

Impact of the Troubles on Economy and Society of Northern Ireland: Introduction

A. Economy:

Critical Thinking: Consider and discuss with the class the effects of violence on a country's economy and answer the questions that follow.

Summary of the economic effects of violence

Examples of direct economic effects

- Damage to business premises and equipment
- Damage to economic infrastructure
- Injuries to, or death of, members of the public, thereby reducing the stock of workers' skills and experience (known as human capital)

Examples of indirect economic effects:

- Redirection of government expenditure towards heightened security and policing, including any consequences for the cost of doing business
- Redirection of business expenditure towards heightened security
- Redirection of government expenditure towards attracting or retaining business investment in the affected region

Examples of behavioural changes:

- Relocation of business investment away from the affected area
- Workers deciding to move away from the affected area
- Changes in the pattern of household expenditure (particularly a decrease in tourism)

Source: <https://www.economicsobservatory.com/what-is-the-economic-legacy-of-northern-irelands-troubles>

1. How might the violence have affected the economy of Northern Ireland during the troubles?
2. How might the violent environment have created benefits for the economy; consider employment, security, government intervention.
3. How might the British government have dealt with this aspect of the troubles in N.I.?

B. Society:

Research task: Use textbook and internet to attempt the following tasks.

Segregated societies. Most people in N.I. lived in areas which were either 90 per cent Protestant or 90 per cent Catholic. Education was segregated.

- **Cultural identities:**

Cultural traditions: Customs and practices that express the identity of groups in society

Cultural identity: The distinguishing features which define the way of life of particular groups in society e.g. nationalists and unionists

1. List various characteristics and practices of each of the two communities in N.I. that expressed their nationality and affiliations.

Consider religion, pastimes, symbols, commemoration, language, sports, entertainment, literature

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Nationalist identity and traditions	Unionist identity and traditions
Catholic	Protestant

2. What Northern Ireland poet wrote the following verse? _____

3. Which identity in Northern Ireland does this verse connect to? _____

4. What contribution did Brian Friel make to Northern Ireland literature and entertainment? _____

5. Name two Unionist poets that commented on Northern Ireland society? _____

***“Be advised my passport’s green.
No glass of ours was ever raised
To toast the Queen...
{whose} reign
Of crown and rose
Defined, displaced, would not combine***

Cultural identity of Protestants is defended in the existence and activities of loyal orders, including **the Orange Order** and **the Apprentice Boys of Derry (Case Study)**

1. The Orange Order is named after a distinguishing historical event enthusiastically commemorated by Unionists in Northern Ireland. What event is that?

2. Describe how this event is commemorated by Unionists in Northern Ireland each year?

3. Describe the event that the Apprentice Boys of Derry is appointed to commemorate that took place in Derry 1688-1689?

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