

The Troubles

IRA vs. British Government

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Jonah Dabora

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Joint Crisis: The Troubles

The Troubles: Irish Republican Army vs. British Government

Hello there,

It is with a great pleasure that I welcome each of you delegates to the Crisis Committee entitled The Troubles. Founded on an exceedingly vast and rich history, the Joint Crisis will reconstruct the period of time in the Irish and British past where both sides fought for their own interests and status. As a delegate in the IRA, you must be willing to fight (with directives that is) for the freedom of your people and Northern Ireland. With issues to be handled on all fronts, including: the organizational structure and the inner workings of the group and handling the British response to Ireland independence, I hope you'll be hooked the entire time. One and all, together, we fight for freedom & liberty.

My name is Jonah and I will be the chair for the IRA committee. Born and raised in the city of Montreal, I have recently just started my first year of medicine at McGill. I started with MUN in grade 11 with competitions held at my high school. For us MUN-ners, once is rarely enough though and so in the past 4 years, I've continued competing, staffing, and chairing various events all over Montreal. I am super excited to see how you delegates shape the committee and am eager to have the IRA end up on top, while the British Cabinet struggles in our wake! (Nothing like a bit of friendly competition)

Now, while I must bid you adieu for a time, I rest the future in your hands. With your management and cohesion as a committee, the fate of our great nation lies in the balance. Following the Irish Proverb, "A family of Irish birth will argue and fight, but let a shout come from without and see them all unite."

Kind regards,
Jonah Dabora
Chair, IRA, SSUNS 2015



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to the British Cabinet of the Troubles Joint-Crisis Committee! You are one of the lucky few to be able to participate in this one-of-a-kind Joint-Crisis. As members of the Cabinet, you are tasked with managing your portfolios, in accordance to the purview of the Prime Minister, and responding to domestic issues at home, within Northern Ireland in particular, and foreign events that place the interests of the United Kingdom at risk.

I will be serving as you Chair. I am a native to Montreal, although I have lived overseas in Dubai and Australia, and am currently completing a double Major in Political Science and History at McGill. Through Model UN I have been able to attend conferences across the globe, establish long-lasting friendships, and create outstanding memories. I look forward to seeing what you all have to offer to debate and how you will (or fail to) shape the outcome of this unique crisis.

SSUNS will test your abilities as a delegate and I am sure that you will all have an amazing experience both in and outside of committee.

So prepare yourselves! It is up to you, members of Her Majesty's government, to manage the nation during these troubling times, whilst retaining the principles of the United Kingdom in place. In the words of Margaret Thatcher, "Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is error, may we bring truth. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. And where there is despair, may we bring hope."

Kind regards,

Mackenzie Anderson

Chair, British Cabinet, SSUNS 2015



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Welcome delegates to The Troubles at SSUNS 2015!

My name is Mitchell Clarke and I'll be your Crisis Director for this fast-paced historical joint committee. I am a third-year student in Political Science and Hispanic Studies at McGill, and I'm excited to be leading you through this innovative and politically relevant reliving of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Our committee will cover many topics, most importantly devolution of powers to regional parliaments and what it truly means to live in a territory trapped between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. These issues continue to resonate in the politics of the United Kingdom and Ireland to this day.

Some of you will have the distinction of serving in Her Majesty's Cabinet under the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and will have to work together to advance the common cause of your leader, or else look for a suitable replacement.

Others will have the chance to fight for your nation's freedom as part of the Irish Republican Army, bringing tactical innovation and single-mindedness second to none to your struggle against one of the world's most powerful empires.

However it turns out, I hope each of you will learn something about this important period in history, diplomacy and, ultimately, yourselves. I hope you're as eager as I am for this committee and I look forward to meeting you all in November!

Yours,
Mitchell Clarke
Crisis Director, Troubles, SSUNS 2015



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Crisis Team, I would like to welcome you all to the British Cabinet committee of this Joint Crisis. Throughout the committee sessions, you will all have the opportunity to experience all the trials and tribulations (as well as the more positive aspects!) of the position of member of the British Cabinet.

I will be your Assistant Crisis Director for the duration of the conference. I was born and raised in Montreal, and am currently entering my second year at McGill, where I am completing a Neuroscience degree. This will be my fourth year of involvement in the Model UN community, as I have been both a delegate and a staff member at various conferences. Through Model UN, I have learnt many important skills, and I hope that you will all have the opportunity to do the same through our committee!

Both the Crisis Team and the Dais have been working very hard to be able to offer the best experience to all of you. As a result, I kindly suggest that you read this background guide thoroughly, as it will offer you all a better sense of the committee.

We are very excited to meet you all in November!

Sincerely,

Yasmine Kamen

Assistant Crisis Director, British Cabinet, SSUNS 2015



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Background Guide

Introduction

From 1968 to 1998 there was immense turmoil in Northern Ireland, a period in time that we now call The Troubles. As a delegate in this committee you will be tasked with exploring the tumultuous relationship between Margaret Thatcher, her Cabinet, and the government in one of the United Kingdom's four nations. This committee will focus on the intense political climate of the time (both in London and Londonderry), the workings of Westminster parliament (or a self-organizing insurgent group), and how even the most bitter sectarian conflict can be resolved through power-sharing.

A Heterogeneous Geographic Territory

Although the period of conflict known as The Troubles would occur between 1960 and 1998, the region's problems stretch back centuries to the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1167. It was at this point that England first laid roots in the area. What would later become a nationalistic and religious conflict can be linked back to the fact that since 1167, there were seldom ever any attempts to unite the people. As a result, two disparate populations, with differing interests, found themselves living on a small island side by side.

