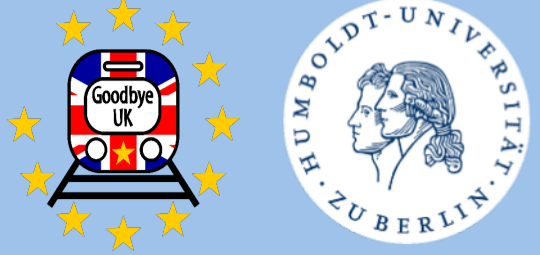


TROUBLES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Poster prepared by: Maiya Turlybekova

Ireland was a conflict area in the British Isles throughout several centuries.

Controversies between two states – the UK and Ireland with its different cultures, religions and nationalities - have led to political conflicts that peaked in the 20th century resulting in riots and violence on the streets of Belfast and other Irish cities.



1100s – 1800s



Pope Hadrian IV

- **British-Irish relations first began in the 12th century.**
When Henry II gained control of the throne, there was much interest in expanding into their neighbour, Ireland. His travelling to Ireland was in part religious as well.
The British Pope Hadrian IV wanted Henry II to invade Ireland in order to spread the English Christian ideals.
Hadrian saw Ireland as a state under British rule, rather than one with its own people and culture.

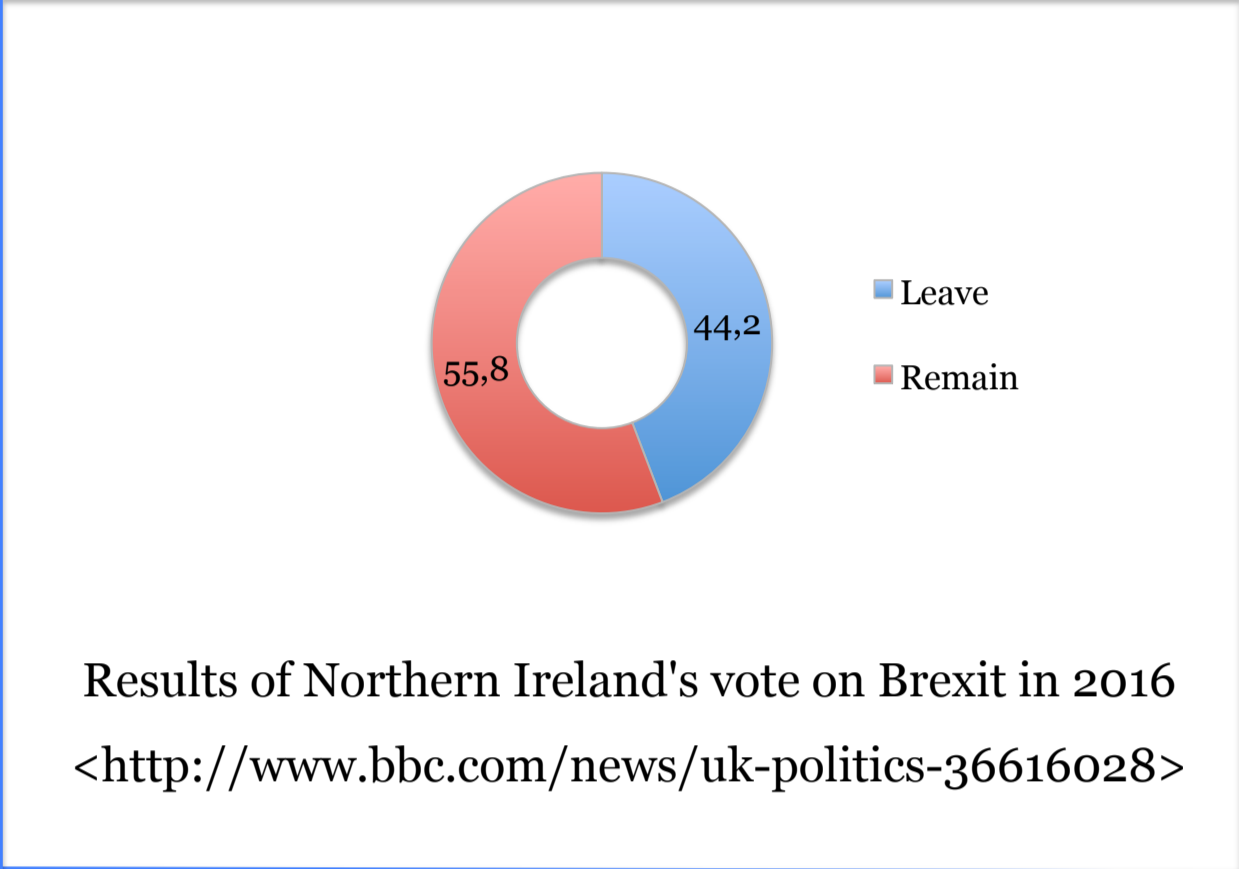


King Henry VIII

- **With Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic Church in the mid 1500s, the UK became Protestant.**
The sudden shift was not welcomed by powerful Irish families, and led Thomas, Lord Offaly to lead a rebellion in 1534 which failed.
Henry VIII was granted the title "King of Ireland" in 1541, and with his new power, imposed a Reformation onto the people of Ireland. This included procedures to take land from the Irish and give it to new British settlers in an attempt to drive the Irish out of their own country.
The unrest caused by these new policies resulted in the Nine Years War which resulted in the victory of Elizabeth I's army in 1603.
(Ruane, Todd, Smith, Cavendish)

