

Sunday Bloody Sunday: a committed song

I - The historical background

The title of the song refers to a particular day in Irish history: Sunday, January 30th 1972, when Irish Catholics decided to demonstrate in the streets of Derry in Northern Ireland. They wanted the same opportunities than the Protestant community. English troops tried to break up the demonstration, they opened fire on the unarmed and peaceful civilians and shot 13 of them. This event shocked many countries in the world.

Vocabulary

- demonstrate =
- troops =
- break up =
- open fire =
- unarmed =
- civilians =

Troupes
 Ouvrir le feu
 Manifester
 Désarmés
 Dissoudre, mettre un terme
 Des civils

Questions

1. When did Bloody Sunday take place? _____
2. Where did it take place? _____
3. What did Catholics want? _____
4. Why? (try to guess) _____
5. What happened? _____

II - Some landmarks about Irish history

In Northern Ireland until the 1990s, there was a conflict between two communities: the Irish Protestants who supported the British government and were proud to be part of Britain, and the Irish Catholics, who wanted independence from Britain and to be part of the Republic of Ireland. It was not just a question of identity and religion. The Irish Catholics are less numerous than the Protestants and until the 1980s, there was a high rate of unemployment and poverty among them, they had difficulties to find good jobs or state jobs like policeman or teacher. There was a wall in Belfast separating the living areas of the two communities which did not mix. The 1980s were a period of troubles with a situation of civil war and British troops were sent there. Both communities had a paramilitary group. The most famous one was the IRA (Irish republican Army) defending the Catholics cause. The group organized many terrorist acts in Northern Ireland and Great Britain. In 1998, Northern Ireland signed an agreement with the British government ending 30 years of troubles and violence.

Compréhension écrite : réponds aux questions en français

a) Quelles sont les deux communautés impliquées dans le conflit Nord Irlandais ? Pourquoi ?

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b) Ces deux communautés se mélangeaient-elles? Pourquoi ?

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c) Qu’y avait-il de particulier à Belfast à cette époque ?

c bis) Etait-elle la seule ville à l’époque ? Cite un autre exemple et explique pourquoi.

d) Qu’est-ce que l’IRA ? Explique en français ce que tu a compris de cette organisation (objectif, dans quel “camp” sont-ils, mode d’action...)

e) Quelle est la situation en Irlande du nord actuellement ? (réfléchis d’abord aux actualités de politique européenne de fin janvier, à la position de l’Irlande du Nord par rapport au Royaume-Uni, puis fais quelque recherches si besoin sur la situation pacifique, ou pas)

III - Bloody Sunday in pictures

→ Voici quelques photos de cette journée sanglante, prises par William Rukeyser.

→ Trouve le titre de chacune des images et écris le en dessous.

Mass arrest of civilians / Blood on the street / Blanket on a body



Last picture: who are the people painted on the wall ?

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How is called that kind of wall ?

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