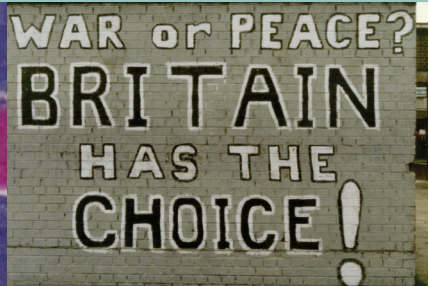


# FIRST DAY OF POWER-SHARING

Resource

6



A Digitisation and  
Outreach Project  
from the Linen  
Hall Library

A  
GCSE  
Toolkit



**DIVIDED  
SOCIETY**  
Northern Ireland 1990 - 1998





# 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.



# Issues on the first day of power-sharing

The formation of the first power-sharing assembly was a result of the public's vote on The Good Friday Agreement, sometimes referred to as the Belfast Agreement. The peace deal was broadly welcomed by the public and the document was agreed on the 10th of April 1998.

The issues of a troubled past still played a part in the opinions and reactions of the political leaders of the time. Key figures who had been elected to represent their parties included Gerry Adams, John Alderdice, Seamus Close, John Hume, Seamus Mallon, Robert McCartney, Martin McGuinness, Monica McWilliams, Ian Paisley and David Trimble. All hopes of a peaceful future were placed on these representatives, however issues including a united Ireland, decommissioning, Drumcree, the early release of prisoners, and changes to the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) all had an effect on the process.

This work booklet features a cartoon from The Irish News, titled 'History Beckoning, The First Day of Stormont'. The cartoon was created by Ian Knox and printed on the 1st of July 1998, which was the first day the politicians sat together in Stormont's chamber. Knox provides social comment on the public's concerns as to what would happen on and after that day.

DON'T  
BLAME ME  
I VOTED  
**NO!**

Read the article extract below and answer the questions on the following pages.

## 'History beckoning but Drumcree could make time stand still'

Excerpt from article by Liz Trainor from The Irish News 1st July 1998

'History will be made this afternoon when the 108-strong power-sharing assembly meets at Castle Buildings in Stormont. But the roller-coaster process of talks, referendum and elections, culminating in the new assembly, could be stopped in its tracks if Unionists boycott initial proceedings over the decision to ban the Orange Order walking along Portadown's Garvaghy Road. Ulster Unionist David Trimble is on course to be elected as First Minister and the SDLP's John Hume as his Deputy.'



Courtesy of The Irish News. Cartoon by Ian Knox.