It was with English King Henry VIII's separation from the Catholic Church in 1534 that these differences became more pronounced. While England became Protestant, the majority of the Irish population remained Catholic. Religion thus became an integral part of politics and of identity to people in Ireland. In the same year, there was a Catholic revolt against the Protestant English King and in 1594, the Nine Years' War led by the Earl of Tyrone was fought under the same conditions. All revolts were crushed harshly, with those involved often being executed upon defeat. England used these rebellions as opportunities to bring Protestant colonists to Ireland, who set up plantations on Irish land, often times removing Catholic landowners from their property. These plantations altered the demography of Ireland. Large Protestant English communities were created, whose identity was at odds with the Roman Catholic Irish inhabitants.¹

An Emerging Nationalism

In 1690 at the Battle of the Boyne, the Protestant King William III defeated the Catholic James II, who had sought to reclaim the throne that was taken from him. William's victory ensured Protestant supremacy of England for all time and led quickly to the passage of numerous laws, which restricted Catholics' rights in various domains of life. Most notably, property ownership, the right to education and the right to bear arms were restricted to mostly Protestants and a small minority of Catholics. As a result, there began a reform movement of 'patriots' who lobbied for representation in the Irish

¹ "Northern Ireland Conflict" <http://www.history.co.uk/shows/soldiers-stories/articles/northern-ireland-conflict>

Parliament. These early steps were, in effect, the first sounds of an Irish nationalism being made.²

Reeling from the loss of their Thirteen Colonies in North America in 1776, England had to be cautious of Ireland's plight for independence or they would be faced with a similar conflict in the British Isles themselves. As such, in conciliation to the Irish, the discriminatory laws restricting Catholics' civil rights were relaxed. Such attempts to diffuse the tension worked only partly, and a rebellion led by the United Irishmen, a revolutionary republican group, started in 1798.

As a result, in 1801, Ireland was fused with England to become one state, the United Kingdom. The Irish parliament was abolished and former members of Irish parliament entered the lower House of Commons in Westminster, while 32 Irish peers entered the upper House of Lords. Moreover, the Churches of Ireland and England were united. In response to this union, the Catholic Association was formed by Daniel O'Connell, who turned it into a national movement campaigning for Catholic emancipation. In his debate, Ulster (Northern Ireland) was singled out as a special case for the first time.³

The Intensification of Irish Nationalism



In the 1840s, Ireland was hit by a great potato famine and a decade later, the Irish population had dropped by two million due to death, disease and emigration. Tension was rising in Irish sentiments for independence and this was only intensified greatly by Britain's indifferent attitude to the crisis. John Mitchel, a member of the British House of Commons, wrote: "that an island which is said to be an integral part of the richest empire on the globe ... should in five years lose two and a half millions of its people (more than one fourth) by hunger, and fever the consequence of hunger, and flight beyond sea to escape from hunger ..."⁴ It was very difficult for Irish Members of Parliament (MPs) to muster any

support in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords to help out Ireland during its period of distress.

Mitchel was an advent Irish Nationalist and was convicted of being a felon and kicked out of the House of Commons in 1875. He then joined a radical group called Young Ireland who had earlier begun an armed rebellion against the British in 1848. As all



² *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2007. Print.

³ "Northern Ireland Conflict" <http://www.history.co.uk/shows/soldiers-stories/articles/northern-ireland-conflict>

⁴ Brantlinger, Patrick. *Victorian Literature and Post Colonial Studies*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 2009. Print.



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

other rebellions, it was unsuccessful. However, it is important because the desire for an autonomous Ireland was taking a more intense, violent and radical character.⁵

The Fight For & Against Home Rule: 20th Century

In response to the Young Ireland rebellion, a bill was proposed for a self-governing Ireland; it was called the Home Rule Bill. Home Rule would have involved the creation of a parliament in Dublin. The decisions made in Dublin would then have been subject to the approval of the United Kingdom Houses of Parliament (Westminster).⁶ Unfortunately, it never got through the House of Commons and House of Lords. Moreover, there was an important movement in Ireland opposing Home Rule.

As the 20th century unfolded, certain factions began to hash out and not everyone favoured an independent Ireland. For one, the Protestant population of Ulster (the North-Eastern counties of Ireland) was particularly keen to remain part of the British Empire. The strong economic ties between Ulster and England were a particularly important factor in the drive to remain a part of the United Kingdom. In particular, Belfast's economy depended on commercial ties with the remainder of the Kingdom.⁷ This opposition movement led to the creation of the Ulster Unionist Council as well as the Orange Order, two loyalist organizations.⁸

Between 1912 and 1914, the Home Rule Bill was passed in Westminster. Upon this decision, unionists smuggled rifles and ammunition into the country, and those weapons were later used by the newly formed Ulster Volunteer Force.⁹ On the other hand, the Irish Volunteers represented the nationalist faction. These groups were essentially private armies and each was composed of more than 100,000 militiamen. As tensions mounted, it became a matter of when Home Rule would be implemented and not if it would be passed. At this time, Unionists pressed the importance of an exclusion from the Home Rule Bill for Ulster.

World War I helped the cause of these Irish Nationalists by taking the focus of the British Government off the issue of Irish Sovereignty. As such, the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (a successor to Young Ireland) planned and followed through with an uprising. The Easter Rising took place in 1916.¹⁰ On April 21st, republicans were able to take over some of the main buildings in Dublin, owing the surprise caused by their attack. The entire military actions lasted for a week, after which the rebels were forced to surrender. The British Government responded very strongly to the uprising, sending approximately 18 000 men, and ensured their victory by executing all the leaders of the movement.¹¹ Some soldiers also allegedly killed innocent civilians.¹²

⁵ *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2007. Print.

⁶ McKittrick, David and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. London: Penguin Books. 2001. Print.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2007. Print.

¹² "The Easter Rising" <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/easterising/insurrection/in03.shtml>. Web. July 1st 2015.

