

Chapter 1 : Efforts Underway to Salvage Northern Ireland Peace Process - latimes

The Northern Ireland Peace Process. British voters decided that Brexit was the only way to preserve their national sovereignty. But in choosing to leave that club, they are experiencing the.

But violence and paramilitarism continue to have a damaging impact on the lives of many young people growing up in Northern Ireland today. They were motivated in pursuing particular national ethnic identities, such as unionist Protestant or nationalist Catholic. Due to high mistrust of state institutions in some communities, paramilitaries also filled a vacuum, taking on the role of policing crime and antisocial behaviour. Despite the progress made since the start of the peace process, Loyalist and Republican paramilitaries continue to operate in various guises across Northern Ireland. This has been well known at a local level, but the issue remained off the political agenda until two high-profile killings in threatened to destabilise peace. The government made a commitment to end paramilitarism through the Fresh Start Agreement that same year. Young people under the age of 25 are among the main victims. Their visibility in public spaces and alleged antisocial or criminal behaviour bring them to the attention of paramilitaries. In our new research we interviewed 38 young people and 29 adult community representatives from three areas of Northern Ireland with a known paramilitary presence. One was a predominately Protestant or unionist area, one a predominantly Catholic or nationalist area, and in one area we collected data from both communities. We found just how pervasive paramilitaries remain in communities affected by the legacies of the conflict. All of the young people we spoke to had direct or indirect experiences of paramilitaries. Many had witnessed or personally experienced shootings, fines " demands for money from those involved in the alleged sale of drugs " exiling from the community, beatings, bans, curfews or intimidation at the hands of paramilitaries. Many had experienced a range of these tactics " and on multiple occasions. Paramilitary attacks remain a persistent threat in Northern Ireland. He was first assaulted at the age of 15 and received two further beatings before this most recent threat. Eammon came to the attention of paramilitaries for alleged anti-social behaviour " being destructive and rowdy in the community. Eammon showed us scars on his body as a result of one beating with a metal bar, which had left him walking with a limp. They bashed my knees too " it was just taking chunks out of me, literally taking chunks out of me. Social and psychological impacts Some of the young people spoke of how they and their families were viewed negatively after they were attacked by paramilitaries, with some in their communities believing they must have done something in order to be targeted. Exclusion from the community also meant the loss of vital support networks " including family, friends and youth and community services. Aidan, who witnessed his father being shot in an incident in which the year-old was also assaulted, told us of the wider impact on his life: There was a clear impact on the mental well-being of the young people we spoke to " and they regularly discussed their anger, fear of leaving the house, suicidal feelings, and the use of drugs and alcohol as a coping mechanism. They often saw a link between suicide, or attempted suicide, and paramilitary abuse. As Aaron told us, crying: Our findings come as the Northern Ireland Executive launched a campaign to end the harm caused by paramilitaries.

Chapter 2 : Could Brexit bring new troubles to Northern Ireland? | The Seattle Times

The Northern Ireland peace process is often considered to cover the events leading up to the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire, the end of most of the violence of the Troubles, the Good Friday (or Belfast) Agreement of , and subsequent political developments.

The challenges loom over how to continue to allow for the free movement of people and trade between the Republic of Ireland, which will remain in the European Union, and Northern Ireland, which will leave along with the rest of the United Kingdom. And how to keep the border just as invisible, even as the United Kingdom and the European Union inexorably diverge — each free to establish their own immigration controls, customs tariffs and food safety rules. And finally, how to do all this without upsetting the delicate peace in Northern Ireland that has relied on an open border. Yet, sectarian lines remain deeply drawn in Northern Ireland. Many people in this border city — still known as Londonderry by Protestant residents and Derry by the 75 percent with Irish Catholic heritage — worry that a bungled Brexit could rekindle tensions and possibly lead to violence. Today, driving along the Irish border, you might pass a farmer who has a barn in one country but grazes his sheep in the other. Almost 1 million people freely cross the squiggly line on the map each month. There are official crossing points, and nobody knows how many dirt roads, foot trails and cow paths. The economies are tightly intertwined. Border checkpoints, and all the militarized infrastructure of barracks, watchtowers, bunkers and blast walls, were removed from the island of Ireland in the aftermath of the Good Friday Agreement, a hard-won pact that ended 30 years of violence. European Union membership made such evasion possible. EU policies of free movement and free trade allowed Northern Irish republicans to feel more connected to the Republic of Ireland, while unionists could continue to be an integral part of the United Kingdom. No one had to choose. Lines, grievances, identities could begin to soften. Republicans worry that a defined border on the island would undercut their relationship with the rest of Ireland. Leaders of Sinn Fein, the republican political party, have warned that any Brexit border would hasten the day they seek an island-wide vote to unify. In Derry, it was 78 percent. May and her European counterparts have promised there will never again be a hard border on the island of Ireland. May vows that her negotiators in the transition period after Brexit begins in March will craft an unprecedented free-trade accord with Europe that makes an Irish border unnecessary. The group is home to hard-line republicans who reject the Good Friday Agreement. A remote camera recording license plates? A customs collector with bar-code scanner? Angry crowds in the Catholic Bogside neighborhood erected barricades to shut down streets. In that case, Northern Ireland would remain a member of the EU customs union until the issue is resolved — a proposal that May has, until now, rejected. Along the Irish border, people worry that the British prime minister might abandon her commitment to open borders. They have good reason. Jeanette Warke, 74, founded the Cathedral Youth Club for children in Protestant Waterside in with her husband, David, now deceased. They were worried about kids joining paramilitary groups. This story was originally published at washingtonpost.

