

THE ULSTER QUESTION SINCE 1945

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THE ULSTER QUESTION SINCE 1945

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For Jacinta

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SERIES EDITORS' PREFACE

There are those, politicians among them, who feel that historians should not teach or write about contemporary events and people – many of whom are still living – because of the difficulty of treating such matters with historical perspective, that it is right to draw some distinction between the study of history and the study of current affairs. Proponents of this view seem to be unaware of the concept of contemporary history to which this series is devoted, that the history of the recent past can and should be written with a degree of objectivity. As memories of the Second World War recede, it is surely time to place in perspective the post-war history that has shaped all our lives, whether we were born in the 1940s or the 1970s.

Many countries – Britain, the United States and Germany among them – allow access to their public records under a thirty-year rule, opening up much of the post-war period to archival research. For more recent events, diaries, memoirs, and the investigations of newspapers and television, confirm the view of the famous historian, Sir Lewis Namier, that all secrets are in print provided you know where to look for them. Contemporary historians also have the opportunity, denied to historians of earlier periods, of interviewing participants in the events they are analysing. The problem facing the contemporary historian is, if anything, the embarrassment of riches.

In any case, the nature and extent of world changes since the late 1980s have clearly signalled the need for concise discussion of major themes in post-1945 history. For many of us the difficult thing to grasp is how dramatically the world has changed over recent years: the collapse of the Soviet Union and Russian communism; the end of Soviet

hegemony over eastern Europe; the unification of Germany; the end of the Cold War; America's sense of a 'new world order'; the pace of integration in the European Union; the disintegration of Yugoslavia; the Middle East peace settlement; the continuing economic strength of Japan. Writing in a structured and cogent way about these seismic changes is what makes contemporary history so challenging, and we hope that the end result will convey some of this excitement and interest to our readers.

The general objective of this series, written entirely by members of the School of History, Philosophy and Politics of the University of Ulster, is to offer concise and up-to-date treatments of post-war themes considered of historical and political significance, and to stimulate critical thought about the theoretical assumptions and conceptual apparatus underlying interpretation of the topics under discussion. The series should bring some of the central themes and problems confronting students and teachers of recent history, politics and international affairs into sharper focus than the textbook writer alone could provide. The blend required to write contemporary history that is both readable and easily understood but also accurate and scholarly is not easy to achieve, but we hope that this series will prove worthwhile for both students and teachers interested in world affairs since 1945.

University of Ulster

T. G. Fraser
J. O. Springhall

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I have accumulated many debts in writing this book. The scholarly ones are listed in the bibliography. For their assistance I would like to thank the staffs of the several libraries I have used, especially that of Magee College. More personally, my family was very tolerant of the demands the project made on my time and most helpful in assisting its completion.

Note on Terminology

This work often refers to Northern Ireland in the period 1922–72 as a ‘statelet’. This term is sometimes used in a pejorative sense. I have employed it because it seems most appropriate to an entity which, while having many of the attributes of statehood, lacked constitutional independence.

James Loughlin

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIA	Anglo-Irish Agreement
CDU	Campaign for Democracy in Ulster
CPNI	Communist Party of Northern Ireland
CSJ	Campaign for Social Justice
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
FOI	Friends of Ireland
HCL	Homeless Citizens League
IGC	Inter-Governmental Council
INLA	Irish National Liberation Army
INV	Irish National Volunteers
IRA	Irish Republican Army
NICRA	Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association
NILP	Northern Ireland Labour Party
NIO	Northern Ireland Office
OIRA	Official Irish Republican Army
PD	People's Democracy
PIRA	Provisional Irish Republican Army
PSF	Provisional Sinn Fein
RUC	Royal Ulster Constabulary
SAS	Special Air Services
SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour Party
UDA	Ulster Defence Association
UDR	Ulster Defence Regiment
UPNI	Unionist Party of Northern Ireland
USC	Ulster Special Constabulary (B Specials)

UUP	Ulster Unionist Party
UUUC	United Ulster Unionist Council
UVF	Ulster Volunteer Force
UWC	Ulster Workers Council