This created a strong feeling of sympathy for the republican cause both on Irish and English soil.¹³

At the end of WWI, the republicans became aware of the decolonization process beginning throughout the world. For that reason, the Home Rule Bill was no longer acceptable to them; the republicans desired complete Irish independence. This led to the beginning of intense violence, which is now called the War of Independence.¹⁴

The Splitting of Ireland

After WWI, of the 100 MPs elected to the British HoC, 73 were nationalist and refused to attend their post. Instead they formed their own Irish assembly called the Dail Eirann. This provoked subsequent violent retaliations from both sides. The issue of Ireland's fate became extremely urgent.

In 1921, the Government of Ireland Act was passed, splitting Ireland into two. The 'North' was composed of 6 predominantly Protestant counties in Ulster. The remaining 26 counties formed part of the 'South.' In 1937, the South's dominion status within the British Commonwealth was replaced with full-fledged independence; it proclaimed itself "Eire", the Gaelic word for Ireland and was an independent and sovereign state. The nationalist reaction in the North to Eire was taken up by the Ulster Volunteer Force (mentioned above). They launched a campaign of violence in order to secure their own independence. At this point, Northern Ireland was born and the Troubles were soon to begin.¹⁵



Leading up to the Troubles – Creation of the IRA (Irish Republican Army) and Attitude in the North

The Ulster Irish Volunteer group are the original founders of the IRA. It was created as the army of the Dail Eireann in 1919. Today, this IRA is referred to as the 'Old IRA'. The IRA was created as a way to overthrow the British occupation by violent means.¹⁶ The IRA is often considered the armed branch of Sinn Féin, the political party that sought to accomplish the same goal. However, the IRA was never a subordinate organization to Sinn Féin.¹⁷

¹³ McKittrick, David and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles: The Story of the Conflict in Northern Ireland*. London: Penguin Books. 2001. Print.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ "Northern Ireland Conflict" <http://www.history.co.uk/shows/soldiers-stories/articles/northern-ireland-conflict>

¹⁶ Cowell-Meyers, Kimberly. "Irish Republican Army (IRA)". *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved from: <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Irish-Republican-Army>

¹⁷ Mulholland, Marc. *The Longest War: Northern Ireland's Troubled History*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2002. Print.

The IRA members fought in the Irish War of Independence from 1919 to 1921. During that time, their commander was Michael Collins. Their tactics involved raids, ambushes and sabotages.¹⁸ At the end of the war, Ireland attained independence; however, the six Ulster counties were split from the remainder of the island, and remained a part of the United Kingdom. At this time, the IRA split into two groups. One group supported the agreement as it stood, while the second group was opposed to the agreement.¹⁹ The second group was led by Eamon de Valera, who later became Prime Minister of Ireland. The opposition of both groups led to a civil war in Ireland; the first group overcame the second group. However, the second group maintained a presence on the island.²⁰



The IRA was created with a specific structure and chain of command, which were maintained throughout its existence. Leading the IRA was the General Army Convention (GAC). This body would only meet every two years. However, it included members of both the Army Council and the Army Executive, two bodies that met much more often, and were in charge of the day-to-day operations.²¹ The GAC decided upon matters that were both political and military, as they discussed possible changes in political positioning, but also nominated the members of the Army Executive.²² (In this committee, the delegates will be members of the General Army Convention, meeting for the first time in two years. They will have to discuss the current political climate, as well as the measures necessary to attain their goal.)

The IRA's purpose evolved with the times, and so from 1922-69 they can be referred to as the 'Anti-Treaty IRA', which fought against the Government of Ireland Act (GIA). Refusing to recognize Northern Ireland or Eire, they deemed both jurisdictions to be manifestations of British imperialism. They focused on their new goal: the reunification of the island under one independent government.²³ Their main actions included several bombings, which led the organization to be labelled an "illegal group", both in 1931 and 1936. In addition, a series of bombings in 1939 led the Irish parliament to use internment without trial against IRA members.²⁴ Moreover, the IRA solicited the help of Adolf Hitler in removing the British influence from Ireland, a measure that did not increase its popularity and went against the neutrality maintained by Ireland. For those reasons, despite some rash actions on the IRA's part, the situation in Northern

¹⁸ Cowell-Meyers, Kimberly. "Irish Republican Army (IRA)". *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved from: <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Irish-Republican-Army>

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Cowell-Meyers, Kimberly. "Irish Republican Army (IRA)". *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved from: <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Irish-Republican-Army>

²¹ "The IRA and Sinn Féin." PBS. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ira/inside/org.html>

²² Ibid.

²³ Cowell-Meyers, Kimberly. "Irish Republican Army (IRA)". *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved from: <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Irish-Republican-Army>

²⁴ Ibid.



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Ireland remained relatively calm until the 1960s, as the general public did not agree with the methods used to combat the British.²⁵

The mounting social and political tensions in the 1960s created the perfect climate for the IRA to act up more, this time with support from part of the population of Ulster. This was due mostly to Prime Minister Viscount Brookeborough, who was in office for two decades. His policies marginalized the Catholic minorities (due to the GIA, the North was majority Protestant, who felt a stronger attachment to the United Kingdom). While Brookeborough was able to raise the living conditions of many of the Northern Irish, he did not try to better integrate the Ulster Catholics. In fact, he was convinced that the religious division was an important part of the political organization of the country. Moreover, he did not try to rectify some of the inequalities between the Protestants and Catholics, such as the right to housing (Catholics did not have the right to live where they chose in Belfast) or the skewed voting map.²⁶ Hence, when the IRA began acting more drastically, many Irish Catholics followed it.

The Early Troubles: The Split of the IRA

In the 1960s, a number of contributing factors led to the deterioration of the status quo. Originally economically prosperous, Northern Ireland went into economic decline. Brookeborough was removed from power and as a result Terence O'Neill took his place. It was his mandate to introduce a series of measures to address Northern Ireland's social, economic and political malaise.

Amongst his many radical moves, he met with the Republic of Ireland's Prime Minister Sean Lemass, the first such meeting between the two territories' leaders in forty years. His new attitude raised hopes for Catholics, but was a cause of concern for Protestants. On the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and the Easter Rising, in 1966, violence erupted. Blood was spilled on both sides. This descent into violence precipitated the need for armed forces on both sides. By 1969, the Provisional IRA (PIRA) was formed, a breakaway from the main part of the IRA, henceforth known as the Official IRA (OIRA).

