall, and this wall's purpose was to separate the communities so that they could not get involved in violent fights with each other anymore. It was the first of many kinds of different peace walls in Northern Ireland and it still stands to this day.

4.6. 1970s

Violence peaks

In a 2 year old time period, which is from 1970 to 1972, Northern Ireland shook with a series of events that burst with political violence. An example of one of these events is on a regular day, a bar was bombed by the Unionists Volunteer Force in 1971. This incident was perceived by a wide range of people as possibly the deadliest attack that occurred in the early 1970s. This outrageous violence reached its top point in the year of 1972 when nearly 500 civilians were killed in a similar bombardment by the loyalist forces. Nationalists emphasized various events in the early 1970s and their purpose was to explain the outrage in the slowly peaking violence. One of these incidents that were full of violence was the Falls Curfew in July 1970. On that day, 3000 troops forced a curfew on the nationalists for two days. This curfew included that the nationalists couldn't go out of their houses in that time period. During this curfew, 4 civilians were killed. In this killing, the Irish Republican Force fired over 1500 rounds of ammunition in total. These remarkable peaks in violence marked the intensity of the conflict.

Bloody Sunday

The event of a shooting of thirteen unarmed men, was another incident that kept the flow of the conflict on. This incident was called “the Bloody Sunday”, emphasizing the intense fight where blood flew. These said unarmed men were killed by the British Army at a banned anti detention meeting. On the same occasion, fifteen other people were wounded due to the catastrophic atmosphere of this event. This was one of the most memorable events throughout the Troubles. Bloody Sunday was the incident where the largest number of civilians were killed in a single shooting incident during the timeline of the Troubles. This distressing Sunday, Bloody Sunday, caused an increase of the enmity between nationalist Catholics and the Irish government and its unionist and loyalist supporters. Due to this hostility, tensions became more and more elevated. A ceasefire agreement was made in 1972, but it did not end to be permanent. Despite this temporary ceasefire in 1972 and discussions with British officials and the government itself, the unionists stood still and showed up ready to continue a violent campaign until they finally achieved the great union with Britain.

Sunningdale Agreement and UWC strike

In June 1973, a new parliament was founded. This parliament was called the Northern Ireland Assembly, a parliament that was established for Northern Ireland only. In this parliament’s first months, elections to define the members were held on 28th of June. In October 1978, both nationalist and unionist parties negotiated the Sunningdale Agreement. This agreement was discussed with the contribution of the British and Irish governments. This aforementioned agreement had the intention of creating a political settlement within Northern Ireland, because every citizen, whether if they’re a civilian or a government official, thought that things became immensely chaotic. Unionists were split over this agreement, because many of them opposed the idea of power-sharing. (Power-sharing is the production of an executive with both unionist representatives and nationalist representatives.) However, there were some unionists who believed that power-sharing was a fine idea and wanted to take it into action. Unfortunately, as a final act, the Sunningdale Agreement was brought down with a mass action from the aggressive loyalists. This mass action was the Ulster Workers’ Council (UWC) strike. In this event, the strike cut down a business in Northern Ireland and also terminated some of the essential services such as water and electricity. All of this was again done with harsh force and military power.

Mid 1970s

In February 1974, a bomb that was planted by the Irish Republican Army killed 12 people in the province of Yorkshire. In November of the same year, 1974, the Birmingham bombings happened in an ordinary pub in the city. In these bombings 21 people were found dead. After that event occurred, the Irish Republican Army encouraged and finally declared a ceasefire. This ceasefire could theoretically continue throughout the year of 1974. However, additionally, the sectarian killings

increased in the next year, which is 1975. Imagine how intense it was, because the year of 1975 was declared as the “bloodiest year of the conflict”. On 5th of April 1975, the Irish Republican Army’s various members killed four Protestant civilians in an attack that contained different kinds of warfare items such as guns and bombs at the Mountainview Tavern, in the province of Belfast. On 31st of July 1975, two Catholic nationalist civilians and a Protestant unionist civilian were killed with two of the Unionist Volunteer Force’s soldiers by a bomb. In January 1976, eleven Protestant unionist workers were killed, and this resulted in 10 fatalities, and surprisingly, a man survived despite being shot from different parts of his body 18 times. The violence continued throughout the rest of the middle of the 70s.

