

Northern Ireland - A troubled time line

1649: Cromwell moves Catholics to the far west of the island.

1800: Act of Union. Ireland legally becomes a part of Britain.

1845-1850: The Great Potato Famine leads to massive emigration to the US, Canada and Australia.

1916: "Easter Rising" begins war of independence from Britain. Irish patriots try to set up an independent Irish republic.

1968-69: Beginning of the "Troubles". After a decade of discrimination, the Catholic minority in Ireland starts a series of protests. The "Unionists" (Protestants) respond by attacking the Catholics. Britain sends troops to Ireland.

1972: "Bloody Sunday". British troops shoot and kill 14 unarmed Catholic demonstrators during a march in Derry.

1981: I.R.A. (Irish Republican Army) prisoners go on strike to obtain the status of political prisoners. The government doesn't react and 10 men die, including Bobby Sands, an elected MP [Member of Parliament].