Like the OIRA, the PIRA demanded the unification of Ireland, advocated civil rights and represented Catholic interests. Unlike the OIRA however, the PIRA was prepared to use violent means to achieve its ends. While the OIRA faded into the background, the PIRA was represented on the political level by the Sinn Féin party (led by Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness).²⁷ A small force of British troops was also deployed to Northern Ireland. Pitted against the PIRA, the British Army conducted house-to-house searches and imposed a curfew, albeit limited. Rather than diminishing the power of the PIRA, these measures drove many more into its ranks.²⁸

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ "Brookeborough Papers." *Public Record of Northern Ireland*. Retrieved from http://www.proni.gov.uk/introduction_brookeborough.pdf

²⁷ Devenport, Marc. "Politics." Retrieved from http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/topics/troubles_politics

²⁸ Ibid.

The Troubles During the 1970s: Violence Becomes a Norm

The 1970s saw escalating violence within Northern Ireland and a distinct transition away from peaceful protests. The first significant event where violence erupted was in Bogside, a neighbourhood in the Londonderry county of Northern Ireland, in 1969. What began as rioting spiraled into what is now hailed ‘the Battle of the Bogside’ where Irish Nationalists pitted themselves against British Loyalists in an all out street war. The fighting left eight dead and nearly 800 people wounded.²⁹ In the upcoming years, a cycle was created wherever the British tried more and more to enforce their rule and control, there was a positive feedback to the amount of new recruits joining the ranks of the IRA. This led to the deployment of more British troops, higher tensions and more frequent violence, all of which contributed to the continuation of the cycle.

“Bloody Sunday” served as the main spark in inciting hostilities and is a perfect example of this feedback mechanism. On 30 January 1972, a civil rights demonstration through the streets of Londonderry, Northern Ireland was violently ended when the British army opened fire on the crowd, killing fourteen civilians.³⁰ While the British authorities justified the killings as self-defense against people wielding weapons and bombs, the Irish public viewed it as murder.³¹ This kindled renewed feelings of anger towards the British and bolstered the ranks of the PIRA and affiliated unification groups. Consequently, attacks against pro-British factions increased. In response, Britain was forced to deploy more troops to the area, continuing this circle of increased hostility. By 1974, rule by proportional representation of the Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland failed and bombs exploded throughout the Republic of Ireland from supporters of both sides. Things had deteriorated to such an extent that the British government suspended the Northern Ireland Parliament, and implemented direct rule from London.³²



Although attempts would be made to re-establish domestic rule within Northern Ireland, the British and PIRA were unable to broker an agreement that satisfied both sides. Thus, tensions were at an all time high. It is amid these tensions that the IRA committee begins.

²⁹ Llewellyn, Jennifer & Poole, Rebekah. “Northern Ireland and the Troubles” <http://alphahistory.com/northernireland/>

³⁰ “Bloody Sunday” <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history>. Web. May 29th 2015.

³¹ Ibid.

³² “The Troubles” <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history>. Web. May 29th 2015.



The Relationship between the IRA and the British Government (Margaret Thatcher's administration)

The IRA was formed from two paramilitary groups, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army in 1916, after the groups failed to create a massive insurrection against the British control of the island.³³ It became the armed faction of Sinn Féin, a political party whose goal was Irish independence, and later, reunification of Ireland. From its creation onwards, the IRA, and later the Provisional IRA (PIRA), were always insistent upon their role as a liberation army for the people. Indeed, they justified any of their actions, and their belief in the necessity of violence, through their role as “defenders of the Irish people and culture.”³⁴ However, this characterization of the armed group in a positive light did not appeal to all. In particular, the British government classified the PIRA as a terrorist organization, given that most of their actions involved bombings and gun attacks not only in Northern Ireland, but also on English soil.³⁵

The struggle with the PIRA, which took drastic measures to achieve its goal, was particularly important to the Thatcher government, which had little patience for terrorist activities on home soil. This struggle can be fully illustrated by a hunger strike led by PIRA members imprisoned in Northern Ireland's jails. The prisoners made several demands to the British government, all of which had the aim of getting them recognized as political prisoners, rather than criminal prisoners. Such a distinction would have legitimized the PIRA's actions and delegitimized, to a certain extent, Britain's actions in Northern Ireland.³⁶ However, for the same reasons, the British were intent on maintaining the criminal prisoner designation. Failure to respond to the prisoners' demands led them to begin a hunger strike, which ended in 1981 with the death of Bobby Sands, one of the imprisoned PIRA members. His death scandalized the public, which demanded immediate measures for the resolution of the conflict.³⁷

The bombing of a Conservative Party convention in Brighton, in which Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was involved and many MPs were injured or killed, further heightened the crisis. This event led to Thatcher's desire to eliminate the IRA threat and resolve the conflict as quickly as possible.³⁸

It is fair to say that the relationship between the IRA and the Thatcher government was more than tumultuous. However, it seems that neither the IRA's nor the government's strategies to resolve the conflict have been efficient or sufficient. Therefore, alternate methods of resolution must be envisaged.

³³ “L’IRA | Armée Républicaine Irlandaise – Guide Irlande.com.” *GuideIrlande.com*. Web. May 27th 2015.