Late 1970s

By the late 1970s, the public disapproval for the continuation of this war was visible in both of the communities. There were multiple signs of the weariness of the war. One of those signs was the foundation of the Peace People. This peaceful establishment was an organisation that was dedicated to enlarging the peacefulness throughout the whole community of Northern Ireland. They also wanted to activate a peaceful resolution of this elongated severe conflict. The Peace People had numerous demonstrations to terminate the current ongoing paramilitary violence that has widespread across the country. On the other hand, the British Government had failed to accomplish a tranquil political settlement, and additionally they tried to normalise Northern Ireland’s chaotic environment a little bit. They removed the internment without a trial, also they removed political status for paramilitary prisoners.

4.7. 1980s

In 1981, the substantial Irish hunger strike occurred. This widespread hunger was the outcome of a five year protest by Irish republican prisoners in Northern Ireland. 10 of those protestors died because of the seriousness of their starvation. In July 1982, the Irish Republican Army planned a bombing on every military ceremony that was happening in Britain, specifically in London’s Hyde Park and Regent’s Park. Four soldiers, seven bandsmen and seven horses were killed during these series of bombings. In December 1983, the Irish Republican Army also attacked Harrods, using a car bomb. This attack that involved a car bomb, ended with the death of six people. The various bombings and numerous attacks of the Irish Republican Army remained continuous throughout the 1980s. Towards the end of the decade, the British Army as well as the British Government tried to soften and positify their public perception. The authorities of the British told their soldiers to not use the telescopic sights on their rifles to scan the streets, because this endangered the civilians. The civilians also believed that this system was made to target themselves, so they also felt endangered. Soldiers were also encouraged to wear berets rather than helmets, due to helmets being perceived as more militaristic and even more hostile.

4.8. 1990s

Escalation in South Armagh

When the beginning of the 1990s approached, the Irish Republican Army came up with a new plan to restrict the British Army's foot patrols near the area of Crossmaglen. The Irish Republican Army developed two sniper teams for a possible organized attack to the British Army and RUC police team patrols. The army put up various signs around the territory that passed through South Armagh. These signs (which resembled billboards) said "Sniper at Work". The signs were put up to spread a scary atmosphere. These snipers killed a total of nine members of the security forces, and seven British soldiers. The Irish Republican Army also developed the capability of having attack helicopters on the high grounds of South Armagh and the area near that province.

Downing Street mortar attack

On 7th of February 1991, the Irish Republican Army attempted to assassinate the Prime Minister of those times, which were the 1990s. The Prime Minister of that time was John Major. They planned this assassination by firing a cannon at Downing Street while they were gathered there to spread words of different perspectives about the Gulf War. This assassination plan caused four injuries. Two of these injured people were police members. Even though the plan was thoroughly detailed, the Prime Minister became nothing else than remaining unharmed.

First ceasefire

In the middle of the 1990s, there was a considerable period of political directing. Through the end of this political process, both loyalist and republican paramilitary groups decided upon a ceasefire in 1994. On 16th of June 1994, just before the ceasefires became accepted and constituted, the Irish National Army killed three Ulster Volunteer Force members. This killing occurred with the plan of a gun attack in the Shankill Road. For purposes that were highly influenced by revenge instincts, after three days had passed, the Ulster Volunteer Force killed six civilians in a happenstance of a shooting at a certain pub. Although this ceasefire failed in the short term, the effects of it was an effective end to this ongoing large-scale political violence.

Second ceasefire

Less than 2 years after the declaration of ceasefire, on 9th of February 1996, the Irish Republican Army revoked the conflict with a bombing in London. In this event, there were a total of 39 injuries and 2 casualties. This caused a £85 million damage to the city's monetary centre, it still seems like a huge amount of money and at those times it was even heavier of a cost. The failure of the ceasefire was due to the British Government's refusal to begin all-party negotiations until the Irish Republican Army disarmed all of its weapons. Other several bombings, most

notably the 1996 Manchester bombing, followed this attack, so the ceasefire weakened throughout the days. The 1996 Manchester bombing occurred at the centre of the city on 15th of June. The damage that was caused on the centre was a large one, which was estimated around approximately £410 million financial damage. The Irish Republican Army reconstituted the ceasefire in July 1997, and the agreement that arose as a result of the negotiations became known as the Good Friday Agreement.

