

1) Why was the outbreak of violence in Derry ~ Londonderry during the Battle of the Bogside such a significant event for future violence in Northern Ireland that would be known as The Troubles

The Battle of the Bogside was a result of the on-going levels of tension between the Nationalist community in Northern Ireland against the Unionist government and Policing in Northern Ireland at the time. After the events of August 1969 in which the planned NICRA March to Derry was deemed illegal, a counter demonstration by the Apprentice Boys of Derry was planned. Violence flared in the Nationalist Bogside area of Derry in which the security forces struggled to control the violence. Local residents and Nationalists felt that they were struggling to get their concerns addressed and that they faced continued discrimination from the government and the police in their response.

2) Why did the Nationalist Community welcome the arrival of the British Army in the beginning?

The Nationalist Community welcomed the arrival of the British Army to Northern Ireland at the beginning as they were seen as protectors from the Loyalist agitators and a more fair form of law and order than they had been used to by the RUC. The British Army were sent into Northern Ireland to restore law and order as well as maintaining good relations with the Nationalist Community,

3) Why were the Unionist Community concerned about the arrival of the British Army to Northern Ireland?

The Unionist Community and in particular those within the government and the security forces including the RUC and B-Specials felt that they were being undermined by the British Government and their decision to send the Army to Northern Ireland. They felt that law and order and security were issues to be dealt with by the Belfast Parliament and that they were in control of the matter and didn't want to lose this sense of control.

Bloody Sunday – Task Time

1. What happened on Bloody Sunday?

A peaceful Civil Rights March had been planned from the Creggan area of the city to march towards the Guild Hall at the City Centre. During this march, the security forces had to intervene when violence ensued between other protesters and the army and police. During this time, the Parachute Regiment of the British Army shot 14 members of the public. The soldiers were worried that they were under attack from Paramilitary forces that were active in this area and believed to be behind the instigators of the violence of that day.

2. What date was this?

30TH January 1972

3. How did Nationalists respond to the events on Bloody Sunday?

The Nationalist Community were outraged at the events of Bloody Sunday. This led to further resentment of the British Army in Northern Ireland as well as a breakdown in trust between the security forces and the people. There was a growing level of young people joining the IRA as a result. The British Embassy in Dublin was also burnt down.

4. How did Unionists respond?

The Unionist Community were initially supportive of the actions of the Army on that day, they deemed the IRA to be behind the violence of Bloody Sunday and had fired upon the Army. Some unionists responded by setting up – in February 1972 – of a new political group known as Ulster Vanguard. Headed by former Minister William Craig, Vanguard was described as a co-ordinating body for traditional loyalist groups. Other moderate Unionists called for more clarity in the investigation into what happened and were outraged about what had happened in Britain