

Dealing with the past in Northern Ireland

1) Check your understanding of these key terms in the powerpoint commentary (all from first four slides):

- 'Applied history'
- Northern Ireland Troubles
- Commemoration
- United Ireland
- Unionists/Loyalists
- Nationalists/Republicans
- Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA)

2) Questions for thinking and writing:

- What role has history played in the Troubles?
- How does the republican movement seek to make use of the past?
- Following the Good Friday Agreement, how is Northern Ireland governed?
- How might we define the 'victims' of the Troubles? How useful is it to even ask this question?

3) Further reading and research:

- Explore examples of murals in Northern Ireland on the [CAIN database](#). Why do people create these artworks? Why do you think they cause such controversy? What differences can you see between Loyalist murals and Republican ones?
- Watch this [short video](#) on the Flags Controversy (2012-13). Why do you think flag-flying is such an emotive issue in Northern Ireland? What insight does this video offer into the difficulties of reconciling divided communities after a conflict?
- Advanced: Read Aaron Edward's chapter '[Beating the retreat on a contested past?: The British Army and the Politics of Commemoration in Northern Ireland](#)' (in Jim Smyth (ed.) Remembering the Troubles: Contesting the Recent Past in Northern Ireland – free JSTOR account required for access). How has the British Army commemorating their Northern Ireland dead? What role do you think the British Army should play in Northern Ireland commemorations more generally?