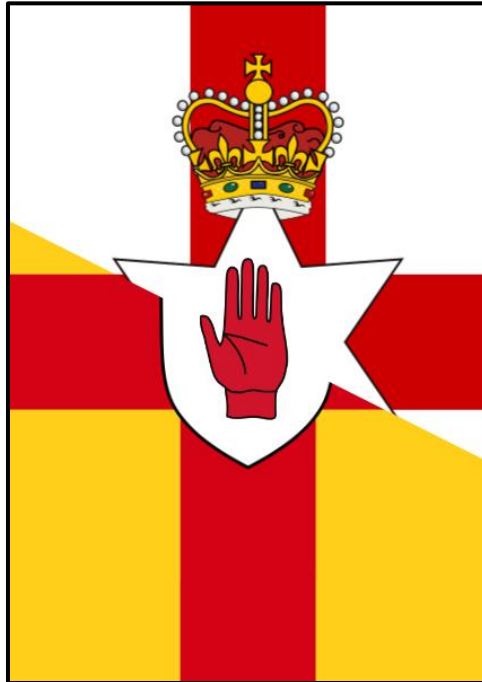




Crisis ZuMUN 2024

The Troubles



There was a discomfiting sense in Belfast that there was no place where you were truly secure: you would run inside to get away from a gun battle, only to run outside again for fear of a bomb.

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Letter From Directors

Dear Delegates,

Given the nature of the Troubles – a period of conflict and turmoil in Northern Ireland – it is crucial that we approach this crisis with a deep understanding of the historical context and the impact it has had on the people involved. While our primary goal is to participate in an engaging crisis simulating a snapshot of one of the most interesting conflicts of the 20th century, we must be mindful of the sensitive nature of the subject matter.

Acknowledging that the conflict, although mostly quiet for over twenty years, has not been resolved. Everyday people are still affected by the remnants of British colonialism, for better or worse. Keeping in mind that a significant group of people are still alive with first-hand knowledge of this conflict, who have lost loved ones, witnessed terrorist attacks, police and military brutality, torture, and the denial of civil rights, we want to assure, that this topic is handled with the respect it deserves.

Despite the recency of the conflict, I have chosen to make it this year's topic for ZuMUN Crisis. My father having experienced it first hand and me being interested in the complex and deep topic myself, I couldn't pass on the opportunity to bring it to the attention of you all. We are confident, that in collaboration with the Backroom and Chairs, we can make this crisis not only fun and engaging, but also safe and respectful.

We have given Backroom, as well as the Chairs, clear instructions on what behaviour cannot and will not be tolerated. They have been instructed to intervene and deny wilfully disrespectful behaviour and directives. Even during crisis, the ZuMUN anti-harassment guidelines are to be followed. Behaviour which is not tolerated is listed in the Crisis Study Guide. We ask you to read them carefully and follow them strictly. If you are not sure if an action would go against these guidelines feel free to approach your chair for further clarification.

Having said that, we wish you an amazing crisis set to one of my personal favourite topics. We are looking forward to seeing where you and your fellow delegates will take this crisis and how you will shape the history of the British Isles.

Yours truly Crisis Co-Director

Luis Schaller

In coordination with Crisis Co-Director

Melkon Yengibaryan

Historical Background

When approaching a conflict as complex as this one, it is important to understand the factors that led to it. In this section, events that contributed to the start of the troubles will be highlighted.

Partition of Ireland in 1921

Following the Irish War of Independence (1919 – 1921), the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in December 1921, leading to the partition of Ireland into two separate entities: the predominantly Catholic Irish Free State (which later became the Republic of Ireland) and Northern Ireland, which remained part of the United Kingdom. The partition was largely along religious lines, with the majority Catholic population in the south supporting independence, while the largely Protestant population in the north, particularly in Ulster, favoured remaining part of the United Kingdom.

Discrimination against Catholics in Northern Ireland

After partition, Northern Ireland was established as a separate entity with its own government. However, discrimination against Catholics became institutionalised in areas such as politics, employment, housing and voting rights. The nationalists were consistently underrepresented in the government and institutions of the region. The Unionist-dominated government in Northern Ireland favoured Protestant interests, leading to policies that marginalized and disadvantaged the Catholic minority. This discrimination deepened sectarian divisions and fuelled resentment within the Catholic community.