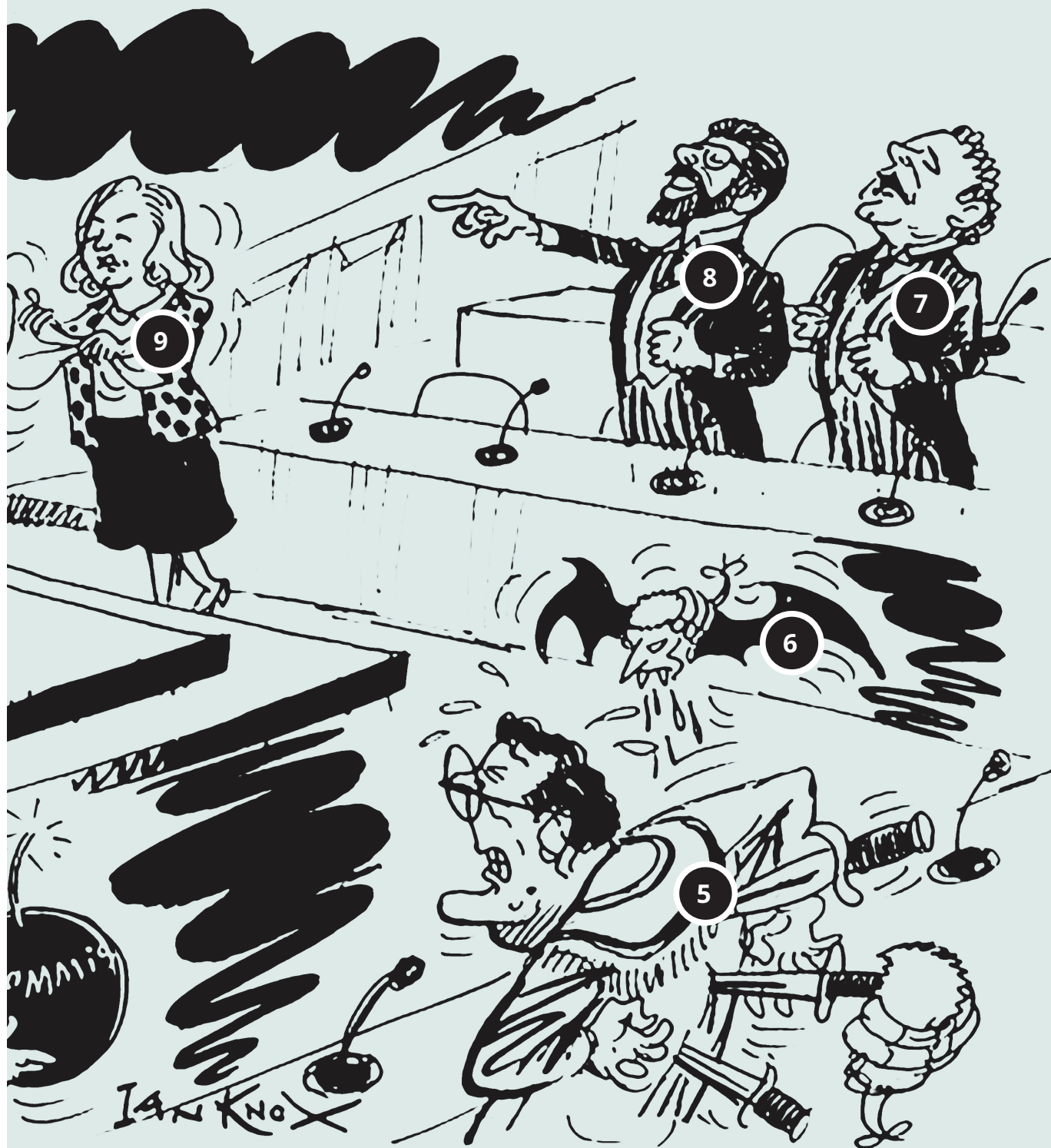
# Name the Politicians



Courtesy of Ian Knox

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1. .... | 4. .... |
| 2. .... | 5. .... |
| 3. .... | 6. .... |





7. ....

10. ....

8. ....

11. ....

9. ....



# Group Activity

There are six groupings shown in the cartoon on page 4-5.

1. Who are the key political parties?  
.....  
.....
2. Select one person. What did they or their party want to achieve?  
.....  
.....
3. What problems were they facing among their own supporters?  
.....  
.....
4. How accurately do you think the cartoonist portrays the person?  
.....  
.....
5. What is the relationship that this party would have had with the London and Dublin governments at this time?  
.....  
.....
6. Select one person. Do you agree with Ian Knox's portrayal of this party/ individual's position in 1998?  
.....  
.....
7. Select one person. Carry out your own research to find a quotation from this person to reflect their views.  
.....  
.....



There are 11 people shown in the cartoon on page 4-5 who are all expressing very strong feelings.

### Who do you think might be feeling:

- ☐ Superior
- ☐ Betrayed
- ☐ Angelic
- ☐ Calming
- ☐ Angry
- ☐ Frustrated

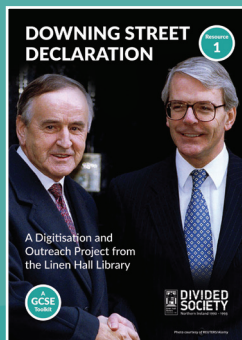
## General Questions

1. Would this cartoon be a reliable source?  
.....
2. What are cartoons like this trying to achieve?  
.....
3. Comment on the title. Can you think of any alternative titles?  
.....
4. Is this proof of progress in Northern Ireland? (they are all in the same room having a type of dialogue)  
.....
5. Why is the Drumcree issue still a divisive problem in 1998?  
.....
6. Why is David Trimble being portrayed as being in a difficult position?  
.....

## Complete at home

- A. Discuss this topic with your family. Do they have any particular memories of this period or the people shown in this cartoon?  
.....  
.....
- B. Can you find any archive film footage for this event? Search the internet using keywords e.g. date, main theme, politician, location.  
.....  
.....





## DOWNING STREET DECLARATION

Resource  
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# DIVIDED SOCIETY

Northern Ireland 1990 - 1998

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.

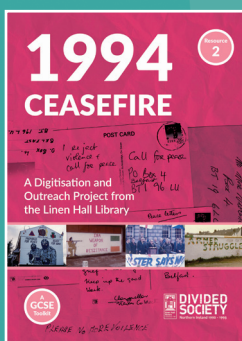
The Divided Society project sees a significant section of the Northern Ireland Political Collection digitised. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Ulster Garden Villages, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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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Phone: +44 (0) 28 9032 1707 Email: [info@linenhall.com](mailto:info@linenhall.com)



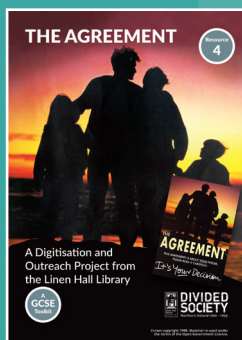
## 1994 CEASEFIRE

Resource  
2



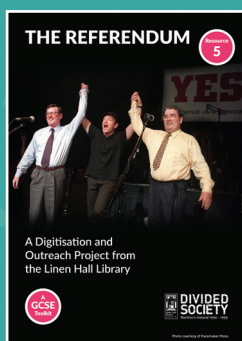
## BILL CLINTON'S VISIT TO NORTHERN IRELAND

Resource  
3



## THE AGREEMENT

Resource  
4



## THE REFERENDUM

Resource  
5



## FIRST DAY OF POWER-SHARING

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LOTTERY FUNDED



ULSTER GARDEN VILLAGES LIMITED



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha 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)