³⁴ Mulholland, Marc. *The Longest War: Northern Ireland's Troubled History*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2002. Print.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Mulholland, Marc. *The Longest War: Northern Ireland's Troubled History*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2002. Print.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

Structure of the British Government

Governance in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is embodied through the British Parliament, the supreme legislative body.³⁹ Parliament is headed by the British sovereign and is the primary institution used to pass legislation. Although the British monarch is head of government, since the United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, the sovereign's powers are limited and proposed legislation is accepted on convention. The British parliament is composed of an upper and lower house, the House of Lords (HoL) and House of Commons (HoC), respectively. The House of Lords is composed of appointed individuals who serve as a revising chamber for potential legislation.⁴⁰ The House of Commons is a democratically elected chamber of parliament, which presides from the Palace of Westminster in London.⁴¹ The House of Commons is responsible passing legislation and has direct control over the budget, defence, and government departments.⁴² All government ministers are members of the House of Commons by convention, and are thereby accountable to it.⁴³

Government ministers are selected by the Prime Minister, who leads the government in power. The Prime Minister and select senior government ministers form the Cabinet, which determines potential government policy and party stance.⁴⁴ The Prime Minister, on advice of the ministers, is tasked with determining the agenda of debate within the Cabinet, which typically covers issues ranging from domestic policy, national emergencies, the government's legislative priorities, international business, and military action.⁴⁵ Cabinet meetings can become hectic in that ministerial responsibilities often overlap and thus Cabinet decisions have far reaching and overlapping impacts.⁴⁶ Once a decision has been reached, individual ministers are responsible with ensuring that their respective departments take measures to implement the policy.



Margaret Thatcher

At the present time, Margaret Thatcher is Prime Minister. Thatcher is renowned for her tough, and some would say authoritarian stance, within the Cabinet setting. The “Iron Lady” rises to challenges and

³⁹ “Parliament and Government” www.parliament.uk/about/how Web. May 29th 2015

⁴⁰ “The Two-House System” www.parliament.uk/about Web. May 29th 2015

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ “The Two-House System” www.parliament.uk/about Web. May 29th 2015

⁴⁴ “The Cabinet Manual” <https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads> Web. May, 28th 2015. p. 31

⁴⁵ Ibid, p. 33

⁴⁶ Ibid, p. 34

does not permit her ministers to manipulate her outlook. Consequently, many ministers have come and gone during her tenure in office.



Margaret Thatcher is the United Kingdom's first female Prime Minister. Born and raised in a middle class background, Thatcher developed political aspirations following her studies at Oxford University.⁴⁷ Turning to politics, Thatcher was elected in 1959 to parliament as a member of the Conservative Party.⁴⁸ Rising quickly through the ranks, she became Parliamentary Undersecretary in the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance in 1961 and Secretary of State for Education and Science in 1970. Thatcher took over the leadership of the party in 1975.⁴⁹ Thatcher was renowned for her conservative outlook, taking the form of a unique platform of zero-tolerance towards trade unions, the

privatization of public industry, the rollback of public benefits; alongside her staunch opposition of Communism.⁵⁰ However, Thatcher realized that the majority of the country did not share her political beliefs zealously, especially with regards to trade unions and public benefits, and thus only began to implement her full platform once elected as Prime Minister in 1979.⁵¹

Domestic public opinion towards Thatcher is very low, although on the rise, due to poor economic conditions. Furthermore, with recent clashes in Northern Ireland, calls for both increased sovereignty and integration of the region are being brought to her government, rendering her position on the matter complicated, since appeasement to all factions is improbable. On the international front, foreign leaders admire Thatcher for her decisiveness. Her American counterpart, Ronald Reagan, applauds her political stances and actions both at home and abroad.⁵² However, Thatcher has developed strained relations with her European counterparts over the establishment of a proposed European Union, which she believes would infringe on Britain's freedom to pass its own laws.⁵³ Public perception of Prime Minister Thatcher will surely be a product of her domestic and foreign policy, as well as unforeseen crises. Furthermore, the current political climate is fragile, due to economic instability and a regional divide within Northern Ireland. Thus, the potential for a power vacuum is high should Thatcher's government fall, something of which members of her cabinet may take advantage.

⁴⁷ "Margaret Thatcher" <http://www.biography.com/people/> Web. June 27th 2015

⁴⁸ "Margaret Thatcher" <http://www.biography.com/people/> Web. June 27th 2015

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ "No ordinary politician" <http://www.economist.com/news/briefing> June 29th 2015

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Characters: BRITISH CABINET

William Whitelaw, Home Secretary

William Whitelaw served in the British Forces in World War II, where he commanded Churchill Tanks. He was awarded the Military Cross for his acts of exemplary gallantry during the conflict. Following the war, he entered British politics, where Margaret Thatcher appointed him Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords. He aimed to improve police pay and prison building, employing more severe punishments for convicted young offenders. He wants the success of his government, pledging his loyalty to Thatcher.

Powers: The Home Secretary is in charge of internal affairs of the United Kingdom. As such, he has direct control of the police in the United Kingdom. The MI5 also reports to the Home Secretary. He is also in charge of immigration and citizenship.

Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Geoffrey Howe joined the army in his youth, but decided to decline an offer to remain as a captain and instead chose to become a barrister. As a barrister, he ultimately entered politics and obtained the status of Queen's Council in 1965. In 1979, Howe became Chancellor of the Exchequer, where he employed radical economic policies to improve public finances and reduce inflation. Throughout his political career, tensions were high between Howe and Margaret Thatcher, as their personal and political ideals often conflicted.

Powers: The Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible for the fiscal and monetary policies of the Government.

John Biffen, Chief Secretary of the Treasury

John Biffen served in the British government in the successive positions of Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Secretary of State for Trade, and as Leader of the House of Commons. During his political career, he was strongly opposed to capital punishment. He is a very outspoken member of the government, often being labelled as blunt. At first, his outspoken demeanor gained him favour with Margaret Thatcher. However, over time, this quality slowly alienated him from the Prime Minister.

Powers: As Chief Secretary to the Treasury, John Biffen is in charge of negotiating the budget allocated to various departments. In the present cabinet, he must ensure that the funding needed for various actions is available.

Lord Carrington, Foreign Secretary

Lord Peter Carrington, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was leader of the Opposition in the House of Lords from 1974 to 1979. Thatcher thought very highly of him and appointed him to one of the most powerful positions in her cabinet. His position mainly corresponds to foreign relations, particularly within the Commonwealth. He also serves the task of promoting British interests abroad.



