

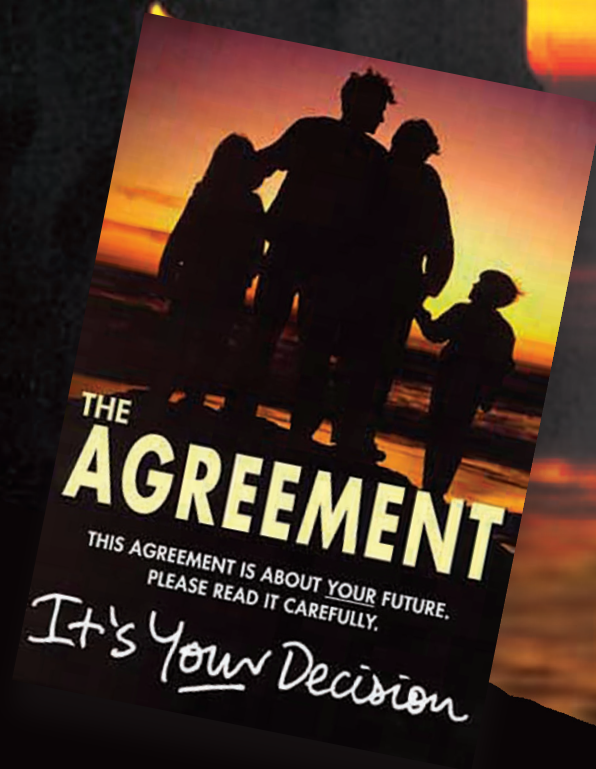
# THE AGREEMENT

Resource

4

A Digitisation and  
Outreach Project from  
the Linen Hall Library

A  
GCSE  
Toolkit



**DIVIDED  
SOCIETY**

Northern Ireland 1990 - 1998

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# Project and Curriculum Information



## Introduction

This education resource was created as part of the Linen Hall Library's 'Divided Society' project. It is a learning tool aimed at GCSE students studying the 1990s period, however those studying politics and history subjects will also find its material relevant. The resource can be used to stimulate debate and will help towards the development of empathy and understanding of the topic. Included in the resource are samples of political cartoons, newspaper front pages and political posters. Materials are held at the Linen Hall Library.

## Key areas of interest include:

- Ceasefires
- Bill Clinton's Visit
- The Good Friday Agreement
- The Referendum
- First Day of Power-Sharing

## Students will develop skills in:

- Research
- Thinking critically/analysing
- Reading/using primary sources
- Developing an understanding of history's value and significance for today's society
- Developing an awareness of how the past has been represented, interpreted and given significance for different reasons and purposes
- Acquiring an understanding of different identities within society and an appreciation of social, cultural, and religious diversity
- Recognising that their historical knowledge and skills help them understand the present and also provides them with a basis for their role as responsible citizens, as well as for the possible further study of history.



# The Good Friday Agreement

The Good Friday Agreement or the Belfast Agreement was signed on the 10th of April 1998, and was seen as a momentous breakthrough towards a peaceful joint future. Political parties campaigned during the Referendum for the public to vote 'Yes' or 'No'.