The electoral system in Northern Ireland was manipulated through practices such as gerrymandering, where electoral boundaries were drawn in a way to dilute the voting power of nationalist communities. This ensured that unionist parties could still maintain control over key political positions. The electoral system in Northern Ireland traditionally used a form of proportional representation known as the Single Transferable Vote (STV). However, due to electoral districts being structured in a way that favoured unionist candidates, nationalist interests were often left underrepresented despite the overall population being more evenly split between nationalists and unionists. A further example of nationalists being underrepresented is the unbalanced allocation of seats. Despite Catholics comprising a significant portion of the population by the 1960s, unionist-controlled governments in Northern Ireland disproportionately allocated seats and resources to Protestant-dominated areas. This imbalance further marginalized nationalist communities and reinforced unionist political dominance.

Civil Rights Movement and Subsequent Violence

Inspired by the civil rights movement in the United States, a civil rights movement emerged in Northern Ireland during the 1960s, calling for an end to discrimination against Catholics, demanding reforms in areas such as housing, voting rights and employment. The civil rights movement organized peaceful protests and demonstrations to highlight injustices and demand equality. However, these protests were often met with violence and repression by the Unionist government and security forces, further exacerbating tensions.



Paddy Doherty was influential in the events which culminated in the co-called Battle of Bogside in 1969. Picture by Belfast Telegraph (January 2016)
Source : <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/northern-ireland/paddy-bogside-doherty-londonderry-civil-rights-activist-dies/34343956.html>

A turning point in escalating violence in Northern Ireland is “The Battle of the Bogside” in Derry in 1969. The Bogside was a nationalist area in Derry, predominantly inhabited by Catholics. It had long-standing grievances over housing conditions, discrimination and specifically political representation. The immediate trigger for The Battle of the Bogside was a confrontation between residents of the Bogside and members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), the police force of Northern Ireland, on August 12, 1969. The confrontation began after a parade by the Apprentice Boys of Derry, a Protestant fraternal organization, passed close to the Bogside, leading to clashes between residents and police. The situation quickly escalated into widespread rioting and violence, with barricades erected in the streets of the Bogside to prevent the RUC from entering. Over the course of several days, the Bogside became the scene of intense clashes between residents, nationalists’ demonstrators and the security forces. Molotov cocktails, stones and other projectiles were thrown at police, while the RUC responded with baton charges, tear gas and water cannons. The British government,

concerned about the deteriorating situation, deployed British troops to restore order. This marked the beginning of the British Army's presence in Northern Ireland. Despite being deployed to preserve order, the Army's presence only led to further unrest and clashes, particularly between nationalist communities and security forces. It would be the failure to address grievances and the violent response to protests, that ultimately led to a significant escalation of the conflict known as The Troubles.

Cabinet Histories

From the seventeenth century onwards, it is the British who have dominated the three-way relationship in Ireland. It has repeatedly tried to annex, colonise, incorporate, control and eventually partially withdraw from the island of Ireland. The other parties of this power triangle emerge from "Protestant" and "Catholic" Ireland respectively – two factions partly created by the policies of the British state. Just as the British and the East India Company were central in the inception of a unified Indish state, they have brought the idea of Ireland as a single political, administrative and cultural unit to the Island. Serving as an antagonizing force, they were able to fuse together coalitions made from irreconcilable religious divisions, settler and native, coloniser and colonised, and dominant and subordinate classes.

Unionism in its most abstract form has been the ideology of the British state and empire-building in Ireland. In its various organisational manifestations, it has worked to identify and maintain a coincidence of interests between Ireland's Protestant minority and those of the British state generally. Its *raison d'être* has been the support of the British state, if not always of particular British governments. Republicanism in the Irish context has been a largely oppositional ideology committed, in principle, to a secular all-Ireland state capable of overcoming the divisions institutionalised by British rule. Commitments to the 'Union/Empire' or to the 'Republic' are not in themselves stand-alone political philosophies. Their adherents have simultaneously seen themselves, for example, as liberals, socialists, trade unionists and feminists. More pervasively, however, they have been influenced by sectarian division.