Chapter 3 : Peace lines - Wikipedia

Instead, it would be an actual workable peace deal that can move Northern Ireland, and indeed, all of Ireland, forward. Now that would be a result to match anything coming out of the US midterms.

The British and Irish governments issue a joint declaration outlining the terms they hoped would bring about peace in Northern Ireland. Greater co-operation between the British and Irish governments over affairs in Northern Ireland leads to escalating opposition from the unionist and loyalist community. A proposed power sharing government in Northern Ireland is brought down by a widespread industrial strike supported by large numbers of the unionist community. The British government decided to take over direct rule of Northern Ireland after the violent bloodshed of early Peace in the Troubles Some would argue the fight for peace started as soon as the Troubles began. Such is the nature of Northern Ireland, born out of bloodshed, that there is no agreement about when precisely peace gave way to conflict, or conflict to peace. Civil rights Some pinpoint the start of the conflict to 5 October , when a civil rights march in Londonderry ended in violence. Derry for Irish nationalists, Londonderry for British unionists. Peaceful reform had been the aim of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland, inspired by the African American civil rights leader Martin Luther King. The 5 October march had been banned and images of the mainly nationalist demonstrators being beaten by police were beamed around the world, drawing widespread condemnation. The unionist government in Northern Ireland began to grant reforms. This was too little too late for many nationalists and too much too soon for many unionists. British intervention By , peaceful protest had given way to street violence fuelled by bitter sectarian divisions. The British Army was brought in to quell the disorder, but conflict escalated and soon the armed groups and political parties who would do battle, violently and verbally, for decades to come, were born. Cries for peace came in waves of revulsion at the violence, but events made opportunities for peace more difficult. Even so, no one foresaw the Troubles lasting so long. IRA leaders were secretly flown to London for talks, but their demands for a new Irish republic were not realistic and were rejected. Power-sharing proposal In , the promise of peace came in a power-sharing deal hammered out by unionists, nationalists and others at Sunningdale in Berkshire, England. The agreement involved a formal link with the Republic of Ireland through a Council of Ministers. A subsequent IRA truce in floundered on mistrust and unrealistic expectations. In an attempt to keep the peace, the government pursued a tough security policy, but the violence continued. Peace People Hope seemed lost when in , communities in Northern Ireland were shocked by a tragic event in West Belfast. Three children were killed and their mother injured by a speeding car. Winning attention at home and broad, they marched for peace in Belfast and other towns. In the end, the desire for peace was overcome by anger, fear and hatred. The Peace People did win the Nobel Peace Prize in , but their reputation diminished over rows about the money. A deeply divided Northern Ireland was not, it seemed, ready for peace. The Peace People had tapped into a desire for peace, a desire that would again be articulated in the s by rallies led by the trade union movement. But their simple message was no match for the complexities of the conflict. What was peace without justice and equality? In simple terms, unionists believed the IRA was the problem, and peace would be restored if it went away. For nationalists and republicans, the problem was British rule and unionist failure to compromise and share power on equal terms. The treaty gave the Irish government an advisory role in Northern Ireland affairs, under-pinned by the principle that a united Ireland would only become possible with the consent of the people. Unionists were not reassured by this "consent principle" and felt betrayed. Nationalists welcomed the deal and even hard-line republicans were privately intrigued by the Irish dimension in a potential settlement. In some ways, the deal sowed the seeds of peaceful political consensus. Unionists recognised that saying "no" would not block change. Nationalists saw hope that change was possible. Extreme to mainstream By the late s, even leaders of republican and loyalist paramilitaries were reconsidering their strategies. Significantly there was also a secret back channel between the British government and the IRA. Peace process By , the British and Irish governments had signed the Downing Street Declaration, setting out a series of principles on how a settlement could be achieved. It had something for everyone. Unionists were nervous, but republicans saw a political path towards compromise

involving an all-Ireland dimension. In August , to the surprise of many, the IRA called a ceasefire. Clinton hosted an economic conference in Washington, and made an influential visit to Belfast in , but the IRA ceasefire broke down in over the failure to make progress through talks. Nevertheless, an overwhelming desire for peace across the political community, combined with a willingness to compromise, saw the return of self-government to Northern Ireland through the adoption of a power-sharing Executive. The political institutions set out in the Good Friday Agreement still stand, albeit interrupted by another long spell of direct rule from London and the amendments of the St Andrews Agreement of . But as a direct result of the events of Easter , a fragile peace still holds in Northern Ireland. Martina Purdy was writing in February What.

