

# Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	3
1. THE ROOTS OF THE CONFLICT: COLONIALISM, RELIGION AND ETHNICITY .....	6
1.2. A brief history: Ireland before and during the Middle Ages .....	7
1.3. A brief history: Plantation and the arrival of Protestantism in Ireland.....	8
1.4. A brief history: From Wolfe Tone to the Easter Rising .....	10
1.5. A brief history: The Irish War of Independence, the Anglo-Irish Treaty and the Irish Civil War ..	17
2. NORTHERN IRELAND: THE NEW ULSTER AND ITS FAULT LINES .....	21
2.1. The early years: 1923-1968.....	21
2.2. Northern Ireland: The Troubles 1968-1979.....	27
2.3. Northern Ireland: The Troubles during the Premiership of Margaret Thatcher 1979-1990 .....	30
2.4. The Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 .....	32
2.5. The loss of hope .....	36
3. THE PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND .....	39
3.2. The peace process: The Downing Street Declaration and the first IRA ceasefire.....	40
3.3. The peace process: Stormont talks begin in 1997 .....	43
3.4. The peace process: The Good Friday Agreement in a new Northern Ireland(1998) .....	48
3.5. Internal pressures during the peace process .....	54
3.6. External Pressures .....	56
4. NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE BASQUE COUNTRY. NATIONALISM AND THE DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS .....	63
4.1. The Basque problem and its relation with Northern Ireland. ....	63
4.2. The decommissioning process of the IRA and ETA .....	70
CONCLUSIONS .....	76
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	80