The unionist-republican divide overlaps, but has never fully equated with, the religious and cultural divide between Protestant and Catholic Ireland. While the constituents comprising the triangular power structure have changed over time, its basic form has proved resilient. Under the Union, it involved the British executive in Dublin Castle, the Conservative-Unionist Party and the Irish constitutional nationalists in an uneasy relationship with republicans and sometimes allied with the Whigs. Partition created a new triangular structure whereby the British state and successive governments dealt with Northern Ireland via the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) and the Irish state via nationalists or constitutional republicans. After 1970, yet another new triangular relationship became central – linking the British state and executive to the 'two communities' in Northern Ireland. The fate of the Belfast Agreement which has sought

to move tentatively beyond this format, by involving the Irish government in the search for a solution, still hangs in the balance (O'dowd 2005).

Unionist Cabinet

Ulster Unionist Party

The Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) is a political party primarily based in Northern Ireland, having been founded in 1905, historically representing the interests of Unionists who were predominantly protestant and in support of Northern Ireland's membership in the United Kingdom. Within the context of the Troubles, the UUP was the dominant political force within Northern Ireland, holding a majority of the seats in the Northern Ireland Parliament and controlling the government. At the start of the conflict, when civil rights movements in regard to discrimination against Catholics were emerging, the UUP was resistant to demands of reforms in housing, voting rights and unemployment, as these changes were seen as a threat to the status quo. As a result of this resistance to reform, tensions inevitably escalated with the outbreak of violence



Members of the Ulster Unionist party sign a covenant on "Ulster Day" as part of their campaign to halt the passage of the Third Home Rule Bill, 28 September 1912. Picture by Hulton Getty Images

Source : <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/review/solving-insoluble>

in places like Derry and Belfast. In response the UUP led government deployed police and employed internment, leading to further division and fuelled grievances among the republican community.

From these increased tensions, violence between both unionist and republican communities would increase. Paramilitary groups emerged on both sides, with an increase in clashes. As the leading political entity representing unionists, the UUP faced pressure to address these security concerns, whilst also trying to maintain dominance. The main agenda of the UUP was to restore law and order. In order to achieve this goal, the UUP supported the use of security forces to combat paramilitary action, viewing it as essential to preserve the unionist position within Northern Ireland. Within the UUP there were internal debates about how to handle the escalating violence and political unrest. Some members within the party advocated for a more conciliatory approach towards addressing the grievances of the nationalist community, while others took on a more hard-line stance, emphasizing the need for security and the preservation of unionist control.

Ulster Defence Association

The Ulster Defence Association (UDA) was a paramilitary organization that formed in 1969 in response to growing fears within the loyalist (predominantly Protestant and unionist) community in Northern Ireland. It was initially established as an umbrella organization to coordinate the activities of various loyalist vigilante groups that were meant to protect Protestant neighbourhoods from perceived threats, in particular from the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and nationalist paramilitary groups.

The UDA's activities were characterized by sectarianism and anti-Catholic sentiment. Initially formed to protect Protestant communities and institutions, but its methods often involved indiscriminate violence against Catholics and nationalist sympathizers. While the UDA was primarily a paramilitary organization, it had links to certain political parties within the unionist community. Some politicians and members of the UUP were accused of having connections to the UDA, although the extent of these ties varied, and the UUP officially distanced itself from paramilitary activities. The UDA's involvement in sectarian attacks and reprisals exacerbated divisions between communities and hindered efforts at reconciliation and peacebuilding.

Ulster Volunteer Force

The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) was originally formed in 1912 to resist Home Rule for Ireland, which threatened to create an autonomous Irish Parliament within the United Kingdom. It was disbanded after World War I, but re-emerged as a paramilitary organization in the 1960s in response to perceived threats to the unionist identity and Northern Ireland's position within the United Kingdom. It claimed to be defending Protestant and unionist interests against what it saw as the encroachment of Irish nationalism and the threat of a united Ireland. Similarly, to other paramilitary organizations during the Troubles, the UVF engaged in acts of violence, intimidation and terrorism. Its targets included Catholic civilians, nationalist politicians, and

republican paramilitaries. The UVF carried out bombings, shootings and assassinations as a part of its campaign against perceived enemies.

Through the UVF's numerous attacks on Catholic neighbourhoods, individuals and institutions, they contributed to the escalating violence and unrest in Northern Ireland, polarizing communities and deepening divisions. Similarly, to the UDA, the UVF maintained links with certain elements within the unionist political establishment. Some politicians within the UUP and other loyalist groups were accused of having connections to the UVF, but these links varied.