Chapter 4 : Study Abroad in Northern Ireland – Susquehanna University

The best-selling first edition of The Long Road to Peace in Northern Ireland () included essays from Senator George J. Mitchell, Sir David Goodall, Sir George Quigley, Lord Owen and Niall O'Dowd among others, and demonstrated the evolution of peace in Ireland, culminating in the Good Friday Agreement.

First, it presents a narrative account of the American involvement in the Northern Ireland peace process. Second, it attempts to explain why the level and extent of American involvement, particularly from President Bill Clinton, has been so great. The third aim is to argue that for a number of reasons, mainly internal to Northern Ireland, the impact of the American involvement is likely to diminish. Before Clinton Traditionally, US government interest in Northern Ireland has been minimal, which makes the level and the extent of the interest shown during the peace process of the s quite remarkable. This is not to say that there were no US interventions in Northern Ireland before the Clinton administration. Previous interventions were never as sustained or effective, however. A Cold War driven "special relationship" with Britain meant that successive US administrations were happy to regard Northern Ireland as an internal affair for the United Kingdom. Nor did the Republic of Ireland, a communist free zone, require much attention. The United States flatly rejected the offer. He was made Ambassador to Ireland. His statement abandoned the principle of not becoming involved in Northern Ireland and made a promise of US investment in the event of a Northern Ireland settlement. In general, however, formal US policy toward Ireland, north and south, has largely been one of non-intervention. The more general influence of the Irish-American community is difficult to gauge. Approximately 40 million Americans are of Irish descent, but as a mainly long-established immigrant group their interest in their erstwhile homeland has diminished. While much of this interest tended toward the romantic and superficial, a number of organizations have been actively, and to a certain degree successfully, pressing the nationalist case since the onset of "the troubles" in the late s. It has raised considerable sums of money for republican causes, and has pulled off a number of propaganda triumphs against the British government. Its influence, however, has been in decline since the late s. Since the s, Irish governments have had two aims in relation to Northern Ireland and the United States. The second has been to interest US administrations in the Northern Ireland issue. The British government calculated that it may be able to share some of the "bad press" from Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland. It was interpreted as a US stamp of approval for co-operative Anglo-Irish relations, and encouraged Irish governments to keep the United States informed of developments in Anglo-Irish affairs. At the same time, the Irish government was establishing a wider network of working relationships with the United States, some of which by-passed the traditionally Anglophile State Department. The creation of the "green card" visa scheme in the s, aimed at giving legal status to thousands of immigrants a disproportionately large number of them Irish , was one of the chief means of fostering these Dublin-Washington relationships. The main dynamism for the Northern Ireland peace process, however, probably came from within the republican movement. In the December Downing Street Declaration, the British government, jointly with the Irish government, embraced the idea of self-determination for the people of Ireland, north and south, and re-iterated the statement that Britain had "no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland. Reynolds had no great ideological interest in Northern Ireland, but he was capable of taking risks to fix a deal. He was an unorthodox politician. The republican movement, in its "Totally Unarmed Strategy" TUAS discussion document, was explicit about the pan-nationalist coalition-building strategy and the need to capitalize on links with North America. The emerging Irish-American lobby was of a different character to the "Four Horsemen" group which had been influential in the late s but was now something of a spent force. Like Adams, Hume and Reynolds, they were becoming increasingly aware that a unique set of conditions for an IRA ceasefire were falling into place. They pressed Clinton to make a number of commitments on Ireland during his election campaign, and after his election, began briefing the White House on Ireland. In September , the significance of this lobby was revealed when the IRA observed a seven day ceasefire to coincide with a fact finding visit made by a group of prominent Irish-Americans to Ireland. It was a clear message from the republican movement of their