5. Causes of the Conflict

Religious Divisions

Religion differences were a function that acted less as a matter of personal belief but more as a powerful identity marker. This division of Protestants and Catholics dates back far to the 17th century, where the Plantation of Ulster happened due to the British Colonisation. This colonisation caused the Protestant settlers from Britain to gain land and privileges, and the ones that got displaced were the native Irish Catholics. In Northern Ireland, the association worked such as the term Protestant being perceived as settlers from the British loyalty and the term Catholic being perceived as native marginalized Irish people. As the generations passed, this strengthened into two separate communities with different interpretations of legitimacy. In the 20th century, the religious division had some significant shaping in the daily life of the Irish. In education, children were mostly attending either Catholic or Protestant schools, and this meant the separation of religion was happening in the very early stage of human life. The physical division of the neighborhoods were the signs of limited interaction in housing. Marriage between a Catholic and a Protestant was jeered and discouraged. These factors show that people grew up with minimal contact with the other community. This minimizing of the interaction created prejudice, fear, and misinformation throughout both of the communities. Also, religion became a symbol for a person's political stance, too. Identifying as a Catholic person meant that the person is likely to be a nationalist. In contrast, being Protestant meant that you're likely to be unionist.

Political Identity

The core question that sparked the Troubles was "What country do we belong to?". There were two opposite national visions. The first one was Unionists, who saw Northern Ireland connected to the United Kingdom. They were the ones who were aligned with the British monarchy, British parliament and British army. The Unionist part of this conflict viewed the British government as a legitimate body and necessary for stability. They had fears too, and the most essential fear of them was becoming a minority in a united Ireland. They believed that if a scenario of a united Ireland happened, they would lose their cultural identity with their political dominance. The opposition to the Unionists were Nationalists, who were supporting a united Ireland. The Nationalists considered the British government's rule in Northern Ireland like a colonial control. They believed that Partition was an action

of dividing a legitimate nation. Northern Ireland had a Protestant majority, so the Catholic minority in that country remained excluded. Because of this reason, Partition created a tension, where one group controlled the state and the other questioned their legitimacy. The biggest issue was that there was no common ground, because if Northern Ireland stays as a part of the United Kingdom, Nationalists would lose. However, if Northern Ireland unites with Ireland, Unionists would lose. This conflict made politics highly unstable, where elections reinforced division instead of solving a kind of problem.

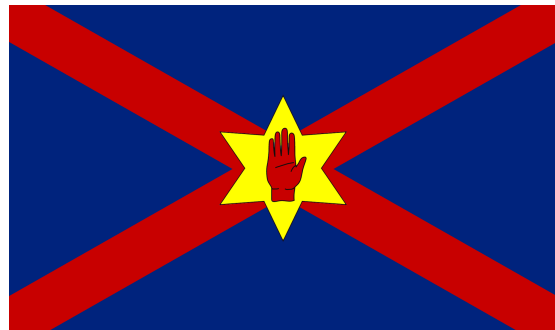
Discrimination and Civil Rights Issues

A day-to-day issue was that there was an urgent discrimination against Catholics. For example, public housing was controlled by local councils, and all of those councils were Unionist dominated. Due to this reason, Catholics were often placed in poor properties and due to the rules of voting, housing was connected to the voting rights (some voting systems favored property owners) so the Catholic people were also being discriminated against politically. There was also discrimination in the employment field. Due to the statistics, Catholics had higher unemployment rates because key industries preferred Protestant candidates. Because of this reason, economic inequality between the sections increased, and sparked frustration. The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) which is the state's police organisation was mostly Protestant, so this created unfair treatment towards Catholics by the government. By the 1960s, a Civil Rights Movement was initiated by a younger generation to challenge the system. They organized a peaceful protest where they demanded topics related to humanitarian rights such as equal voting rights, fair housing, equal access to getting jobs, and police being unequal. These protests were far from being violent, and they were focused on reform.