## News Letter 10th April 1998

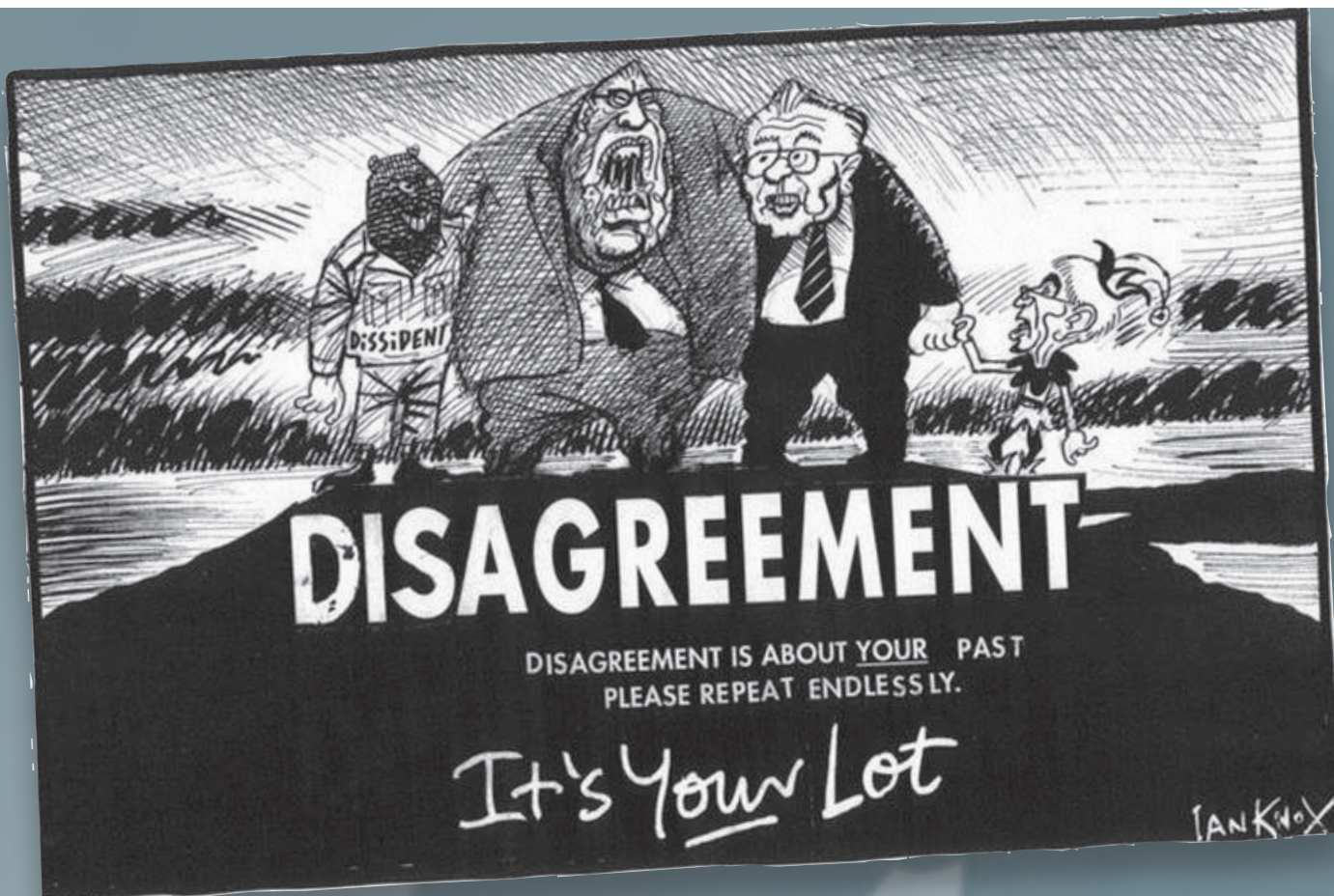
'Northern Ireland today faces a challenging, if uncertain, new future. Hours after the midnight deadline, a deal appeared to have finally been struck between all parties at the Stormont peace talks with the notable exception of Sinn Féin. The Ulster Unionists and the SDLP were understood to have reached '99 per cent' agreement on Strands One and Two. But in Strand One, under which an Assembly will be set up, problems re-emerged for Republicans, because of the Assembly's proposed power over the operation of the North-South bodies...Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble will still have to get the deal ratified by his party executive. He left Castle Buildings last night at the height of negotiations to give the 110-strong body his assessment of the situation. They gave their provisional approval but delayed a final decision until tomorrow. As the parties fitted the last remaining pieces of the settlement jigsaw into place last night, DUP supporters staged angry protests outside the talks centre and party leader, the Rev. Ian Paisley, pledged to fight any "sell-out".'



