

Managing Conflict: Theory and Practice

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Course Description and Requirements

There has not been a more opportune time in recent history to study the management of the conflict in Northern Ireland than the present. Cease fires, declared by both major paramilitary groups, appear to be holding. The two governments are expected to produce a 'framework' proposal detailing arrangements for the governance of Northern Ireland and the organization of relationships between all the affected parties. Talks between and among political parties are intense in anticipation of the production of the framework document by the governments. Dramatic changes seem the rule rather than the exception. As this is written, British authorities have announced that all daylight army patrols will cease. The opportunities for first hand observation and study are rich and abundant.

While our particular interest is, of course, in Northern Ireland, this case is but one of many ethnic conflicts. Both in terms of theory and substance, then, we will be interested in a comparative approach to conflict and its management. While we can learn about the dynamics of the Northern Ireland conflict and its transformation should be of general use to us in the study of other intractable ethnic conflicts

In the first part of the course, we will examine key factors, especially conflicting interpretations and economic influences, that have contributed to the intensity and persistence of the conflict. The readings for each meeting in the first half of the class are given below. Students are expected to prepare for each class a 2-3 page 'idea' paper based on the readings for that week which will be turned in at the time of each meeting. We will provide topics for these papers, but students should feel free to write about an issue of their own choice. Students are expected to have the readings prepared and to participate in class discussions. A term paper is required of every student. Because of the limited amount of time and the difficulty of gathering resources, we do not expect that the projects conducted on the ground will be the basis of your term papers. In a few cases, this may work out, but the two assignments will be independent of one another. You should begin to think about these papers and talk with us about them as soon as possible.

The second part, of course, is the trip to Northern Ireland. Aside from the meetings and briefings (to be discussed in class) that will be done together, students are expected to conduct group projects which they have prepared in advance of the trip. Groups of two or three students each should begin immediately to think about interesting and practical projects. Time and availability of materials, etc., are constraints that should be kept in mind. As noted above, these projects may or may not be the focus of your term papers. We will set aside some time in each class for a discussion of the status of your projects.

We will spend the final part of the course discussing the projects conducted in Northern Ireland and reviewing major issues in the light of previous readings and our experiences in the North. Each group will be expected to report to the class on its project. We will deliberately leave some of this section open-ended in order to facilitate a review of the readings and a consideration of questions developed during the trip.

The 2-3 page papers, although ungraded, are course requirements. Grades will be based on the term paper, group project and its presentation, and participation.

Course Books:

Wichert, *Northern Ireland Since 1945*
Boyle and Hadden, *Northern Ireland: A Choice*
Dervla Murphy, *A Place Apart*
Keogh and Haltzel, eds., *Northern Ireland and the Politics of Reconciliation*
Ian Lustick, *State-Building Failure in British Ireland French Algeria*
Padraig O'Malley, *The Uncivil Wars*

Class and Reading Schedule

Week 1, 1/20 INTRODUCTION

Film, "At the Edge of the Union"

Wichert, *Northern Ireland Since 1945*

Dervla Murphy, *A Place Apart*

Keogh and Haltzel (eds), *Northern Ireland and the Politics of Reconciliation, Chapters 1-2*

Paper Topic: How would you explain the Northern Ireland conflict to someone who knows nothing about it?

Weeks 2 and 3, 1/27 and 2/3 CONFLICTING REALITIES

Padraig O'Malley, *The Uncivil Wars*

Ian Lustick, *State-Building Failure in British Ireland and French Algeria*

Week 4, 2/10 TRANSFORMATION OF CORE ASSUMPTIONS

Mulvihill and Farren, "The Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985", *Pew Case Studies in International Affairs*

McDonagh, "New Forces for Positive Change in Ireland," in Keough and Haltzell --

Fitzgerald, "The Origins and Rationale of the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985," in Keough and Haltzell

Paul Arthur, "The Anglo-Irish Agreement: A Device for Territorial Management?" in Keough and Haltzell

John Hume, "A New Ireland in a New Europe," in Keough and Haltzell

Week 5, 2/17 ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF THE CONFLICT

Bob Rowthorn and Naomi Wayne, "Northern Ireland: The Political Economy of Conflict," *Library Reserve*

Bob Rowthorn, "Northern Ireland: An Economy in Crisis," in *Beyond the Rhetoric*, *Library Reserve*

Week 6, 2/24 CONCEPTUALIZING ALTERNATIVE MANAGERMENTS

Kevin Boyle and Tom Hadden, *Northern Ireland: The Choice*

Dermot Keogh and Michael H. Haltzel, eds., *Northern Ireland and the Politics of Reconciliation*, Chapters 3-7, 9-11, and 13

March 2 Departure for Northern Ireland

March 12 Return from Northern Ireland