6. Key Factors and Governments

Nationalists

The Nationalist people were mostly Catholic, and they identified as a part of the Irish community. They rejected the idea of the existence of Northern Ireland as a part of the United Kingdom. Their ultimate goal was reunification with the Republic of Ireland. Social Democratic and Labour Party



(SDLP) was a constitutional Nationalist party. The party's ideology was moderate nationalism mixed with social democracy. The goals of the party was to have a peaceful reform among Northern Ireland, emphasize and pursue civil rights, and prosecute negotiations with Britain about the Northern Ireland conflict. The IRA

was the main Republican paramilitary organization. The IRA was formed after the Partition, and it has been known to be the most powerful nationalist paramilitary group. The main goal of it was to end the British rule in Northern Ireland, and achieve the unification of Irish countries. They used methods such as bombings, assassinations, and Guerilla warfare to combat Unionist forces.

Unionists

Unionist people were mostly identifying as Protestant, and they were part of the British community. Their main goal was to maintain Northern Ireland's union with the United Kingdom. The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) was the main dominant Unionist party from 1921 to the



1970s. This party was the elected party, and they controlled Northern Ireland's governmental body. There were a lot of attempts at reform at those times, so this party was the one resisting all of those major reforms. The following Unionist party was the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP). Their position was to strongly oppose Irish unity. Different from UUP, they represented more religious and conservative Protestant people. There were some Loyalist paramilitary organisations, and the biggest one of them was the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF). It was one of the oldest Unionist groups, and they were one of the most active groups throughout the Troubles. They had multiple attacks on Catholic identifying civilians, and their main aim was retaliation against the IRA forces. Another paramilitary group was the Ulster Defence Association (UDA). They were the largest loyalist paramilitary organisation in terms of the number of people assigned. The UDA used a cover name, which is Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), and they used this name to deny official responsibility.

British Army

The British Army was the official authority that was deployed to Northern Ireland in 1969 after the Partition. It was perceived in various ways by the Catholic people throughout the conflict. Initially, they were welcomed by the Catholics, however, later they were seen as biased for the



loyalists and oppressive. A controversial action of theirs was Bloody Sunday, where they destroyed the trust that was built among Catholics.

RUC

The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) was the main police force in the Troubles. They were Britain's police organisation, and they were mostly Protestant. The RUC was seen by Nationalists as aligned with the Unionists.



UDR

Another British State Force was the Ulster Defence Regiment. They were a locally gathered military organization. There were allegations between the Nationalists about the UDR, about how they were linked with the Loyalist paramilitary organisations.



Irish Government

The Republic of Ireland was perceived as non-violent and more focused on the diplomatic side of the conflict. Their support was on the Irish unification side, but they aimed to achieve it peacefully. The government provided political support for nationalists, and they became essential in agreements and peace talks.



7. Questions to be Answered

How did the history before the Troubles affect the conflict?

What was/were the main underlying cause(s) of the Troubles?

How did discrimination against Catholics operate in the flame of violence in Northern Ireland?

Why were the civil rights movements in the 1960s unsuccessful in terms of achieving a peaceful reform?

What role did the paramilitary organisations (such as the IRA and UVF) play in escalating the conflict of the Troubles?

How did the British Army become involved in the conflict and how did this involvement affect the conflict?

How did the day-to-day life of the civilians change during the years of the Troubles?

What was the effect of the Good Friday Agreement on ending violence and promoting peace?

What is the lasting influence of the Troubles in the current years of Ireland?

8. Further Reading and Bibliography

Articles to Read:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Troubles

<https://www.britannica.com/event/The-Troubles-Northern-Ireland-history>

<https://emu.edu/now/peacebuilder/2009/02/a-brief-history-of-the-troubles/>

Videos to Watch:

<https://youtu.be/gNT-oz5NkSM?si=gSlt07yRPMFMwKml>

<https://youtu.be/IHLYeBtGvOg?si=7qD96N86EOZRGuSn>

<https://youtu.be/N70TGMyK0QQ?si=JV9ubJJkmCvaCGfH>