

SECWAC Lunch Group Meeting, July 12, 2019, 12noon

Brexit and the Legacy of the Northern Ireland Troubles

Old Lyme Country Club, 40 McCurdy Road, Old Lyme

Key articles (please read in advance):

1. "Northern Ireland's Twenty Years of Troubled Peace", by David Mitchell; Current History Vol 117 (Issue 797) March 2018, pp 89-95; [PDF available here](#).
2. "The Irish Border is a Scar", by Patrick Radden Keefe; The New York Times March 31, 2019, Sunday Review pp 8: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/30/opinion/sunday/northern-ireland-brexit.html>
3. "Why Conflict Still Flares in Northern Ireland", by Patrick Kingsley; The New York Times May 2, 2019, pp A4: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/30/world/europe/northern-ireland-derry-new-ira-mckee.html>
4. "Brexit and Irish Unity", by Gerry Adams; The New York Times July 12, 2016, A23 (Op-Ed): <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/12/opinion/brexit-and-irish-unity.html>
5. "Keeping the Peace", by Rachel Lavin; part of The Irish Times website "Brexit Borderlands": <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/brexit/borderlands/keeping-peace>
6. "How the Irish Backstop emerged as May's nemesis", by Rory Carroll & Lisa O'Carroll; The Guardian website: <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/apr/18/how-the-irish-backstop-emerged-as-mays-brexit-nemesis>
7. "Stormy Irish Past Stymies Brexit", by Jason Douglas; The Wall Street Journal November 3-4, 2018, pp A7, will provide scan attachment to registrants.

Additional (extensive) material that provides background information (not essential reading):

8. Several articles in The Irish Times website "Brexit Borderlands":
Website: <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/brexit/borderlands>
9. "Brexit and The Troubles", by Jonathan Stevenson; International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
<https://www.iiss.org/blogs/survival-blog/2019/03/brexit-and-the-troubles>
10. "Where The Bodies Are Buried", by Patrick Radden Keefe; The New Yorker; March 16, 2015, pp 42-61 (developed into book "Say Nothing")
<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/03/16/where-the-bodies-are-buried>

Irish History Timeline (not it all!! – key dates in bold)

1801	Act of Union; formation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland
1871-1906	Home Rule legislation debate
1912-1914	Rise of militant tendencies; arming of Ulster Volunteer Force and Irish Volunteers
1914	Outbreak of WWI; Home Rule passed but not implemented
1916	Easter Rebellion/Eiri Amach na Casca; mostly in Dublin; lasted 6 days
1918	General Election, Sinn Fein wins majority of constituencies in Ireland
1920	Government of Ireland Act (established Home Rule within <i>two</i> regions – Partition!)
1919-1921	Irish War of Independence
1921	Anglo-Irish Treaty (in the wee hours of December 6); formation of the Irish Free State
1922-1923	Irish Civil War
1925	Boundary Commission
1937	Irish Constitution, weakening links to the Commonwealth
1948	Unilateral declaration of Republic of Ireland
1950s	IRA cross-border campaign
1965-1968	Civil Rights Movement & outbreak of The Troubles
1969	British troops sent to NI (support RUC & other local security forces)
1970s	Deteriorating security situation; Bloody Sunday in Derry (1972) and Internment
1973	Sunningdale Agreement
1985	Anglo-Irish Agreement
1990s	Dramatic economic development and social change in Republic of Ireland
1998	Good Friday Agreement - All-Ireland referendum gives overwhelming support; demilitarization of the Border; British troops leave Ireland; Northern Ireland Assembly (
2016	Brexit referendum; carried in England and Wales, <i>not in NI</i> and Scotland
2017-2019	Brexit negotiations between UK and EU highlight the Border & the “Backstop” option
2019	Murder of journalist Lyra McKee by New IRA (firing on police officers)