

Documentary Interviews

Worksheet 3

INTERVIEW 1

Q. Do you think it is right for Northern Ireland to remain as part of the UK?

A. Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom and should stay that way.

Q. Why do you think this is the best action?

Most of the population here is Protestant and so feels more a part of Britain than Ireland. If we were to become part of the Republic of Ireland, we would become a minority, outnumbered by the Catholics. History shows that the Protestant way of life would become endangered if this were to happen.

Q. Why do you think this would happen?

History shows that Catholic nationalists have been jealous of the success of Protestants, and they have been quick to use violent methods against Protestants who were simply trying to make a living. They say the British government unfairly favored Protestants and persecuted Catholics, but the British government have had to get involved to protect protestants against the violence of the Catholics. If the British government had not been involved, Protestant ways of life would have been destroyed. It is clear from the violence of the Republicans that they are extremist in their view against Protestantism in Ireland. Look at the Provisional IRA – their terrorist tactics and unrealistic, uncompromising demands reveal their hatred of our way of life. Leaving the UK would pose a real risk to the survival of protestant communities in Ireland.

Dividing Northern Ireland from Southern Ireland in 1921 was the best action. The north, which is majority protestant could stay with the UK, whilst the Catholics in the south could govern themselves. Catholics living in the north should respect the views of the majority but now they are using Brexit as a chance to renew the conflict after 25 years of relative peace.



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Interview 2

Q. Do you think it is right for Northern Ireland to remain as part of the UK?

Ireland should be reunited as one, under its own rule. Northern Ireland should never have been part of the UK in the first place.

Q. Why do you think this would be the best outcome for Ireland?

British involvement here has always been for their own interests. The British created the conflict here, trying to reduce Catholicism in Ireland and favouring protestants throughout history. Their policies against the Catholic Irish were racist and cruel and they used the rivalry between Catholics and Protestant settlers to keep control. It is no wonder a Republican movement grew.

Dividing Ireland in two in 1921 was another move that showed the British were defending their own interests. It created a minority of Catholics in Northern Ireland and their voices have not been heard. Protestants say Republicans fighting to be part of a united Ireland are violent extremists, but they have only resorted to violence in the past out of frustration, because the British and the Protestant majority would not let them be involved in governing their own country. Now the protestants have supported Brexit and it is going to create more division. Because the south remain in Europe, there may be a hard border again between Southern Ireland and Northern Ireland. This is going to make the economy suffer and life more divided. I am scared there will be a renewal of the violence of the 'Troubles' (the period 1968-1998 when terrorist attacks were happening).