seriousness to engage in a peace process. And initially, once elected, Clinton gave few indications that he would diverge significantly from traditional US indifference to Anglo-Irish affairs. While Clinton seemed anxious to consign the Cold War to the history books, he seemed unable, for at least the first twelve months of his first presidency, to construct a cogent overseas strategy. The foreign policy sphere, dominated by the difficult issues of Bosnia, Haiti and an unstable Russian Federation, seemed to offer few opportunities for successful American intervention. As a result, Clinton was heavily criticized for a fumbling and hesitant attitude to foreign policy. According to one view, ". With regard to Northern Ireland, however, it seemed as though it was business as usual when Gerry Adams was refused a US entry visa in March. Thereafter, events moved at an alarming pace. Their motivation was two-fold. First, they were anxious to engage, rather than confront, the Clinton White House on Ireland. They wanted to embrace Clinton into the nationalist coalition and were careful not to alienate him. Second, they were convinced that a visit by Adams to the United States would strengthen his standing, not just internationally, but also with the IRA. Put bluntly, it would help him convince the hawks within the republican movement of the benefits which constitutional legitimacy offered. Thus, Adams had a legitimate reason to enter the United States. Albert Reynolds and John Hume, both now convinced that Adams could persuade the IRA to call an extended ceasefire, lobbied for the visa to be issued. Interestingly, Adams was allowed into the United States without first having to submit to the "Arafat test or a renunciation of violence. President Clinton later justified the granting of a visa in terms of "a reward for the renunciation of violence and beginning to walk towards peace. His press secretary quoted him thus: A lot of powerful people went out on a limb for Adams. The Irish government used them to relay a message to the IRA that anything less than a permanent ceasefire would not be enough to convince the Irish government, and others, of the viability of a peace process. Unlike Adams, Cahill had a serious criminal record, and it took the personal intervention of President Clinton to authorize the visa. The peace process was reinforced by a ceasefire by loyalist paramilitary organizations in October. The ceasefires meant that a range of issues, which had previously been overshadowed by security concerns, now became more visible and current. As a result, the US influence receded into the background. The issue of paramilitary weapons quickly came to dominate the peace process. The British government suggested that the IRA could demonstrate the seriousness of its commitment to democratic politics by decommissioning some of its weaponry. The British and Irish governments, the latter now with John Bruton as Taoiseach, sought to seize the initiative through the publication of the Framework Document in February, which they hoped could form the basis for all-party negotiations in Northern Ireland. Gerry Adams had applied for another visa, and this time sought permission to engage in fund-raising activities. They argued that the IRA had yet to show any evidence of a willingness to begin decommissioning its arms, and that punishment attacks were continuing. But access to the White House did not come cheap; Adams had to agree that he would place decommissioning on the agenda of any talks with the British. But the American role was pragmatic, helping where the opportunity arose, rather than intervening and banging heads together. According to Clinton, ". Within three months of the ceasefire declaration, Clinton appointed retiring senate majority leader George Mitchell as a special presidential adviser on economic initiatives for Northern Ireland. The White House followed this up by hosting another Investment Conference in May and organizing another in Pittsburgh in October. Nevertheless, this point should not obscure the high degree of presidential interest in Northern Ireland. Americans are very romantic about Ireland and nationalists have taken advantage of that. But people are willing to listen. If we put our case in a rational articulate manner, we can make friends. We can do the same. He also signalled his continued interest in the peace process by noting that, "People who take risks for peace will always be welcome in the White House. It was noticeable, however, that the US input in the peace process had become regularized, though not institutionalized. With the replacement as Taoiseach of Albert Reynolds by John Bruton, it was felt that the nationalist coalition had been weakened. Within weeks of his election he visited the White House to present the unionist case. The visit was very much a celebration of the peace process. First, with no elections in Northern Ireland until May, ordinary people had had few opportunities to publicly give the peace process their imprimatur. Second, many people, particularly within the republican movement, were becoming increasingly pessimistic at the slow pace of political developments. Procrastination had perhaps been the

dominant dynamic since the inception of the peace process. There was a sense in which every time that the process seemed close to collapse, then an artificial deadline or inviting opportunity appeared on the political agenda which energized the process once more. According to veteran unionist Roy Bradford, the visit "significantly changed the feeling among unionists that the American agenda is exclusively nationalist. By the standards of international relations or conflict resolution the arms decommissioning body was an unusual departure. The body was able to gain the confidence of all major political actors, except the DUP. It was also positive, when John Major proposed elections as an alternative route to all-party talks in the absence of decommissioning. In the weeks leading up to the breakdown of the IRA ceasefire, the Clinton White House played host to an increasing number of visitors from Northern Ireland. The Presidential election campaign limited the amount of time Clinton was able to devote to foreign policy issues and the Oklahoma bombing allowed British commentators and diplomats to point out that the IRA planted similar bombs. The administration has said that its main role is to support the British and Irish governments in their attempts to nudge the parties in the centre-ground of Northern Ireland politics toward a settlement. This is significantly different from the early days of the peace process when the US administration often took its lead from the Irish government. What could not have been anticipated, however, was the exceptional level of this interest. The Irish government has enjoyed disproportionate access to the White House. The Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring has had more access to President Clinton than any other foreign minister in the world with the possible exception of the Russian one. The US has not engaged in shuttle diplomacy as in the Middle East. Instead, it has sought to act as a facilitator. In the words of Clinton, the US sees itself as, ". American intervention has also been imaginative and original, particularly in the case of the International Body on Arms Decommissioning, which as an independent body, has few parallels in international relations. It is also worth noting that economics has been a chief mode of US involvement. In the Clinton catechism, peace, stability and prosperity are very much linked. Clinton, and a number of his key advisers, have attempted to rationalize their involvement in the Northern Ireland peace process. Clinton placed it in the wider context of a changing philosophy of American foreign policy:

Chapter 5 : Paramilitaries still cast shadows over lives of young people in Northern Ireland

Such is the nature of Northern Ireland, born out of bloodshed, that there is no agreement about when precisely peace gave way to conflict, or conflict to peace. Civil rights.

The peace process These pages contain quotations from or about the Troubles in Northern Ireland. These quotations have been researched, selected and compiled by Alpha History authors. They contain statements and remarks about Northern Ireland and the Troubles by notable political figures, military and paramilitary commanders, contemporaries and historians. New quotations are constantly being added to these pages and suggestions are most welcome. If you would like to suggest a quotation, please contact Alpha History.