1990 - present

- The Northern Ireland peace process of the 1990s resulted in the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. The aim was to create a power-sharing and cross-border bodies, as well as to establish a ceasefire. The Agreement was signed by British and Irish governments and major political parties of Northern Ireland, and serves as a basis of Northern Ireland's current political system.
- In the light of **Brexit**, there have been concerns regarding the future of the peace process in Northern Ireland after the UK leaves the European Union. In this case, common EU membership has been a vital ingredient in the positive transformation of UK-Irish relations in recent years, and in helping lay the groundwork for the development of the peace process. It is incumbent on all sides to ensure that the relationship does not atrophy as a result of Brexit.
- While the Agreement worked to solve problems of nationality, the social division between Catholics and Protestants still exists. Dividing walls and murals depicting a range of events, from friends killed on Bloody Sunday to family lost in gang violence, can still be seen throughout northern cities.
- **Political conflict in Northern Ireland did not occur simply because of the presence of two distinct communities, it emerged due to specific historical decisions and omissions, and the persistence of policy goals and exclusivist communal sentiments drove that conflict forward.**
(McGrattan, Pakenham, Smith, House of Lords Paper 76)



1800s – 1920



Home Rule political label

- By the early 1800s, a **Catholic Association** had formed in an attempt to better represent the Catholic community in Ireland. Distinction was made for the first time between what is now Northern Ireland and what is now the Republic of Ireland. The **Fenians**, an **Irish Republican Brotherhood**, was formed to try and recover land that had been taken by the British. While this led to the declaration of the Land Act, it was poorly executed and thus the Catholic Republicans were even more eager to separate themselves from the Protestant British.
- With the formation of a parliament lobby group for Irish independence in 1870, the **Home Rule League** was created in order to try and gain this separation. However, Home Rule was opposed by loyalists in Northern Ireland, who felt that Irish economic success was due in part largely to Ireland's ties with England. This disagreement resulted in the formation of a range of Republican groups, including the **Sinn Fein** and **Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB)**, as well as small armies, such as the **Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF)** and nationalist **Irish Volunteers**.
- The effects of these groups were felt at the **Easter Rising in 1916** (leaders of the Rising formed an attack against the British government). The attack in Dublin failed; however, with the execution of the leaders of the Easter Rising, Republicans gained sympathy and favour within Ireland. With its additional support, the Irish Volunteers soon became the **Irish Republican Army (IRA)**. Using guerilla tactics, the IRA was able to begin the Irish War of Independence. Worried by the violence that might result from this rebellion army, British officials soon put in place curfews for Irish citizens, as well as placing troops on Irish soil.
(Anderson, Smith, Keough)



The ruins of Dublin's General Post office after the Easter Rising.

1921 - 1990

- In 1921 Ireland officially split itself in two: Northern Ireland, which was predominantly **Protestant**, and the Republic of Ireland, which was largely **Catholic**. This came as a resolution to the disagreements of Home Rule, as well as an attempt to end bloodshed.
- **Unionists** (who had control of Northern Ireland) **put in place regulations that would further marginalize the already minority Catholics**. This included redrawing electoral borders that decreased Catholic representation and gave more votes to Protestants. As a result, Catholics were forced to face discrimination and harassment in their own backyard.
- Economic boom that came after World War II started to slow down by the 1960s, and recovery programmes were put in place that helped to stimulate the economy and forced **Northern Ireland and the Republic to interact for the first time in 40 years**. Yet with these meetings, tension was building and finally erupted in the riots in 1966 at the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising.
- In making governmental policy fairer, the British also lost favour with Protestant groups who believed that the British were beginning to favour the Catholics over themselves. Violence once again broke out. In order to counter these attacks, the **Provisional IRA (PIRA)** was formed with a greater tendency toward violence than the retired IRA.
- In an attempt to decrease the number of attacks from both sides, the British began interning anyone who performed what they deemed "criminal" offences. The majority of these detainees were members of the PIRA rather than loyalists and violence erupted once again. This came to a head on what became known as **Bloody Sunday**, when British troops intercepted a civil rights march in Derry on January 30, 1972.
- An agreement between the British and the Irish was finally reached in November 1985. According to the **Anglo-Irish Agreement**, North Ireland would remain separate from the Republic of Ireland until a majority of the population voted to reunite.
(Smith, Ruane, Todd)

