

BACKGROUND:

Bloody Sunday was one of the most **infamous** events of the troubles in Northern Ireland

It took place in **January 1972** in the wake of the violence and fall out over the introduction of **internment** in August 1971.

An anti internment march on **MAGILIGAN BEACH** had come under severe attack from the British army who used CS gas.

NICRA decided to hold a march in **DERRY** to protest about remaining civil rights issues and the continued hated policy of internment

The March was **BANNED** by the authorities but went ahead anyway with **thousands** taking part



1) BACKGROUND

RESULTS OF BLOODY SUNDAY

Far from ending the Troubles the introduction of internment enflamed an already dangerous environment.

- 1) **Violence increased** massively. Nearly **500** people died in 1972 making it easily the bloodiest year of the Troubles
- 2) the **IRA grew in support and weaponry** and was well financed after Bloody Sunday
- 3) The British army had its **reputation and relationship** with nationalists ruined by Bloody Sunday
- 4) **FAULKNER** was under **deep pressure** as things began to get out of control. The British government began to look for a longer term solution and that was to shut down Stormont and introduce **DIRECT RULE** from Westminster.



4) RESULTS

.. On Bloody Sunday:



"Money, guns and recruits flooded into the IRA"



BLOODY SUNDAY

1972

3) REACTIONS TO BLOODY SUNDAY?

1) UNIONISTS 🇬🇧 🇬🇧

- Regretted the deaths of the protesters but regarded the March as being provocative
- Fearing the further rise of the IRA following Bloody Sunday hard line unionists started **ULSTER VANGUARD**. This was led by William **CRAIG** and was a **LOYALIST PROTEST ORGANISATION** with huge support. Up to 70,000 attended one meeting.

2) NATIONALISTS 🇮🇪

- They were deeply angry particularly at the British army and government. In Dublin the British embassy was burnt down by angry protesters
- They were further angered by the British government inquiry.

3) BRITISH GOVERNMENT 🇬🇧 (**WIDGERY INQUIRY**) 🏛️

- The British government were **criticised around the world** for the actions in Bloody Sunday
- An **INQUIRY** was ordered to establish the causes of the violence and establish if the soldiers were guilty. This was called the **WIDGERY TRIBUNAL**. It only added insult to injury as its findings **seemed to place no blame on the soldiers**. It suggested the March organisers were to blame for allowing the march to continue. **Nationalists were deeply angry**. They called it the **WIDGERY WHITEWASH**
- It is also felt that Bloody Sunday **encouraged the British government to close Stormont and introduce DIRECT RULE** from Westminster in a bid to control the situation

4) IRA 🇮🇪 🇮🇪

Membership of the IRA **rocketed** after Bloody Sunday . Finance flowed in from the USA. The violence saw **1972 as the worst year of the troubles with nearly 500 dead...**

2) WHAT HAPPENED?

The NICRA March started peacefully but soon **rioting** took place in isolated pockets of the route.

The very tough and highly trained members of the British **PARACHUTE REGIMENT** opened fire on the protesters (some believe they thought they wear under fire, others that it was an unprovoked attack)

FOURTEEN PEOPLE DIED. (13 on the day) All were **unarmed**