Frightened because of the increasing savagery of the sectarian attacks; and helpless because there seems no prospect of settlement. The most terrifying development of the last year or so has been the sharp rise in atrocities carried out by Loyalist paramilitaries. Loyalists are now able to manufacture bombs and are able to carry out assassinations with apparent impunity. They have now killed six people in two days. All of our units have been instructed accordingly. Morally, you are a murderer! Time has moved on. I appeal to the political leaders to sit down, all of them, to listen to their electors, to present their policies, to reach out to love their neighbours and common God. They want Northern Ireland to be destroyed and to have a united Ireland. The ordinary Ulsterman is not going to surrender to the IRA. We have not only the right but the duty to kill them before they kill me, my family and others. I can say that without them, the present hopeful situation would not and could not have come about. These murals argued that 25 years was enough. The loyalist paramilitaries have said that their violence was reactive to IRA violence. And, of course, it was those same Republicans who now create new options, created by the peace process. I think that debunks any notion that we threw ourselves into the oblivion of armed struggle willy-nilly. The most critical evolution since this struggle began was achieved by those most active and engaged with in it. We Republicans have our own code of human ethics and measure our involvement and actions against that. He would ask about my family and talk about sport or fishing. He was more emotional in talks. Gerry would usually be fairly bland about things, so you could never be sure if he was happy or annoyed. If Martin was angry, you knew it. They require creativity, they require imagination and they require an ability to get where you need to get to. It was really hard. You were having conversations with people particularly when you sat down with the Sinn Fein people and the Unionists these were people with a bitter and entrenched hatred. So there was quite a bit of cunning. It took real political courage to implement that insight. Those who have been part of the problem must be part of the solution. The vision and commitment of the participants in the talks has made real the prayers for peace on both sides of the Atlantic and both sides of the peace line. All friends of Ireland and Northern Ireland know the task of making the peace endure will be difficult. The path of peace is never easy. But the parties have made brave decisions. They have chosen hope over hate; The promise of the future over the poison of the past. And in so doing, already they have written a new chapter in the rich history of their island, a chapter of resolute courage that inspires us all. In the days to come there may be those who will try to undermine this great achievement, not only with words but perhaps also with violence. All the parties and all the rest of us must stand shoulder to shoulder to defy any such appeal. The rejectionists are finding another way of publicly stating their total opposition to the Good Friday Agreement. Patrick preached the gospel of Jesus Christ in Ireland. And I was just thinking today, the only thing these murderers have done: For someone of my generation, Bloody Sunday and the early s are something we feel we have learnt about rather than lived through. But what happened should never, ever have happened. The families of those who died should not have had to live with the pain and the hurt of that day and with a lifetime of loss. There are people in Northern Ireland who have diverse religious and political convictions, but they can live together as neighbours. When I was a boy, there was more neighbourliness than we have seen for many years. Something entered the hearts of the people that destroyed the reverence for neighbourliness and kindness. The Ulster people are not a hard people: It is a sad and regrettable reality that through history our islands have experienced more than their fair share of heartache, turbulence and loss. These events have touched us all, many of us personally, and are a painful legacy. We can

never forget those who have died or been injured and their families. To all those who have suffered as a consequence of our troubled past, I extend my sincere thoughts and deep sympathy. With the benefit of historical hindsight, we can all see things which we would wish had been done differently, or not at all.

Chapter 6 : Northern Ireland peace process - Wikipedia

Northern Ireland after the Good Friday Agreement: On the Way to Peace or Conflict Perpetuated? - Kindle edition by Patrick Wagner. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets.

