

THE REFERENDUM

Resource

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A Digitisation and
Outreach Project from
the Linen Hall Library

A
GCSE
Toolkit



**DIVIDED
SOCIETY**

Northern Ireland 1990 - 1998

Photo courtesy of Pacemaker Press



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.

VOTE YES
VOTE FOR THE FUTURE



THE REFERENDUM

The Referendum took place in 1998 as a way to give the public an opportunity to vote on The Good Friday Agreement. The vote was held on the 22nd of May and saw one of the largest voting turnouts ever recorded in Northern Ireland.

U2 can change tomorrow

Article by Liz Trainor from The Irish News 20th May 1992

Voters were last night urged to "give peace a chance" as SDLP leader John Hume and UUP boss David Trimble joined together in a show of unity at the Waterfront Hall in support of the Mitchell deal.

Around 2,000 Protestant and Catholic sixth formers - crammed into the hall to see Downpatrick band Ash and Dublin supergroup U2 - cheered when the SDLP and Ulster Unionist leaders walked on stage and grasped each other's hands.

U2 vocalist Bono, who said it was, "great to be in Belfast in a week where history was being made," described both leaders as men who have, "taken a leap of faith out of the past and into the future."

Both political leaders smiled and waved to the crowd but left it to Bono to call on the packed concert hall to observe a minute's silence for all those who had lost their lives during the last 30 years of troubles.

U2 joined Downpatrick band Ash on stage after an hour and sang their own hit 'One' and Ben E King's 'Stand By Me.'

The 2,000 strong crowd - many too young to vote - joined in with U2 lead singer Bono when he chorused: "All we are saying is give peace a chance."

Before the concert, Bono, met outside the Waterfront by John Hume and David Trimble, called for a resounding yes vote on Friday and appealed to those to vote in support of the agreement.

Questions

Why were celebrities included at the concert? List the celebrities.

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What was the significance of celebrities endorsing politics? Why was that important?

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Find the pun in the article, why do you think The Irish News has done this?

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DON'T LET THEM DOWN



*“My daughter was at the concert on Tuesday night.
For me it was a concert that symbolised the Future.
A future where all our children live normal, carefree lives,
going wherever they want, whenever they want,
with whoever they want.”*

David Trimble

VOTE YES

VOTE FOR THE FUTURE

Published by the Ulster Unionist Party, 3 Glengall Street, Belfast

The poster on Page 4 was released the day before the referendum vote took place. It is a personal advert taken out by Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble.

Questions

1. Why do you think this was placed in a local newspaper and given a full page?

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2. Why is there a photograph of young people?

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3. How do we know that David Trimble endorses the advert? Why is this important?

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Task

4. Look on YouTube for the peace concert with the bands U2 and Ash. Describe the concert and why politicians wanted to attract a young audience.

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They sense end of era in Ballee

By Melissa Kite, PA News

ON A fiercely loyalist estate in the heart of the Reverend Ian Paisley's constituency, a woman lingers nervously outside a polling station surrounded by "No Surrender" posters.

"I'm going in here and I don't have the faintest idea what I'm going to do," she says.

The early morning air is brisk, but she is shaking as if it was a winter's day.

"Everyone round here is telling me to vote 'No' - the politicians, my own family. But there's something bothering me. I don't even know what," she says.

A campaigner from Mr Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, hovering attentively at the gates of the polling station in Harryville, Ballymena, hands the middle-aged woman a leaflet saying "It's Right to Say No".

She thanks him profusely and hurries inside. It is 10 minutes before she emerges.

"I'm a wee bit worried at what I've just done," she says, moving out of earshot of the DUP man.

"I voted 'Yes'. I hope I've done the right thing. Hell's going to pay for this if it goes wrong."

She is not the only one agonising.

On the sprawling grey,

fear that if this goes wrong I'll be contributing to more violence."

At the Town Hall in the centre of Ballymena, where no posters have to compete with "Vote Yes for the Union" signs, it is a different story. The constant stream of people here appear, amazingly enough, to be largely intent on defying their legendary MP.