Republican Cabinet

Official Sinn Féin / Irish Republican Army

The Official Sinn Féin, also known simply as the Official Irish Republican Army (OIRA) was a republican paramilitary organization and political party that emerged during the Troubles. In 1969, the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which had been the primary republican paramilitary organization, split into two factions: the Provisional IRA (PIRA) and the Official IRA (OIRA). This split was driven by ideological differences over tactics and strategy in pursuing the goal of Irish reunification.

The OIRA, along with its political wing Official Sinn Féin, espoused a socialist ideology and advocated for a Marxist approach to achieving full Irish unity and social justice, aiming to establish a socialist republic encompassing all of Ireland. The OIRA engaged in paramilitary activities aimed at destabilizing British rule in Northern Ireland and undermining unionist control. It carried out attacks on British security forces, loyalist paramilitaries and infrastructure perceived to be symbols of British authority. In terms of political engagement, the Official Sinn Féin was responsible for promoting their socialist agenda. The Official Sinn Féin contested elections in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, campaigning on a platform of socialist republicanism, advocacy for the rights of working-class communities and the establishment of a united Ireland.

Provisional Sinn Féin / Irish Republican Army

The Provision Sinn Féin, also known as the Provisional IRA or Provos, was the second faction formed after the split of the IRA in 1969. The PIRA adopted a more militant approach to achieving its objectives compared to the OIRA. It believed in armed struggle and guerrilla warfare as the primary means of challenging British rule in Northern Ireland and securing Irish unity. The PIRA engaged in a campaign of violence and insurgency against British security forces, loyalist paramilitaries, and symbols of British authority in Northern Ireland. They carried out bombings, shootings, and assassinations as part of its armed struggle.

The PIRA drew support from disaffected nationalist communities in Northern Ireland who felt marginalized and discriminated against by the unionist-dominated

government and security forces, portrayed itself as a defender of Catholic and nationalist interests. The Provisional Sinn Féin was the political wing of the PIRA, advocating for Irish reunification and supporting the armed struggle of the IRA. While initially less prominent than the military wing, the Provision Sinn Féin played a crucial role in providing political legitimacy to the IRA's actions.

Game Mechanics

The Map

Northern Ireland is divided into six counties: **Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Derry,** and **Tyrone.**

Each county has its primary settlement(s) marked as white spots. They mark the settlement(s) which have the largest amount of population and/or are its administrative centre. With the amount of population living in these places, they are central for any force trying to control the county.

Force Tracker

Each county is assigned a *Force Tracker*. The *Force Tracker* is an abstract representation of the movement radicalism and willingness for violent activity for either the Republican or Unionist cause.



Figure 1: An instance of a Force Tracker

Each *Force Tracker* is divided into three zones marked by either, the black border for the *neutral zone*, the harp for the *republican zone* or the Red Hand of Ulster for the *unionist zone*. The white spaces in-between mark the faction's strength and weakness respectively.

The *republican zone* and the *unionist zone* mark the most extreme positions, where a faction has reached its maximum force. Whenever a tracker reaches this point, the most radical forces have succeeded and locks down the tracker. A locked-down tracker cannot be influenced by regular means, needing massive interference to become unlocked again. The effects of a locked down tracker differ depending on whether the controlling faction is republican or unionist.

Republican Lockdown: Negotiations have broken down and the IRA paramilitaries are now openly waging war against the local unionist forces. They have occupied key positions and started to attack any authorities still aligned with the Northern Irish Government or the British Forces.

Unionist Lockdown: Unionist forces have amassed enough strength to openly defy law enforcement and security forces, carrying out attacks on known IRA members in broad daylight. The local governments are unable to keep the union-paramilitaries under control.

A region being put into lockdown also causes its neighbouring non-lockdown counties to regress two steps towards the *neutral zone* as a reaction to the sudden large-scale violence.

Influencing the Force Tracker

DELEGATES CANNOT ASK FOR THE TRACKER TO BE MOVED IN ANY DIRECTION!

Movement on the tracker is singularly determined by backroom. It is moved in response to actions taken by one or multiple delegates through their directives. Those inclined to move the tracker in their favour should do this through regular directives.