It most certainly does. You can visibly see neighborhoods supporting their political views by the flags they hang in their windows and on city streets. In the North you will mainly see the Union flag which is generally considered to mean the flag owner supports the occupation. Most people that are for the Union flag are of Protestant backgrounds and most of the people for the National flag are of Roman Catholic background. This is not a hard and fast rule though. Having said that, public displays of political violence, bombings and places you used to have to avoid at all costs are a thing of the past. The last few decades have held peace and progress. Northern Ireland is now a pretty hot travel destination, as beautiful as it is. Most people start their trip in Dublin. In my opinion, you should spend a few days exploring all that Dublin has to offer. We booked a tour with a Carrick-a-rede rope bridge and Bushmills Distillery stop, and I would advise for you to do the same. The tour bus picks up the passengers right in Central Dublin. All you need to do is find your way to the bus stop and let the tour guide and bus driver get you where you need to be. There are many tour operators to choose from and you can book online fairly easily. He threatened Ireland which in turn provoked Finn to toss the biggest rocks of the Antrim coast into the sea. These rocks soon made a path for Finn and he was determined to follow them and teach Benandonner a lesson. Lucky for Finn, he had married a very clever wife. He went home and never caused a problem again. So, the giant rock formations are actually the result of a very angry Giant! Whether you choose to believe it was Finn McCool or decide to trust the scientific explanation of a volcanic fissure eruption is totally up to you. What cannot be disputed is the sheer raw beauty of this place. In place of euros, make sure to have a few pounds sterling on hand. A credit card should also be ok to use at most establishments. There are a variety of opportunities for food, drinks and souvenirs so you may want to have some cash on hand. We popped in to the Inn for a treat. We had a limited amount of time before we had to head back to the bus, so they were kind enough to settle us in the bar lounge. We were more than pleased with the service and our treats. Time for a snack! The bridge is approximately 15 meters long and is drawn across two coastal cliffs. Although the bridge pictured was installed in , it is estimated that these cliffs have had a bridge between them for about years. If you happen to go and get the jitters, just remember that my daughter and I crossed the bridge without a problem. Just hang on to the ropes for comfort. I have never seen an episode of the Game of Thrones Gasp! Local legend states that at one point, part of the kitchen next to the cliff face collapsed into the sea, after which the wife refused to live in the castle any longer. Locals say when the kitchen fell into the sea, only one boy remained alive as he was sitting in the corner of the kitchen that did not collapse. The truth is with the people of the past, but it must be told that much of the kitchen is still intact. Only in the 18th century did the North wall crumble into the sea. East, West and South walls are still standing. I think I managed to get a pretty decent shot of the place considering I was standing on the side of the road. What do you think? I am not a whiskey drinker, but it is possible to book a tasting experience if that is your cup of tea. Yes we are always hungry! There is also a shop where you can purchase whiskey to take home along with a variety of other souvenirs. Photogenic Whiskey Barrels After the distillery it was back on the bus and back to Dublin. It really is a great tour and I highly recommend it for anyone who has plans to head out that way. My second pick is for the sunrise chasers. Yes you will have to get up earlier than the crows. Yes it is going to be cold. Even still, I promise you it will be worth it. The views granted stretch far over the bay, and on a clear day afford you a glimpse of Scottish soil. If it suits you better you can hike in the afternoon when the temperature would probably be warmer, but I believe that watching the sun rise is the most rewarding view. It is truly spectacular. Pictures do not do it justice. This is a view you gotta work for but it is well worth it! It is also worth mentioning that it is possible to be a little more adventurous and walk along a very narrow ledge where honestly, there are no guard rails and zero room for error and you can follow it to a cave that is housed on the hill. Luckily for me, I have an amazing brother who went back and hiked the very next day to take a photo for me! You can judge for yourself if walking the

dangerous ledge is worth it or not. Either way, stay SAFE and enjoy! It is set atop a foot cliff that overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. The whole estate is unbelievably stunning, and the surrounding views are among the most photographed scenes in Ireland. Over the years the Temple itself was under danger of being lost to the sea, and in the National Trust stepped in and had the eroding cliffside stabilized to prevent losing this treasure. When the Temple was first constructed, a horse and carriage were able to easily navigate around it. Today the Temple is much closer to the edge of the cliff and it is hard to fathom how that was once possible. To get to the town of Castle Rock we took a train from Belfast Our first train ride while in Ireland and really enjoyed the views along the way. The Irish countryside is unbelievable. Once in Castle Rock we walked from the center of town. We took beautiful although dangerous winding country backroads. It was quite a trek. The roads do not have shoulders and we literally had to jump into tall unruly grassy fields to avoid getting hit by cars that show up in a split second around the bend. The Irish people are some of the friendliest I have ever encountered and you will not have a problem getting some assistance. I hope you enjoyed my suggestions. Let me know if you are ever lucky enough to make it out there.

Chapter 7 : Northern Ireland | History of a Conflict and the Peace Process

EU and Brexit: Far from an agreement to guarantee peace in Ireland Michel Barnier said that there is still a real point of divergence on the way of guaranteeing peace in Ireland, that there are no borders in Ireland.