"I've listened to Mr Paisley ranting for the past 30 years and I'm fed up of it," says Terry Flanagan, 54. "I voted 'Yes' because the other idiots have nothing to offer."

An elderly man, who will not give his name, says: "This may be Mr Paisley's constituency, but everyone still wants peace at the end of the day."

Back on the Ballee estate, where children are spending their afternoon building a bonfire out of battered old sofas heaped high on a patch of wasteland, things are still going very much in Mr Paisley's favour.

"I voted 'No'. I don't want my kids growing up in a world where (Sinn Fein president) Gerry Adams is in Government," says Karen, 28, her tiny daughter tugging at her hand.

Her friend Michelle, 23,

also with a youngster in tow, says: "Me, too. There's going to be more fighting at the end of all this, and worse than ever."

Sammy McMaster, 53, pushing his friend from the polling station in a wheelchair, says he voted 'No' "because I don't want the country run by gangsters."

"I want peace but not at this price," says Linda Anderson, 44.

Karen says: "I suppose you wouldn't believe it but it's something someone told me about this agreement being against everything in the Bible that made up my mind in the end."

But even here, where the no vote seems to be strongest, there is a feeling not so much of defiance, but resignation and despair. The people here seem to have accepted that tomorrow will herald a new era.

Down the road at Harryville a red-eyed tired-looking Ian Paisley Jr has turned up at the polling station.

"People aren't happy," he says philosophically.

"It seems the minority community (nationalists and republicans) can vote in favour and people will say that is democracy. It turns democracy on its head," he says grimly.



VOTING EARLY: DUP leader Ian Paisley heads for the polling



Courtesy of the News Letter

The 'No Campaign' was led by Ian Paisley. Ballee was part of Ian Paisley's constituency and the polling station had posters with the slogan 'No Surrender' hung around it.

1. Why do you think some Unionist politicians were against a 'Yes' vote during the referendum?
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2. In the article voters are unsure about how they are going to vote. Imagine you are voting in the referendum and think about how you would have voted.
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3. Some voters changed their minds about how they were going to vote. Why do you think this happened? What were their main reasons?
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By Ian Knox courtesy of the Yes Campaign

Result:

Turnout	81.1%
Yes	676,966 (71.1%)
No	274,879 (28.9%)
(Invalid 1,738)	

4. A 'Yes' vote won the the majority of votes and led to The Good Friday Agreement being signed. Describe the mood in Northern Ireland at the time.

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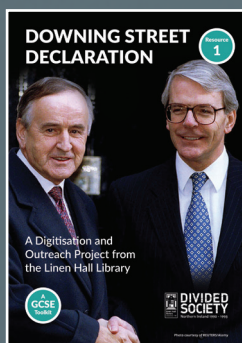
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5. Why do you think there was such a high turnout for the vote?

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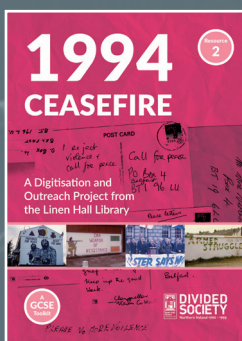
DOWNING STREET DECLARATION

Resource
1



DIVIDED SOCIETY

Northern Ireland 1990 - 1998



1994 CEASEFIRE

Resource
2

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.



BILL CLINTON'S VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Resource
3

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.

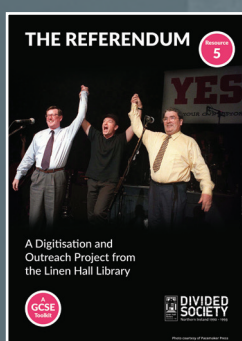


THE AGREEMENT

Resource
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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.



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Divided Society, Linen Hall Library

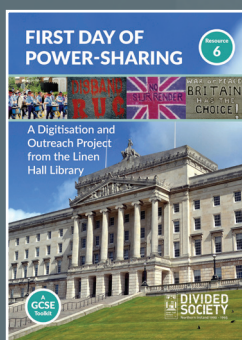
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ULSTER GARDEN VILLAGES LIMITED



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



FIRST DAY OF POWER-SHARING

Resource
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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

www.dividedsociety.org