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Powers: He has many connections with diplomats and governments abroad. He is also responsible for the MI6.

Peter Blaker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Peter Blaker was a bureaucrat in the Ministry for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. His duties therefore revolved around relations within the Commonwealth and with foreign relations. He aids the Minister in representing British interests abroad.

Powers: He must get approval from the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs before going through with any major actions. However, for minor actions he has some power. In addition, he knows the politics of the Ministry for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs in more detail than the Secretary of State.

Francis Pym, Secretary for Defence

Francis Leslie Pym was the Secretary of State for Defence. He was awarded the Military Cross for his action in North Italy during WWII. He coordinates military action on behalf of the British government.

Powers: While he coordinates day to day activity and movement of the military in Northern Ireland, any major deployment or troop action must be discussed with the cabinet and approved by the Home Secretary and the Prime Minister.

Michael Havers, Attorney General

He was the Attorney General for England, Wales and Northern Ireland from 1979 to 1987 under Margaret Thatcher. He is the chief public prosecutor for criminal cases in these jurisdictions. He wrongfully convicted the GuildFour and the Maguire Seven, blaming these men for IRA attacks that they had not committed. In retaliation, the IRA bombed his house in 1981, while he was away with his family in Spain. He wants to assume more judicial power in prosecuting criminal offenses in Northern Ireland and seeks to maintain a hardline approach of punishing the insurgents instead of finding a mutual solution to the crisis.

Powers: The Attorney General is the legal advisor to the Crown and the Government. He is in charge of determining the legality of the course of action decided upon by the Cabinet.

John Wakeham, Chief Government Whip

He was a minister under the government of Margaret Thatcher and would later be the leader of the House of Commons in 1987. His wife was killed in the IRA Brighton Hotel bombing of 1984 and he himself had sustained injuries to his leg. Known as Mr. Fixit, he had a calm approach to problem solving and achieved solutions by being an effective mediator. He seeks a fair approach to discussion, where he wants to include the IRA in the peace talks to assure a solution approved by both the British Cabinet and the IRA. He seeks to have a more diplomatic approach to disputes where all parties can come to a mutual agreement.



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Powers: As the current Chief Government Whip, John Wakeham is in charge of ensuring that the members of the party vote in agreement with the policies established by the Cabinet.

Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal

He was the Lord Privy Seal under Margaret Thatcher. He was the chief Government spokesman in the House of Commons for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, working under Lord Carrington. Due to his poor relations with Margaret Thatcher he would end up being sacked in 1981. This was in part due to the fact that he had moderate economic views as opposed to Thatcher's conservative economic policies. He would be known to go against his own party's ideas when voting on key issues. He seeks to expose Thatcher's weaknesses' and have Parliament turn against her, due to his disagreement of economic views that he shares with her. He will seek to increase his own influence and undermine Margaret Thatcher wherever and whenever possible within political debates.

Powers: As a minister without a portfolio, Gilmour's main focus is to ensure that the course of action decided upon by the cabinet is implemented according to the wishes of the Cabinet.

Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council

He is a British politician belonging to the Conservative Party. He was the Governor of Southern Rhodesia until 1979, and now serves as the Leader of the House of Lords and Lord President of the Council. He has many contacts throughout Europe from a previous posting as the Vice-President European Commission with a special responsibility for External Relations. An interesting fact about him: he is the son-in-law of Winston Churchill.

Powers: As a member of the Privy Council, he advises Her Majesty on matters of the state, such as orders in council and acts of parliament.

Howard Smith, Director-General of MI5

He is a diplomat unexpectedly appointed Director of MI-5 in 1979 despite not being a part of the organization. He was the Ambassador in Prague and Moscow during the Cold War, and thus knows quite a bit about the Soviet Union. He also has many contacts in Northern Ireland from a posting in 1971. His portfolio powers include anything to do with intelligence, and his goal is to see the conflict resolved peacefully.

Powers: Focuses on intelligence relating to national security. Is responsible for dealing with the IRA in collaboration with the Special Branch of the police force.

Sir Bernard Ingham, Prime Minister's Press Secretary

He is Margaret Thatcher's chief press secretary, serving also as the head of the Government Information Office from 1989-1990. He is known as a highly effective propagandist for the Prime Minister and is quite influential in the government despite only being a civil servant. For example, he used his media embargoes to describe the leader of the House of Commons John Biffen as a "semi-detached"



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

member of the government, resulting in Biffen being dropped in the next Cabinet Shuffle. He is also one of the two senior Downing Street officials who approved the leaking of the letter resulting in the 1985-86 Westland affair and the resignation of Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine. His goal is to see Thatcher succeed, and he is a notable proponent of British nuclear power.

Powers: His portfolio powers include anything to do with media, with control over what is disclosed and not disclosed to the public.

Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment

Norman Beresford Tebbit is a conservative British politician. He served in Margaret Thatcher's cabinet as Secretary of State for Employment (1981-1983) and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1983-1985). During his tenure as Business Secretary, he was responsible for the Departments of Business, Innovation and Skills as well as the Board of Trade. He was severely injured in the Provisional Irish Republican Army's bombing of the Conservative Party conference in 1984, which left his beloved wife Margaret permanently paralyzed. Since then, he has demonstrated a firm and unyielding determination to combat terrorism.

Powers: As the Secretary of State for Employment, Tebbit advises the Prime Minister on various measures that need to be taken to ensure the employment of the greatest number of citizens as possible.

David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy

David Russell Howell, Baron Howell of Guildford, is a conservative British politician and economist. He served under Margaret Thatcher as Secretary of State for Energy (1979-1981) and Secretary of State for Transport (1981-1983). Prior to that, he also occupied the positions of Under-Secretary for Northern Ireland (1972) and Minister of State for Northern Ireland (1972-1974). As such, he is given credence as a reliable commentator on Northern Irish Affairs and continues to have strong connections with the Northern Ireland Office (NIO).