These talks led to a series of joint statements on how the violence might be brought to an end. The talks had been going on since the late s and had secured the backing of the Irish Government through an intermediary, Father Alec Reid. In November it was revealed that the British government had also been in talks with the Provisional IRA, although they had long denied it. This included statements that: The British government had no "selfish strategic or economic" interest in Northern Ireland. This statement would lead, eventually, to the repeal of the Government of Ireland Act The people of the island of Ireland, North and South, had the exclusive right to solve the issues between North and South by mutual consent. This would lead, eventually, to the modification of the Articles 2 and 3. A united Ireland could only be brought about by peaceful means. Peace must involve a permanent end to the use of, or support for, paramilitary violence. Five months later, on Wednesday 31 August , the Provisional IRA announced a "cessation of military operations" from midnight. Many unionists were sceptical. UUP leader James Molyneaux , in a rare slip, declared "This the ceasefire is the worst thing that has ever happened to us. Loyalist bombings and shootings, and punishment beatings from both sides, continued. This is an abbreviated list of events of significance in the lead-up to all-party negotiations: Friday 15 December Wednesday 22 February The proposals were not welcomed by unionists and the DUP described it as a "one-way street to Dublin " and a "joint government programme for Irish unity ". Sunday 13 August A member of the crowd called out to Adams to, "bring back the IRA". In reply Adams said: Friday 8 September Friday 24 November Divorce had long been available north of the border. The ban in the Republic was sometimes cited by mainly Protestant unionists as evidence of excessive influence by the Catholic Church in the Republic which would in the event of a United Ireland represent a threat to the religious liberty of non-Catholics. Tuesday 28 November Preparatory talks were to lead to all-party negotiations beginning by the end of February US Senator George Mitchell was to lead an international body to provide an independent assessment of the decommissioning issue. Thursday 30 November Wednesday 20 December Wednesday 24 January Dated 22 January, the report of the International Body on arms decommissioning also known as the Mitchell Report set out the six " Mitchell Principles " under which parties could enter into all-party talks, and suggested a number of confidence-building measures, including an "elective process". The main conclusion was that decommissioning of paramilitary arms should take place during rather than before or after all-party talks, in a "twin-track" process. The report was welcomed by the Irish government and the main opposition parties in Britain and the Republic, as well as the Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Alliance Party. Monday 29 January The UUP declined the invitation. Friday 9 February The IRA ceasefire had lasted 17 months and 9 days. Albert Reynolds, while not supporting the bombing, concurred with the IRA analysis. Towards another ceasefire[edit] Friday 16 February There was a large peace rally at City Hall, Belfast, and a number of smaller rallies at venues across Northern Ireland. Wednesday 28 February Monday 4 March Proximity talks were launched at Stormont. Thursday 21 March Elections to determine who would take part in all-party negotiations were announced. Thursday 18 April Monday 20 May Thursday 30 May Tuesday 4 June The Northern Ireland Office invited nine political parties to attend initial talks at Stormont. Mary Robinson , then President of the Republic of Ireland , began the first official state visit to Britain by an Irish head of state. Friday 7 June Monday 10 June Friday 14 June The Northern Ireland Forum met for the first time in Belfast. Saturday 15 June The IRA exploded a bomb in Manchester , which destroyed a large part of the city centre and injured people. Thursday 20 June Sunday 7 July This decision was followed by widespread protest in the unionist community, and by rioting in unionist areas. Thursday 11 July No music was played as the parade passed the disputed area. This was followed by nationalist protests, and riots in republican areas. Saturday 13 July A republican car-bomb attack on a hotel in Enniskillen injured The Continuity Irish Republican Army later claimed responsibility. Monday 15 July Thursday 30 January The Report of the Independent Review of Parades and Marches The North Report

recommended setting up an independent commission to review contentious parades. Most nationalists welcomed the review but unionists attacked it as an erosion of the right to freedom of assembly. A period of "further consultation" was announced. Wednesday 5 March Stormont Talks adjourned until 3 June, to allow the parties to contest the forthcoming general election. Sunday 27 April In Portadown Robert Hamill , a Catholic, was severely beaten in a sectarian attack by a gang of loyalists. Hamill later died from his injuries. Thursday 1 May A general election was held across the UK. The Labour Party won a majority and formed a government for the first time since Friday 16 May Tony Blair , the new British Prime Minister, endorsed the Framework Documents, the Mitchell Report on decommissioning, and the criteria for inclusion in all-party talks. Wednesday 21 May In local government Elections the UUP remained the largest unionist party, and the SDLP the largest nationalist party, though they lost control of Belfast and Derry city councils respectively. Sunday 1 June Gregory Taylor, an off-duty RUC constable, died following a beating he received from a loyalist mob. It was later disclosed that Taylor had used his mobile phone to try to summon help from the local police station but no car was available to come to his aid. Tuesday 3 June The talks resumed at Stormont. Friday 6 June There was a general election in the Republic of Ireland. Wednesday 25 June Sunday 6 July This was followed by violent protests in nationalist areas. Saturday 12 July After an earlier decision by the Orange Order to reroute seven of their marches, the Twelfth parades across Northern Ireland passed off peacefully. Wednesday 16 July Friday 18 July John Hume and Gerry Adams issued a joint statement.

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She herself, and the world in general, viewed her approach as being dominated by security considerations rather than political calculation. Nor did it prevent her signing a historic deal with the Irish government a year later. She saw that accord, the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, principally as an instrument for strengthening security. But it also established a new context in which the Northern Ireland problem ceased to be regarded as an internal matter for Britain, and instead became an issue to be addressed by a new London-Dublin partnership. This framework brought together two governments which had previously often seemed in competition. The relationship from then on had many difficult moments but overall there was agreement on a common goal, that of putting peace first and together making a stand against the IRA. Her accord had a profound effect on the thought processes of the IRA, which until that point had asserted its violence was a classic anti-imperialist and anti-colonial campaign. This stance became much more difficult to maintain when Thatcher, despite her famous emphasis on national sovereignty, agreed to give another government a formal role in Northern Ireland matters. She did so with many reservations, and afterwards wondered if she had done the right thing; but she did it. Her emphasis on security was understandable, given that republicans killed British soldiers during the conflict in their long-running but futile efforts to force Britain out of Northern Ireland. The organisation operated not only in Belfast but also staged many attacks, and killed many people, in England. The Brighton bomb was designed as an act of personal revenge against her. It almost succeeded, for the explosion killed five people, some of whom died close to her room. She recalled being led from the ruined building with the sensation of having cement, dust and grit in her teeth. Haunted by the idea of being left in the dark in the event of another attack, for months afterwards she kept a torch by her bedside when staying in a strange house. The IRA reflected the personal element in the bombing when in a chilling statement it warned her: You will have to be lucky always. It was certainly not a victory for the strikers themselves: But before leaving office in 1990, when MI5 reported to her that the IRA might be led to abandon the killings, she gave the go-ahead for extensive contacts with its leaders. Her new Anglo-Irish approach led to highly productive relationships between subsequent prime ministers, John Major working closely with Albert Reynolds and, in particular, Tony Blair linking up with Bertie Ahern. But the Thatcher-FitzGerald accord of 1985 set new parameters which made many unprecedented things possible.

