10) POWNING STREET PECLARATION 🚟

The British government had had enough by AUGUST

They demanded reforms and introduced the DOWNIN TREET DECLARATION- this promised the same rights for Catholics AND Protestants . It reassured Unionists by suggesting NI position in U.K. would only change with a vote in NI in favour of a united Ireland.

It also promised reforms with the HUNT report looking into the conduct of the RUC (Police)

There were other measures such as bringing in One Man One Vote as soon as possible as well as setting up Housing authority to hand out housing based on ecessity rather than religion.

The SCARMAN tribunal also looked into the causes of the recent violence and recommended ways forward.

1 1) BRITISH TROOPS SENT

Faced with an exhausted police force trying to deal with disorder in Derry and burning in Belfast, the NI Government had to request British troops to stop the violence and mayhem.

The BRITISH ARMY were sent over in August 1969 to maintain peace and essentially to protect catholic areas from attacks.

They were welcomed by catholic communities with tea and buns in many areas.

However, this was to be a 'honeymoon' period political solutions were needed and quickly



1) NICRA SET UP

This was a non sectarian organisation devoted to achieving civil rights for all in Northern Ireland and gaining this through neareful means

They were inspired by the civil rights ovement in the USA

They wanted One Man One Vote; an end to gerrymandering, fair allocation of housing; no discrimination in jobs, an end to the special powers act and B Specials



Belfast

High

School

HISTORY

The first key event for NICRA was in the small unty Tyrone town of CALEDON. The issue was ousing. A 19year old single Protestant girl was given a house ahead of a Catholic family of five The Nationalist MP AUSTIN CURRIE began a squat in the house. This received media coverage in Britain and was featured on BBC Panorama. The squat was forced to end without result but the publicity was highly effective in highlighting discrimination



GCSE GUIDANCE

This is an overview of the key steps towards the British troops being sent to Northern

Ireland in 1969 and the beginning of the 'Troubles There is a lot in this: each event links into the next so it is well worth knowing

1) Look over hat happens in the key years 1967;1968 and 1969

2) Be able to explain why each event led to the next.

3) Work out how tension escalated (increased)

3) COALISLAND TO DUNGANNON

Following the success in publicity terms of CALEDON, NICRA decided to march from The nearby towns of COALISLAND to DUNGANNON. This march saw hundreds attend, holding banners with one man one vote and singing protest songs like We Shall Overcome. The RUC (police) banned the march from the town square but it assed off **peacefully**- perhaps due to this and world events it also received little



publicity.. they decided the next march would be bigger and more effective

4) PERRY MARCH (Oct 1968) A march was organised in Derry over the issue of housing and voting discrimination

(gerrymandering) in the city.

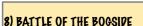
TV crew

9) BELFAST BURNS

Meanwhile in Belfast, many unionists look on at the events in Derry and are determined to strike back. Whole streets of houses were burnt out such as **BOMBAY STREET**

7 people were killed in the violence and up to 5% of Catholics lost thair homas

Makeshift barriers were erected to protect communities. The IRA were criticised by Catholics for their inaction and christened IRA- I Ran Away in some areas.



Chichester Clark knew he was in trouble right away. All the tension was building and it was obvious that the marching season would be a real chance for trouble- but he could not ban the marches!

The APPRENTICE BOYS march of August 1969 was a chance for real nationalist protest. A dairy was raided for milk bottles and barricades were built. The protestors when the rioting broke out were very well equipped and had the high ground in the imposing flats. Over 50 HOURS of rioting took place exhausting the police. The IRISH GOVERNMENT threatened to intervene and even sent a field hospital to the border. This further enraged unionists. It was only the input of a small British army unit that eventually brought the battle of the bogside to an end







1967-69





They continued with their march despite the an and soon ended up in a confrontation with the police in which the police are clearly seen using violence against the protestors. This made adlines around the world and made civil ahts a huge issue.

This was threatened by a loyalist apprentice

boys counter protest which gave the Unionist

NICRA however were determined to march. They nad only 400 supporters which disappointed

hem. However, they had 4 MPs including the

nationalist MP Gerry Fitt. They also had an RTE

government the excuse to ban ALL marches

Further marches took place leading to further Counter protests from unionists who claimed the marches were going through their areas and were provocative

A spiral of violence was created

7) PEOPLES PEMOCRACY MARCH / BURNTOLLET

A new younger and radical group mostly made up of students was set up called People's Democracy. They were determined to keep marching and to cause as many problems as possible for Stormont.

They announced their plans for a Belfast to Derry march from 1st to 4th Jan 1969. This was roundly condemned by all sides as provocative. It was at a time of high tension and would pass Unionist and loyalist areas.

However, the march went ahead led by BERNADETTE DEVLIN.. They felt the five point programme did not go far enough and demanded further reform.

Towards the end of their 4 day march PD were attacked at a place called BURNTOLLET BRIDGE by loyalist protestors. This was filmed and broadcast. I was noted that the police seemed to do little to offer protection. Indeed off duty B Specials were seen in the crowd. To enflame things more that night in Derry the RUC raided homes and damaged nationalist areas of Derry.

Nationalists were outraged by this. NICRA began to march again and tensions were mounting feast.

O'Neill was under intense criticism now from his own party and nationalists Faulkner criticised his weakness and ability to lead, 12 other MPs called for him to resign. Instead he decided to call a CROSSROAD ELECTION 👛 to monstrate support he hoped from Catholics and Protestants.

This was not the election he hoped for. The Unionist vote fell, catholic support did not seem to emerge and ONeill was even nearly defeated by

He was eventually forced to RESIGN in April 1969 following a bomb at a reservoir. This was thought to be the IRA but was in fact the UVF. ONeill was replaced by his cousin James Chichester Clark.















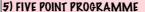
6) CROSSROADS SPEECH

O'Neill was desperate to rescue to situation. He made a direct TV appeal to the people of Northern Ireland. He claimed Northern. Ireland was at a CROSSROADS between peace and prosperity and violence and

It appealed to NICRA to stop the marching to allow an opportunity for peace and discussions.

NICRA did accept this and suspended marching in response.

However, O'Neill was under pressure from his own party over the problems. They believed he was losing control. His own Minister WILLIAM CRAIG openly criticised ONeill leading to him being sacked but tensions remained.



The British government were horrified by the situation in N. Ireland. They demanded reforms from O'Neill and the OUP government. As a result the five point programme was promised. WHAT WAS AGREED?

- Extra votes for business owners to be stopped
- · Parts of the Special Powers Act removed. Council housing was to be based on a points system
- Londonderry corporation was to be replaced by a development agency
- An Ombudsman was to be appointed to look at complaints to ensure

ONeill felt these reforms did not go far enough.

Other unionists argued that they had been achieved by force and condemned O'Neill for being weak alone allowing the situation to develop to this point. He was under severe pressure from people in his own partymany wanted him to resign.