Powers: As Secretary of State for Energy, Howell advises the Prime Minister on the current state of the energy production in the United Kingdom, as well as on all the energy-related issues.

John Nott, Secretary of State for Trade

John William Nott is a prominent conservative British politician. As Secretary of State for Defense (1981-1983) under Margaret Thatcher, he demonstrated an unrelenting determination to protect UK sovereignty during the Argentinian invasion of the Falkland Islands. He is responsible for the Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force and manages the coordination of defense on security in the kingdom. He is currently the Secretary of State for Trade.

Powers: As Secretary of State for Trade, Howell advises the Prime Minister on the current state of trade in the United Kingdom. He is also responsible for the development of business, and the creation of international trade relationships.

Lord Hailsham, Lord Chancellor



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Lord Hailsham was part of the British Conservative party and served as Lord Chancellor from 1979 to 1987 under Margaret Thatcher. He was known for his lengthy career and as a campaigner was known for his robust rhetoric and theatrical gestures. According to his book, the role of Conservatism is not to oppose all change but to resist and balance the volatility of current political fads and ideology. When he heard that the IRA had bombed the Old Bailey in March 1973, Hailsham instantly decided it was his duty, as head of the judiciary, to visit the scene, on his collapsible bicycle. He tried to persuade the British cabinet to take a harder line against the IRA, he called the rioters 'enemies of the crown' and suggested that soldiers had the right to kill them. Lord Chancellor has many responsibilities, such as the administration of the courts.

Powers: The Lord Chancellor appoints many judges in the courts of England and Wales, appoints clergymen, participates in determining the capacity of the Sovereign to discharge his or her royal duties and is a member of the Privy Council and of the Cabinet. He works with the Attorney General.

Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry

Keith Joseph was a British barrister, politician and member of the conservative party. He played an important role in the creation of what came to be known as 'Thatcherism' and created a think tank to develop policies for the new free-market Conservatism. He spoke openly about how the 'cycle of deprivation' was holding down the poor, that the poor should have less children, that the poor ruined the balance of the human stock and that poor women weren't fit to be mothers. He was once seen as a possible leader for the conservative party but after his tactless comments concerning the poor he lost all chances. He helped Thatcher to bring down the postwar consensus of a welfare state with strong labour unions. He was extremely devoted to his work and to others, and when the IRA bomb went off at the Grand Hotel in Brighton he kept on repeating 'How is she?' in reference to Margaret Thatcher. In Thatcher's Shadow Cabinet, Joseph wanted to be Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, but after his notorious 1974 speech that was impossible. Instead he was given overall responsibility for Policy and Research, then named him Secretary of State for Industry and then Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Powers: As Secretary of State for Industry, Joseph collaborates with Nott, Howell and Biffen to develop the British industry and economy.



IRA

Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Féin

Gerry Adams is an Irish republican politician and the president of the Sinn Féin political party. His political party, Sinn Féin is currently the fourth largest political party in the Republic of Ireland. He was seriously wounded in an assassination attempt by the Ulster Defence Association (largest Pro Unionist paramilitary and vigilante political group) in 1984. He was allegedly (not acquitted) involved in the IRA killings of the Disappeared (people who are believed to have been abducted, murdered and secretly buried during the troubles). His parents came from republican backgrounds, both were members of the IRA. He claims he was never a member of the IRA, however many have cited him as part of leadership since the 1970s. Margaret Thatcher banned the media broadcast of his voice to starve the terrorist and the hijacker of the oxygen of publicity on which they depend' and this only increased his prominence.

Powers: As the leader of Sinn Féin, and hence, the link between the IRA and the political party, Adams is in charge of any peaceful political action undertaken by the IRA. He also plays an important role in negotiating with the British Government. He is an important member of the IRA, and his advice is very valuable.

Martin McGuinness, IRA Chief of Staff

He joined the IRA in the early seventies and quickly rose through its ranks. However, he has tried to conceal the depth of his involvement in the organization since the 1980s. Most notably, he was crucial in negotiating the Good Friday agreement. McGuinness was known to communicate with British intelligence in order to push for cooperation. He would much rather have things settled by discussion over violence, but that doesn't mean he would not fight for Irish independence.

Powers: As Chief of Staff, McGuinness is the most senior officer of the IRA. He holds considerable power over troop movement, but also engages in negotiations with the British Government.

Thomas "Slab" Murphy, commander of the South Armagh Brigade

He became heavily involved with the IRA in the early 1980s. He has been linked to several events causing the death of British soldiers, such as the Warrenpoint Ambush. His ability to plan and coordinate made him invaluable to the movement, eventually becoming chief of staff. He negotiated arms deals with countries such as Libya in order to acquire weapons for the IRA.

Powers: Murphy can make decisions concerning the movement of the South Brigade. He commands 1000 men.

Sean "Spike" Murray, IRA General Headquarters Staff

After a tough childhood in the working class neighbourhood of Belfast, Murray became a determined republican. He began by becoming a member of the Springfield Road Residents Action Group, which opposes the annual Orange Parade.



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

However, he wanted to do more. He then became a member of the IRA, and climbed the ranks to become GHQ staff.

Powers: His advice is considered particularly valuable, and he is often consulted before a decision is made.

Éamonn O'Doherty, foreign IRA operative

O'Doherty first joined the IRA as a member of the South Fermanagh Battalion. He then became commanding officer of said battalion. His loyal services allowed him to become General Headquarters staff. He was subsequently arrested and imprisoned, but was then released. Since his release, he has been abroad on several missions.

Powers: He is the main liaison of the IRA with any international support they might gather. He is also in charge of international operations.

Brendan Hughes, commander of the Belfast Brigade

Brendan Hughes was born and raised in an Irish Catholic family in Belfast. After joining the IRA in 1969, he quickly rose through the ranks to become commanding officer of the Belfast Brigade. As commanding officer, he was responsible for most of the bombings that occurred during Bloody Friday. He was subsequently arrested and sent to jail along with Gerry Adams and Ivor Bell. He has been released since.

