

The Troubles in Northern Ireland

The following text was interpreted from the article published on the Encyclopedia Britannica and edited for students of English as a second language.

The violent conflict that lasted from 1969 to 1998 with its roots in deep history.



The conflict between the Protestants (also called Loyalists who wanted to stay within the United Kingdom) and the Catholics (also called Republicans who wanted to be a part of the Republic of Ireland).

Street fighting, bombings, shootings, blocking roads, people were put into prisons without trial (without standing in front of the judge). About 3,000 people were killed and about 30,000 were hurt.

The English first came to Ireland during the 12th century but more or less lived there peacefully and became Irish. Later, during the 17th century, the North was where most English and Scottish settlers lived and started to control more and more land and power and the Irish often rebelled. But while the early settlers came to Ireland and became Irish, these new settlers were very loyal to the British crown. When the Great Famine came (1845 - 1849), the British did very little to help the Irish. Many people died or emigrated to the United States.



And as countries were all struggling for independence around the world (the break of Austro-Hungarian Empire for example), so were the Irish. In 1922, the Republic of Ireland was proclaimed but a part of it was missing - Northern Ireland. Irish history and Irish language were not allowed in schools in Northern Ireland but people were not ready to give up. And when in 1968 people in (then) Czechoslovakia (Prague Spring) were fighting for freedom as well as Americans for Civil Rights, so were the Irish who felt like the British left them alone in the socio-economic crisis (there were not enough houses, it was easier to get a job if you were British - discrimination etc.). It resulted in many people seeking violence to show that they felt that the British were unfair. Many people were put in prison, there they fasted (did not eat) and protested.

The conflict ended in 1998 by both parties signing the "Good Friday Agreement".

Complete the sentences:

The conflict was between the Protestants (Loyalists) and _____ (_____).

The Troubles started in _____ and finished in _____ .

During the 17th century English and _____ came and controlled the North.

The Republic in Ireland got its independence in _____ .

The British did very little to help during the Great _____ in the years 1845 - 1849.

When people are unfair to one group over the other it is called _____ .

The conflict ended in (year) _____ .