Chapter 9 : Brexit: the unexpected threat to peace in Northern Ireland - CNN

Towards the end of the century a new peace agreement was signed that was expected to bring peace to Northern Ireland. Land and Climate Northern Ireland covers an area of about 14 square kilometres, about one-sixth of the island's total area.

Northern Ireland, in the northeast, is a part of the United Kingdom. The Republic of Ireland is an independent country. A conflict between the two main religious groups, the Protestants and the Catholics, has been going on for over four hundred years. In the second half of the 20th century violent clashes between the two groups killed over 3,000 people. Towards the end of the century a new peace agreement was signed that was expected to bring peace to Northern Ireland. The land is hilly, with low mountains, plains and valleys. It has many lakes, or loughs, embedded in the landscape. The climate is influenced by the sea. Summers are cool and windy, winters are mild. Rain falls throughout the year. Half of the people are Protestants. They are descendants of Scottish and English settlers who came to the area in the 17th century. The two groups live separately in their own neighbourhoods. Unemployment is higher than in other areas of Britain. In former times the production of linen and shipbuilding were the two traditional industries. In the past decades manufacturing has decreased mostly because companies feel they are not safe on the island. Farming still plays a major role in Northern Ireland. Pigs and chicken are raised for meat and eggs. Dairy farms produce milk and fish are caught in the waters around Northern Ireland.

Early history In about 800 B.C. Celtic tribes invaded Ireland. They founded 5 kingdoms on the island. Although the Romans did not take control of Ireland their influence was very strong. The Irish probably used Roman coins and the language spoken in parts of Ireland may have been influenced by Latin. In about 400 A.D. Saint Patrick brought Christianity to the Irish population. He set up churches and other missionaries. Between 400 and 1100 A.D. When the Normans invaded Ireland in the 12th century the island was divided into many smaller kingdoms. As time went on English kings started to take control of the island. The following English monarchs sent soldiers to Ireland to make them protestant as well. In the course of time the landowners in the northern part of Ireland fled their land and left it to the English king. James I sent thousands of protestant colonists to settle on the land that belonged to the Catholic people. These settlements were called plantations. The Catholics rebelled against this policy but by the middle of the 17th century they had been finally defeated. By the beginning of the 19th century Britain had gained control of the whole island. The division of Ireland Throughout the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century more and more Irish groups began fighting for their independence. But the Protestants who lived in the northern part of the island wanted to stay with Great Britain. Six, mostly protestant, counties in the north stayed a part of the UK. The rest of the island, mostly Catholic, became the Irish Free State and an independent republic in 1922. Up to Northern Ireland was allowed to rule itself. During this time the Catholics, who lived in the Protestant province had no easy life. They did not have the same rights and opportunities that the Protestants had. They were discriminated against in all aspects of life. They barely found jobs, got less money from the government and were often harassed by the police. At the beginning of the 1970s The British government sent soldiers to Northern Ireland to restore peace and decided to rule Northern Ireland directly from London. Events escalated when 13 unarmed demonstrators were shot during a protest march in the streets of Londonderry on January 31, 1972. Both religious groups started to build up paramilitary organizations. It wanted to force the British out of Northern Ireland and create a single Catholic state on the island. They planted bombs in London, kidnapped and killed high-ranking officials. Activists were arrested and thrown into prison. During the 80s some of them died during hunger strikes. In the 1990s the British government started working on a peaceful solution to end the Troubles. In over 30 years of violence over 3,000 people were killed in the conflict. The peace process As time went on both sides realized that violence could not lead to a solution in the conflict. The British and Irish governments tried to get political and paramilitary sides to the conference table. In addition, the IRA promised to end all violent activities. Finally, talks ended in a historic agreement signed on Good Friday. The main points are: The future of Northern Ireland should be determined by the people. All political groups must share power in Northern Ireland the creation of a northern Irish Assembly with law-making powers Britain and the Republic of Ireland agree to a

council that discuss the problems in Northern Ireland All prisoners are to be released. All weapons of paramilitary groups must be given up within two years. The Republic of Ireland will not seek reunification with Northern Ireland. In a referendum the people of Northern Ireland agreed to accept the treaty and in June the new assembly was elected. However not everything went according to plan in the following years. Finally, after years of quarrel and disagreement, the IRA announced in that it would give up all of its weapons. In the leaders of the Catholic party, Sinn Fein and the protestant Democratic Unions Party came to a historic agreement to share power in the Northern Irish government. The assembly got together again. In July the British government ended its military presence in Northern Ireland. The cooperation between the two groups is a sign that a lasting peace may finally have come to Northern Ireland. The Parliament Building Stormont in Belfast.