Powers: As commander of the Belfast Brigade, he works with Twomey to determine and plan the next military action. While he works in collaboration with Twomey, Hughes has the final say on important decisions.

Seamus Twomey, co-commander of the Belfast Brigade

Twomey is a founding member of the P.I.R.A. His main objective is for Ulster to become part of the Republic of Ireland. He firmly believes that paramilitarism, and not politics, is the way to gain independence. Therefore, he believes in the use of all the necessary force to achieve his goals, and supports the bombing of civilian targets. While he has spent some time in jail, he is currently free.

Powers: He must make all decisions in collaboration with Brendan Hughes, commander of the Belfast Brigade, a force of 500 strong.

Ivor Bell, senior officer of the Belfast Brigade

Bell is the most senior advisor to Hughes and Adams. He took part in the secret meeting for truce with William Whitehall in 1972. However, he did not trust the offer made by the British Government. He firmly believes that Ulster should become part of the Republic of Ireland, and hates British informers. Bell was arrested and imprisoned with Hughes and Adams in 1974. He was released since.

Powers: He has 50 loyal and dedicated soldiers under his command. However, he cannot make major moves without approval from Brigade Commanders. Bell also has substantial advisory power within the IRA and Sinn Féin.

Bobby Sands, IRA head of recruitment

Bobby Sands grew up with the conflicts between the Catholics and the Protestants. As a result, he is determined that the minority working class should get a say. Sands



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

hesitates to use violence, but will do it if there is no other choice. He was imprisoned in 1976 for allegedly participating in a bombing. He is not currently imprisoned; he managed to escape from prison.

Powers: His time in prison has gained him a wide popularity, which he uses to attract people to the cause.

Joe Cahill, Liaison to Libyan Government

Joe Cahill is a true resistance member through and through. Born in Belfast, his parents were best friends with James Connolly, founder of the eventually defunct/failed Irish Citizen's Army. While he is a high ranking member of the IRA, once serving as its chief of staff before his first arrest, he has always been skeptical of it's leadership.

Powers: Understanding Gaddafi's anger with the Thatcher's will be paramount, as it will be his job to help capitalize on that, and possibly resupply the IRA forces with Libyan money. Using diplomatic backchannels, or otherwise, it will be key to get foreign help to fight this war, while keeping the British none the wiser, for fear of full invasion if they find out.

Pádraig Faulkner, Irish Minister of Defense

Faulkner currently serves as the Irish Minister of Defence, from the center-right Fianna Fáil party. He's also served as the Minister for Lands, Minister for the Gaeltacht (the areas of Ireland that speak primarily Irish), Minister for Education, Minister for Posts and Telegraphs, Minister for Tourism and Transport, and Ceann Comhairle (Speaker of the House). He has many friends in high places, the support of the legislative body, and a distinguished career. His main goals are to end the current conflict with as little bloodshed as possible, while negotiating, or demanding, a successful end for the Irish Government. Finding the balance between the two will be paramount.

Powers: As the Minister of Defence, he is responsible for the Defence Forces. However, his main purpose is to achieve the end of the conflict through diplomatic measures.

Michael McKevitt, IRA Quartermaster General

Born in County Louth, McKevitt has been a passionate Irishman and cunning individual. Fed up with the British and their presence in Ulster, McKevitt quickly rose to power in the IRA, eventually being appointed Quartermaster General. His main objectives are to achieve a decisive victory for the IRA, at any cost necessary. McKevitt is known to be someone to value breaking rules to achieve objectives, and always believes the ends justify the means. This makes him an *extremely* polarizing individual amongst all who know his name...

Powers: As Quartermaster General, he is entirely in charge of the obtaining, maintaining, and concealing of the IRA's weapon stores, and is one of the extremely few individuals privy to all information of these stores. In this role, he works very closely with the IRA engineers in weapons development as well.



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

Brian Keenan, commander of the IRA Southern Command

Brian Keenan is a determined republican who is convinced that Ulster should become a part of the Republic of Ireland. He joined the OIRA in 1968, but quickly joined the PIRA. He quickly rose through the ranks to become Quartermaster General of the Belfast, and then Headquarters Quartermaster General. At this time, he is arrested and imprisoned. However, he manages to escape, and is promoted to commander of the IRA Southern Command. While he is reluctant to use force, he does when it appears necessary.

Powers: As commander, he has direct control over the members of the Brigade, and while he coordinates his actions with Headquarters, he has a lot of freedom. He disposes of 500 men.

Tommy McKearney, political agitator

Tommy McKearney was born in an Irish republican family. Both his grandfathers fought in the IRA during the Irish War of Independence. In addition, two of his brothers, Sean and Pádraig were involved in the IRA. While Sean was killed by his own bomb in 1974, Pádraig remains an active member. Their sister Margaret is also under surveillance by the British authorities. While McKearney became Commanding Officer of the East Tyrone Brigade, he was arrested and charged for the murder of an Ulster Defence Regiment lance corporal in 1977. He has since managed to escape from prison, and is encouraging the people to rise.

Powers: While he no longer holds any command positions in the IRA, McKearney's experience and opinion are highly valued. He focuses on the organization of actions that will mobilize the public against the British authorities.

Billy McKee, PIRA founding member

McKee joined the IRA in 1939, and led many military actions during the 1940s and 1950s. As a consequence, he was arrested many times, and spent a considerable amount of time in jail. He supported the split of the PIRA from the IRA, and as such, became one of the leaders amongst the members of the newly formed PIRA. He believes that Ulster must become part of the Republic of Ireland, and is ready to use violence in order to achieve that goal.

Powers: While he no longer holds a command, his status as a veteran gives him a lot of influence with the leadership of the IRA. His opinion is highly valued.



Joint Crisis: The Troubles

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