

CalsMUN 2020
Historical Influences



Research Report

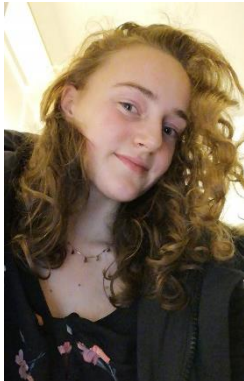
Forum: Historical Security Council

Issue: The Troubles; The Northern Ireland Conflict (1969–1998)

Chairs: Marije van de Wall and Lora Lagerweij



Personal Introduction



Marije van de Wall

Dear delegates, my name is Marije and I will be your chair during this conference. I am currently studying psychology at the University of Groningen, but have previously attended Cals College, for no less than six years, which makes CalsMUN extra special for me. I am very excited for the conference and can't wait to see you all in January!



Lora Lagerweij

Hi! I'm Lora and I will serve as deputy chair for the HSC. I live in Haarlem in the Netherlands and I go to school at the Stedelijk Gymnasium Haarlem. I'm 16 years old and I'm in my 5th year of the Dutch version of high school. I've attended last year's conference of CalsMUN as well so I'm really looking forward to returning.



Introduction

We find ourselves in Northern Ireland, on the 12th of August 1969, where riots have just started, caused by the civil rights movement which started in the early 1960's. In the beginning of 1967 the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Movement (NICRA) was established, aimed at protecting and raising awareness of civil rights. This association rallied and protested for their cause, starting April 1968 with a rally against the banning of a republican Easter parade.

Though the NICRA movement seems to be the direct cause of the current riots (in 1969), tension actually arose much earlier, in the 17th century, between catholic and protestant parties. This tension has been building and building until the current time, 1969, and riots have broken out.

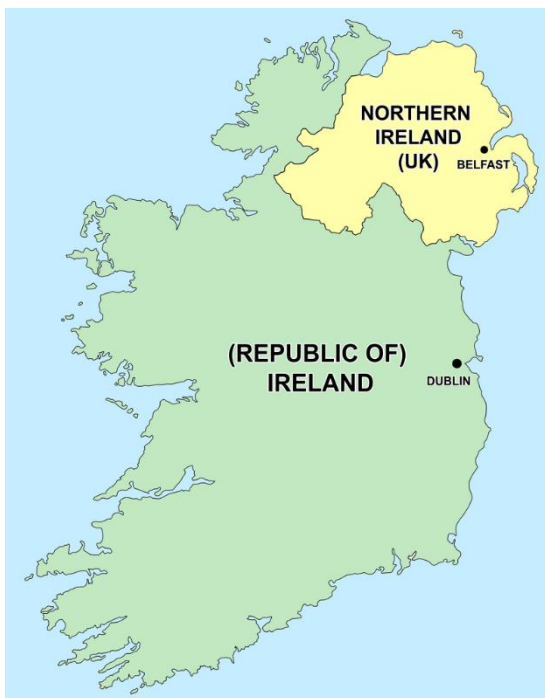


Image 1, political map of Ireland

The Committee

The Historical Security Council (HSC) is a committee where issues from the past are debated on. This conference we will be going back to the 12th of August, 1969, the start of the Northern Ireland riots and thus the start of the conflict in Northern Ireland known as "The Troubles".

The debate will follow THIMUN rules of procedure for the security council. The only difference is that we are discussing issues from long ago as if we are actually in that time period.

The HSC is an ad-hoc committee. This means that no full resolutions will be debated on, instead we will debate separate clauses. If a clause passes it will be added to the resolution. After we finish debating on all clauses we vote on pre-ambulatory clauses and then on the resolution as a whole.



Since the committee is a security council, there are five countries with veto rights; China, France, Russia, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Veto right means that if any of these countries are to vote against a resolution, cause or amendment, it automatically does not pass. To use this power they will need to submit a veto threat which will be followed by a P5 caucus (a short debate separate from the rest of the committee with only the countries with veto rights) and a speech from the delegation submitting the veto threat explaining why they wish to vote against.

Definition of Key Terms

Irish Nationalists

One of the two parties involved in the conflict. Mainly Catholics. They wish for Northern Ireland to leave the United Kingdom.

Unionists

The second party involved in the conflict. Mostly Protestants. They want Northern Ireland to remain a part of the United Kingdom.

Paramilitary organisations

A semi-militarized organisation, not formally a part of a country's armed forces but on many aspects similar to a professional army.

