

A STATE APART

Teachers Notes

Programme 2

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

CONTENT

This programme looks at discrimination, the emergence of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and the violence of the 1960s. It ends with a survey of the events leading to the birth of the Provisional IRA and the eventual introduction of Direct Rule from Westminster in 1972.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

This programme provides a basis for an examination of the origins, methods and effects of the Civil Rights Campaign and the reactions of Unionists to demands for reform. Personalities introduced include: Terence O'Neill, Ian Paisley and Brian Faulkner. The later sections deal with the causes of civil unrest and the transition from peaceful protest to confrontation, culminating in the return of IRA violence and British involvement in Northern Ireland.

KEY SECTIONS

1. The nature of discrimination in elections, jobs and housing
2. Opposition to O'Neill and the rise of Ian Paisley
Easter Rising Commemoration 1966 and UVF murders lead to increased tension
3. Housing Action Committees and the formation of NICRA
The first Civil Rights protests and the October 5th 1968 march in Londonderry
4. O'Neill's reform package of November 1968
The People's Democracy March, January 1969
Increase in violence and the resignation of O'Neill in April
Violence on the streets of Belfast and Derry, leading to the arrival of British Troops in August 1969
5. The emergence of the Provisional IRA and the campaign of shooting and bombing
Internment 1971 and Bloody Sunday, January 1972
The Introduction of Direct Rule

BEFORE THE PROGRAMME

- Discuss the attitudes of the Unionist and Nationalist sections of the population towards each other since 1920.
- Examine the nature of the influences from other countries on the Civil Rights movement: Black Civil Rights protests in the USA; civil unrest in Czechoslovakia, France and Germany 1968.
- Point out the powerful influence of television by the 1960s.

DURING THE VIEWING

- Note the sequence of events after 1963.
- Note examples of discrimination.
- Watch carefully the film footage of the October 5th march.
- Look for reasons why violence increased in 1969.
- Look at the change in the role of the British Army from 1969 – 1972.
- Find reasons for the introduction of Direct Rule in March 1972.

AFTER THE PROGRAMME

Outline the demands and methods of the Civil Rights Association.

Account for Unionist reaction to Civil Rights.

Why was Terence O'Neill forced to resign in 1969?

Discuss the emergence of the Provisional IRA campaign after 1970.

Chart reasons for the downfall of the Stormont Government from 1968 – 1972.

HISTORICAL SKILLS/ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Programme 2 provides opportunities for a greater understanding of key historical events such as the emergence of the Civil Rights Movement, the deployment of British troops on the streets of Northern Ireland, through to the introduction of Direct Rule in 1972.

Cause and Consequence and experiences and perspectives
(Assessment Objective AO1 CCEA GCSE History Specification)