## During the negotiations several key questions emerged. They were:

- To what extent do Nationalists have a veto in a Northern Ireland Assembly
- To what extent can Unionists influence North-South bodies
- The strength of North-South structures
- The wording of changes to Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution structures





'The Disagreement' cartoon by Ian Knox

## News Letter Article: 'Paisley vents anger at Trimble'

DUP leader Ian Paisley has called on the UUP to admit they have got it wrong. 'After being constantly warned about the dangers of the talks process, and ignoring those warnings, the UUP have today realised the calamity of their poor judgement,' he said. The DUP leader's party colleague Nigel Dodds last night joined demonstrators outside Hillsborough Castle during Prime Minister Tony Blair's meeting with Mr Trimble. He denounced Mr Blair for trying to sell Northern Ireland out. He said: 'The Prime Minister will find the vast majority of Unionists and Loyalists in Ulster will not be bullied, bribed or bought. All the arm twisting in the world will not stop us resisting against any Dublin interference whatsoever in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland.' His colleague Sammy Wilson said the DUP's stance on the talks had now been vindicated. 'Right across the province now people are beginning to witness that what we said was right. The process was designed purely and only to placate Republican violence,' he maintained.

Q. What is the pun Ian Knox is making in the above cartoon?

.....

Q. Is he hopeful for a positive outcome to the Agreement?

.....

# General Questions

1. Read the articles on Page 3 and 4. Suggest reasons why some Unionists supported the Agreement, and why some opposed it?  
.....  
.....  
.....
2. Give reasons why some Nationalists supported the Agreement, and why some opposed it?  
.....  
.....  
.....
3. Which points of The Agreement are similar to those in the Downing Street Declaration?  
.....  
.....  
.....
4. Why was the image on the front cover of the Agreement booklet selected? What was the idea behind it?  
.....  
.....  
.....

## Task

Imagine you are a newspaper reporter shortly after the Peace Agreement had been signed. Write a report on people's reactions, including their hopes and fears for the future.





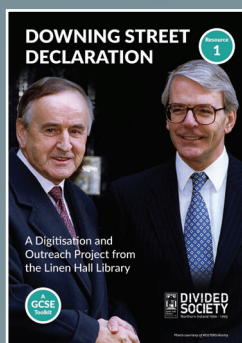
# The Good Friday Agreement: Declaration of Support

1. We, the participants in the multi-party negotiations, believe that the agreement we have negotiated offers a truly historic opportunity for a new beginning.
2. The tragedies of the past have left a deep and profoundly regrettable legacy of suffering. We must never forget those who have died or been injured, and their families. But we can best honour them through a fresh start, in which we firmly dedicate ourselves to the achievement of reconciliation, tolerance, and mutual trust, and to the protection and vindication of the human rights of all.
3. We are committed to partnership, equality and mutual respect as the basis of relationships within Northern Ireland, between North and South, and between these islands.
4. We reaffirm our total and absolute commitment to exclusively democratic and peaceful means of resolving differences on political issues, and our opposition to any use or threat of force by others for any political purpose, whether in regard to this agreement or otherwise.
5. We acknowledge the substantial differences between our continuing, and equally legitimate, political aspirations. However, we will endeavour to strive in every practical way towards reconciliation and rapprochement within the framework of democratic and agreed arrangements. We pledge that we will, in good faith, work to ensure the success of each and every one of the arrangements to be established under this agreement. It is accepted that all of the institutional and constitutional arrangements - an Assembly in Northern Ireland, a North/South Ministerial Council, implementation bodies, a British-Irish Council and a British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference and any amendments to British Acts of Parliament and the Constitution of Ireland - are interlocking and interdependent and that in particular the functioning of the Assembly and the North/South Council are so closely inter-related that the success of each depends on that of the other.
6. In a spirit of concord, we strongly commend this agreement to the people, North and South, for their approval.

