

# Ireland England's first colony

## The colonisation of Ireland

Ireland, when invaded in 1169 by Richard 2, Earl of Pembroke, became England's first colony, and so began over 800 years foreign occupation. From then on, and especially in the 16th and 17th centuries, land was confiscated and planted with settlers from England and Scotland. Ireland, untouched by the Reformation was Catholic, and the new 'planters' were Protestant. Thus religious lines were drawn for the social and political oppression of the native Catholics by the Protestant colonialists and the English crown, leading to numerous rebellions and murderous reprisals. Now three to four hundred years later in N Ireland and the Protestant ascendancy still maintain the power, patronage and privilege at the expense of the Catholic population.

## The partition of Ireland against the wishes of the Irish people

The present struggle in the North of Ireland is a direct legacy of the partition of Ireland by Britain in 1921, against the wishes of the Irish people. As seen by the 1918 election results for Irish seats at Westminster. The Nationalists who opposed partition suffered blatant discrimination in jobs and housing through over 50 years of one party Unionist rule in the sectarian six county statelet, which in order to give itself some legitimacy is referred to as ULSTER, although 3 counties of this ancient province are in the Republic. These were not included in the N Ireland state so as to maintain a permanent pro-British majority.

The electoral boundaries were rigged to ensure Unionist control of local government in areas with a majority of Nationalist voters. The Civil Service, Police, Judiciary and key sectors of industry were kept exclusively in the same hands. Special Powers were

and are still used specifically against the Nationalist population to ban meetings, marches and any form of dissent. A paramilitary police force, equipped with arms, including machine guns, and drawn from the most zealous pro-Unionist supporters, ruthlessly suppressed any protest or dissent from the Nationalist community.

## Present British Policy

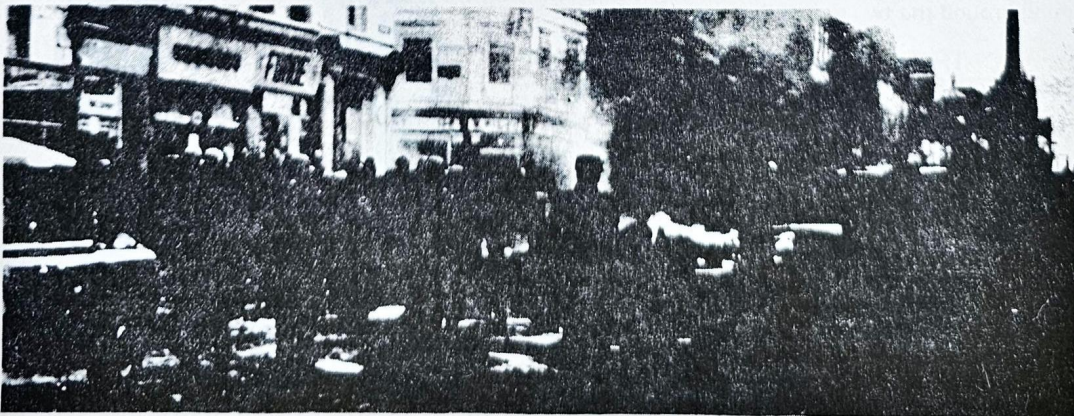
For the last ten years, following the Civil Rights protests of the late sixties, the British Army has been holding by force the six North Eastern counties of Ireland. The artificial State of N Ireland was born in terrible violence and this violence has continued over 60 years. Present army and police tactics of SAS assassination, torture and continual harassment, although previously dismissed as Republican propaganda, are now well documented, eg European Court of Human Rights, Amnesty International, Bennett report. The bi-partisan approach of both major political parties is to portray the situation as one of civil unrest with a few 'mad gunmen'. But 2000 dead, Special Powers, no jury trials and 20,000 armed troops cannot hide the fact that it is the ongoing struggle for *national liberation*.

This cover-up, perpetrated by politicians and the media, was epitomised by the Labour Party conference where after continual pressure it was decided at the 11th hour to debate Ireland ... but only instead of a motion on *animal welfare*! However, the lies and propaganda of press and politicians are being successfully challenged within the Labour Movement and elsewhere. Increasing numbers are being won to the truth, backed by over 800 years of evidence in Ireland and struggles in other colonies, that the true nature of discontent in the North is, and has always been, the British presence.

## TROOPS OUT NOW!

## SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH

## PEOPLE AS A WHOLE!



p&p South London United Troops Out Movement: Box UT, 60 Loughborough Rd, London SW9.



# N. Ireland Britain's last colony

— some popular myths exposed.

## Who says the Army keeps the peace?

'Catholic areas can only be governed by the British by the methods, however molified, that all occupying nations use to hold down their occupied territories ... they (Irish nationalists) can in the final analysis only be governed by force of British arms ... and can only be defeated and unwilling subjects kept from rebellion by considerable erosions of the liberties considered normal in a Western democracy.'

Colonel Robin Eveleigh (1978)

## Who says the Army can win?

'The Provisional's campaign of violence is likely to continue while the British remain in N Ireland ..the Provisional leadership is deeply committed to a long campaign of attrition. The Provisional IRA has the dedication and sinews of war to raise violence intermittently to at least the level of early 1978, certainly for the foreseeable future...'

Brigadier J M Glover (1979)

## Who says the IRA are mindless terrorists without support?

'Provisional IRA is essentially a working class organisation based in the ghetto areas of the cities and in the poorer rural areas ... there is a strata of intelligent and astute, experienced terrorists who provide the backbone of the organisation ... Our evidence of the calibre of the rank and file terrorists does not support the view that they are mindless hooligans drawn from the unemployed and unemployable ... Even if 'peace' is restored, the motivation for political violence will remain ... *Any peace will be superficial and brittle ... government policy would be principally one of containment and the underlying problems would remain unsolved.*'

Brigadier J M Glover (1979)

## United Troops Out Movement

The United Troops Out Movement is a national movement based on a network of 50 branches campaigning around the two demands:

**TROOPS OUT NOW!  
SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH  
PEOPLE AS A WHOLE**

We work in a non-sectarian way with trade unions, black and anti-racist groups, gay groups, women's groups and any other section of the community receptive to the two demands and the argument that there can be no end to the war in Ireland until Britain withdraws.

If you would like to join or know more about the UTOM or like a speaker for a meeting to discuss developments in Ireland or receive our literature, please contact the South London Branch at:

Box UT, 60 Loughborough Rd, London SW9

National address: Box UT, 2a St Pauls Rd, London N1.