General Overview

It all started in the 17th century. Protestant settlers from Scotland and England migrated to Irish grounds where the native catholic lived. A conflict between these two parties arose and caused two religious conflicts; the Irish confederate war and the Williamite war. Both wars ended in Protestant victories.

Despite attempts to resolve the tension in Ireland, violence continued between Protestants and Catholics. This lasted until 1829 when the emancipation of Catholics was achieved. Then on the first of January 1801 the Acts of Union 1800 came into force. With these acts Ireland was incorporated into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. There was some opposition to these acts, a nationalist part of the Irish population (mostly Catholics) wanted the acts to be repelled, however they did not manage to achieve this goal.

Later in the 19th century the Home Rule Movement was created. This movement aimed to define a divide between the citizens who wished to restore the Irish parliament, which was abolished when Ireland was incorporated in the United Kingdom, and the people who supported the union with Britain; the Nationalists and the Unionists.

The unionist part of the population had resisted the home rule movement and/or independence of Ireland. In 1912 a group of unionists signed the *Ulster Covenant* in protest against the third Home Rule bill. They pledged to resist Home Rule, even by violence if necessary. That is how the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) was formed.



In opposition the Irish Volunteer Force (IVF) was created. They strived for the exact opposite; to ensure the enactment of the third Home Rule bill. They succeeded in getting the bill passed, but because of the first world war and the involvement of Ireland in it, it was suspended momentarily. This possibly averted a civil war in Ireland.

In 1918 the elections caused the Irish war for independence which did eventually lead to independence in 1922 and then led to the Irish civil war. In December that year the Northern Ireland parliament decided not to be part of the Irish Free State that had just been established. Northern Ireland remained part of the United Kingdom, but with their own government system.

In the late 20th century Northern Ireland was still mostly divided into two camps; the Irish Nationalists, also known as republicans on one side, and the Loyalists, or Unionists, who were mainly protestants, on the other.

Tensions between the two groups built and during a campaign to end discrimination, by both the police force and the Unionists, against the nationalist party, the conflict this committee deals with started. The campaign encountered a violent reaction from Unionists and the authorities, which operated through the police force. So called peace walls were built by British troops, meant to keep the parties apart. The British troops came to be seen as violent hostile and biased by both the loyalists and unionists and both of these parties soon started forming paramilitary organisations. Subsequent warfare which lasted for three decades was the consequence. Hence the conflict in which we find ourselves caught up in at this time.

Major Parties Involved

Organisations

Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA)

This was the most active republican paramilitary. It sought to end British Rule and create an independent republic including all of Ireland.

Irish National Liberation Army (INLA)

An Irish republican communist group aiming to do the same thing as the IRA

Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF)

A loyalist paramilitary group who undertook armed campaigns to combat the Republicans, mainly the IRA, and remain part of the United Kingdom

Ulster Defence Association (UDA)

Another paramilitary group from the loyalist party, also aimed to combat the Irish Republicans, as well as defend loyalist areas. They were declared a terrorist group in 1992

British Army

Part of the British state security force.

Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC)

The police force in Northern Ireland at the time, also part of the British state security force.



Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of Event
1641-1653	The Irish Confederate War (protestant victory)
1689-1691	The Williamite War (protestant victory)
1 January 1801	Acts of union 1800 come into force
late 19th century	Start of the Home rule movement
may 3 1921	the partition of Ireland
1922-1923	the Irish Civil War
12-8-1969	The start of the Northern Ireland riots; the battle of the bogside.

Possible Solutions

In order to resolve the issues and bring an end to the ongoing conflict, it is of great importance that ceasefires are initiated in order to further enable parties to discuss options and solutions. Additionally, it would be helpful to disassemble all paramilitary groups and eventually withdraw police and British military forces from the region as these partly cause the hostility of the public. After the initial conflict has been put on hold the cause of the disagreement, whether Ireland keeps its status as a part of the United Kingdom, should be discussed and an agreement should be reached.

Bibliography and Further Reading

Wikipedia contributors. (2019c, December 18). The Troubles. Retrieved 22 December 2019, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Troubles

<https://www.history.co.uk/history-of-the-northern-ireland-conflict>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland_Civil_Rights_Association#First_civil_rights_march

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_Ireland_civil_rights_movement

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_rule#Ireland

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

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/a-history-of-ireland-for-outsiders-from-henry-viii-to-the-troubles-1.3816898>

Some videos you can watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61JisaFGHFY>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQvaGt9B6H0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCCUEt8S61k>