**This is the 'Declaration of Support' which formed part of The Good Friday Agreement. Read through the text and answer the questions below.**

1. Who are the 'participants' referred to in point number 1?  
.....
2. Explain what the statement, 'We reaffirm our total and absolute commitment to exclusively democratic means of resolving differences on political issues, and our opposition to any use or threat of force by others for any political purpose, whether in regard to this agreement or otherwise' means.  
.....
3. Circle the group of people you think this statement most applies to  
**Politicians    The Public    Paramilitaries**  
**Why?** .....  
.....

4. Look up the main points of The Good Friday Agreement and answer the following questions.
- a. How many members were going to be in the new Assembly?
- .....
- .....
- b. What does the term 'cross-community' mean? How will this Assembly be cross-community?
- .....
- .....
- c. Who was The Chair and Deputy Chair of the first Assembly? Why were they elected?
- .....
- .....
- d. Committees were set up to deal with what issues? List some of the issues.
- .....
- .....
- e. What does 'Decommissioning' mean? What did those in this new Assembly agree to under the 'Decommissioning' heading?
- .....
- .....
- f. How was the police force changed after The Good Friday Agreement? What were the reactions to these changes?
- .....
- .....
- g. What were the outcomes for some prisoners after The Good Friday Agreement?
- .....
- .....



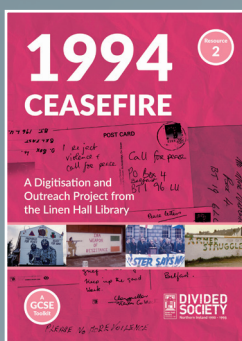
## DOWNING STREET DECLARATION

Resource  
1



# DIVIDED SOCIETY

Northern Ireland 1990 - 1998



## 1994 CEASEFIRE

Resource  
2



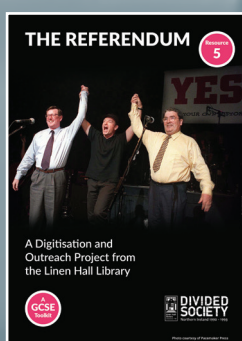
## BILL CLINTON'S VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Resource  
3



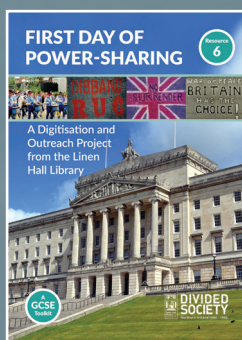
## THE AGREEMENT

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## THE REFERENDUM

Resource  
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## FIRST DAY OF POWER-SHARING

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Since 1968 the Linen Hall Library has been collecting material relating to the conflict in Northern Ireland. Over the years the Library has become the repository for a vast amount of material relating to the subject and the subsequent Peace Process.

The Northern Ireland Political Collection now consists of over 350,000 items including books, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, manifestos, press releases, newspapers, objects and many thousands of periodicals. It is a completely unique collection that is unrivalled throughout the world.

The Divided Society project sees a significant section of the Northern Ireland Political Collection digitised. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Ulster Garden Villages, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Hundreds of Periodical titles relating to the conflict have been digitised and made available from the new Divided Society website. These are publications that were published between 1990-1998 in the UK, Ireland and further afield, and documented the issues that affected Northern Ireland during that period.

This was a significant time in Northern Ireland's history and included events such as the Downing Street Declaration, several ceasefires, and the ongoing peace negotiations which culminated in the signing of the Good Friday Agreement.

### Divided Society, Linen Hall Library

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agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade

### Note of thanks

The Linen Hall Library would like to thank The Irish News, The News Letter, Ian Knox, The Northern Ireland Office, Marian Ferguson, Jim McBride and all those who have assisted with the creation of this education project and allowed us to visit their schools. Without your contribution this would not have been possible.

[www.linenhall.com](http://www.linenhall.com)

[www.dividedsociety.org](http://www.dividedsociety.org)