



HOW DID O'NEILL TRY TO TRANSFORM N. IRELAND ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY

GCSE GUIDANCE
 For this topic you must know O'Neill's :
 1) **ECONOMIC and POLITICAL Aims**
 2) **ECONOMIC and POLITICAL Policies**
 3) **SUCCESS and FAILURE** or Economic and Political policies.

AIMS:

- 1) To make N.Ireland into a **modern industrialised society** able to **compete** in the world.
- 2) To create **greater economic and social equality**

ECONOMIC REFORM



POLITICAL REFORM



AIMS:

- 1) To build a **solid working relationship with the REPUBLIC OF IRELAND** aimed at solving shared problems and making northern Catholic's happier in N.Ireland
- 2) Building better relations with Northern Ireland's **NATIONALIST** minority community



POLICIES

- 1) Invested over **£900 million** in the economy
- 2) Modernised the **transport links** with a new **motorway** and airport at **Aldergrove**.
- 3) Built **New City** at **CRAIGAVON**
- 4) Built new **UNIVERSITY** at **Coleraine**
- 5) Built new oil refinery
- 6) Supported old industries like **Linen and shipbuilding** with loans
- 7) Attracted new industries such as **ICI, DUPONT, MICHELIN**



POLICIES

- 1) O'NEILL met Irish **TAOISEACH** (Prime Minister) **SEAN LEMASS** at Stormont in **1965**. It was the first face to face meeting between leaders of North and South in over **40 years**
- 2) He visited **LEMASS** in Dublin soon after and agreed to share **ELECTRICITY** between North and South
- 3) O'NEILL visited **CARDINAL CONWAY** leader of Ireland's Catholics
- 4) O'NEILL offered condolences to the Vatican on the death of **POPE John**
- 5) O'NEILL visited **Catholic schools** (**Assumption Grammar**) and **HOSPITALS** (**Mater**)
- 6) O'NEILL promised **financial help** to Catholic schools and hospitals
- 7) O'NEILL made the **UVF ILLEGAL** after 2 Catholics were murdered by them in 1966.



SUCCESSSES

- 1) **Multi national companies** like **ICI Michelin and DuPont** did invest and set up factories in N.Ireland
- 2) **35,000** new jobs were created in this period.
- 3) Construction of new **AIRPORT** at **ALDERGROVE**
- 4) Construction of **OIL REFINERY**.
- 5) New **modern transport infrastructure** like **motorways, railways** and a new **international airport**.



WEAKNESSES

- 1) **HARLAND AND WOLFF** are given substantial **Government support** (£1 million a year) to remain open.
- 2) **UNEMPLOYMENT WAS STILL HIGH** especially in the **West**.
- 3) **20,000** lost their jobs in **older industries** like **Linen and shipbuilding**.
- 4) **Uneven investment**. Most of the investment in Northern Ireland went to the **East** of Northern Ireland (mostly Protestant) while in the counties west of the river Bann (mostly Catholic) investment was much **lower** and the **unemployment** rate noticeably higher.



SUCCESSSES

- 1) **NATIONALISTS** welcomed O'Neill's reforms. They felt that at last their concerns were being addressed. They had **high expectations for reform** and civil rights.
 As a positive step the **NATIONALIST PARTY**, led by **Eddie McAteer**, entered into Stormont Parliament for the first time as the **Opposition** party. Nationalists were aware the reforms were **not moving very fast** though.
- 2) **MODERATE UNIONISTS** supported the reforms believing that a **contented nationalist community would feel more secure in the UK** and would not then support a United Ireland. Others just felt that NI should be a **fairer** society
- 3) **ELECTORAL SUPPORT**. The 1965 election showed that O'Neill seemed to have support of the public. His OUP won **38 out of the 52 seats**. Certainly in the **short term** O'Neill seemed to have won genuine support from most sides.

WEAKNESSES

- 1) O'NEILL's OUP party were increasingly **DIVIDED** and **NOT** all behind him. He had kept the LEMASS visit **SECRET** from his cabinet, which deeply annoyed some members of his party and made them distrust him. **Plots** began to emerge involving key OUP members such as Faulkner and West.
- 2) Some Unionists were deeply concerned about **concessions** to nationalists and **cooperation** with the Republic of Ireland. They feared the **threat of a United Ireland** and were **suspicious** of the Republic of Ireland and O'NEILL'S policies
- 3) **IAN PAISLEY** opposed the reforms by ONEILL. He was a very popular traditional Protestant preacher who had started his own Free Presbyterian church. He opposed **any link** with the Republic due to their **religion** and claim over N. Ireland. His preaching stirred up crowds and gained lots of support to oppose O'Neill. This was clear in opinion polls.
- 4) **UVF re-emerge**. In 1966, 2 Catholic's are shot dead by the UVF. The UVF is subsequently banned by O'Neill.
- 5) **TENSIONS** - Violence breaks out across Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland following commemoration events of Easter rising and Battle of the Somme.
- 6) **Nationalists** gradually became **angry** and **frustrated** at some of the unionist policies. O'Neill's reforms had promised much but had **delivered little**. Unionist policies in fact showed **little change**:
 - The new city being built was called **CRAIGAVON**- after the first unionist Prime Minister.
 - The new **university** was built in the small mostly Protestant town of **Coleraine** rather than mostly catholic city of **Derry**
 - **Unemployment and discrimination in jobs and housing** remained very prevalent and **Catholics still remained excluded from many Health and Education bodies** in NI. Unemployment remained very high in the Western counti...