Cathal Goulding has sent a directive, asking for leaflets containing inflammatory rhetoric to be disseminated in Derry to whip up the populace and move the Force Tracker further towards the republican side – The second part of this directive would not be accepted on the grounds that it directly prescribes what to do with the Force tracker.

Brian Faulkner has sent a directive, asking for local councils to engage with influential figures in Sinn Féin trying to persuade them to break the dockworkers' strike – This directive would be accepted, and backroom may decide that the calming effect of the strike being ended moves the Force Marker towards the neutral zone.

Reputation Tracker

Republicans as well as Unionist ultimately rely on the support of the people living in Northern Ireland to achieve their goals, at least diplomatically. The *Reputation Tracker* is the abstract representation of a faction's goodwill with the population of Northern Ireland. The lower a factions reputation slips, the less goodwill a faction can expect.

A factions reputation is the accumulation of all *Faction Tracker* positions counted together. Each step towards their own faction away from the neutral position on the *Force Tracker* lowers the faction's reputation.

How high or low a reputation is serves as a guide to backroomers to determine how they can respond to directives. High reputation could help them in both military (more recruits, easier hiding spots, simpler infiltration) as well as civil (organizing a protest, pressuring politicians, raising funds and/or awareness) activities. It may also be harder to appease hard-line views or generate enough pressure to get wanted results. The same is true with low reputation. Each has its advantages and disadvantages for both them and their counterparts.

Having low reputation when the opposing faction has a high reputation could aid certain activities while harming others.

Cathal Goulding has decided he wants to arm IRA paramilitaries not just with small calibre guns, but to give them anti-tank weapons. To do this he must first raise funds and then built up a gun-running racket to get the anti-tank weapons from America, over Canada into Northern Ireland. The Republican's reputation is quite low, hovering at about 14. This has led to a low turnout in funds, but through sympathizing individuals in the US and their connections with border-patrols, the few anti-tank weapons that were bought, were easy to smuggle out of North America.

Brian Faulkner has called for the workers participating in a fishing strike, organized by the Official Sinn Fein to go back to work, by promising to approach them on some of the issues raised. With the Republican Reputation being high at a 26 and the Republican Reputation very low at 9, the workers believed his promise, abandoning the picket lines thereby effectively ending the strike.

The British Government

The most radical innovation of this year's ZuMUN Crisis is the introduction of a Hybrid-Backroom/Delegate position. Apart from recognizing its traditional duties in administering directives, backroom would need to play the role of the British Government. However, this brings certain challenges with it. Having a British Government played by a regular back-roomer would mean that they would know, at least to a certain extent, what both sides are up to. This is less than desirable as knowledge of the non-public activities of the Republicans could influence their decision-making, giving the "British Government" an unfair advantage. The solution to this was the creation of a mixed-role, hybrid backroom/delegate.

The British Government has most of the powers given to regular backroom. They will receive the directives of the delegates playing members of the Ulster Unionist Party. In addition, they will control all security forces present for the Unionist cabinet, which means control of the Ulster Constabulary and the British Armed Forces.

What sets them apart from being a regular backroom is the ability to take actions similar to that of a regular delegate. However, instead of having their own backroom, they have been provided with "the British Government Playbook". This document contains the set of actions allowed to be performed by the British Government. It represents Parliaments, the Monarchs and the British Publics will and consent to act in a certain way. With this, the British Government cannot simply immediately deploy the entirety of the British Armed Forces to Northern Ireland as this would upset all three of the above-mentioned groups if no immediate reason for such an action is given.

British DEFCON

British DEFCON is the limiter on what the British Government can and cannot do. The DEFCON level is a function of the state in which Northern Ireland currently is. The lower the DEFCON level falls, the broader the set of measures and freedoms to intervene the British Government receives.

There are five levels to DEFCON with 5 being the most restrictive and 1 the most liberal in terms of what the British Government can do. This level will most likely fluctuate over the course of this crisis in response to the situation in Northern Ireland. Its level is directly tied to the reputation of both factions.

The Public, e.g., delegates do not have direct information on what level the DEFCON tracker at any time during the crisis is. It can however be guesstimated by the actions taken by the British Government, the state of Northern Ireland or through Directives.

Sources

O'dowd, Liam. 2005. "Republicanism, Nationalism and Unionism." In *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture*, edited by Joe Cleary and Claire Connolly, 78-95. Cambridge University Press.