



Na Trioblóidí

Betty Smyth was born in Belfast in the midst of World War Two, to a Protestant father, a butcher, and a Catholic mother, a part-time waitress. She left school at 15 and married Ralph Williams at the age of 18.

August 10, 1976 was a hot summer day in west Belfast, where Betty Williams was working as an office receptionist. Through her open window she heard the all-too-familiar sirens of a British army patrol car. As the sirens grew louder, Betty saw a car speed down her busy street, heard gunshots, and watched as the car spun out of control and slammed into a crowd. She rushed outside and saw the horror: the driver² slouched dead over his steering wheel, and a mother with three young children sprawled lifeless on the pavement. The mother, Anne Maguire, survived, although she would take her own life a few years later. The children, ages 8, 2 and 6 weeks, were all dead.³ The British army considered the tragedy a "major success," and planned to exploit the outpouring of grief against the Provisional Irish Republican Army, the "Provos."⁴

Thousands turned up at the funeral for the three children, and afterward, Betty approached Anne Maguire's sister, Mairead Corrigan, expressing her shock and sadness, and suggesting the two of them do something

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¹ Photo courtesy Imperial War Museum.

² Danny Lennon, 23 years old, a member of the Provisional Irish Republican Army.

³ A fourth boy, age 7, had been ahead on his bicycle and escaped the carnage.

⁴ Source is a previously confidential memo written in the Northern Ireland Office, the (British) government of Northern Ireland.

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about it. They gathered thousands of signatures demanding an end to The Troubles, and led a march through Belfast that gathered worldwide attention. Betty said at the time, "There had been other tragic deaths, but the tragedy of the little Maguires was the moment when I felt we just could not take any more."

They called their movement Peace People, and brought hope to the people of Northern Ireland that the unionists and their British allies would reach an accommodation with the nationalists and the Irish government and bring an end to The Troubles. Media pressure built for the pair to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, which Betty and Mairead received the following year.

Their movement continues to do good work today,⁵ but they were unable to bring a lasting peace to Northern Ireland. Betty's passion for peace resonated with everyone she touched, but an end to The

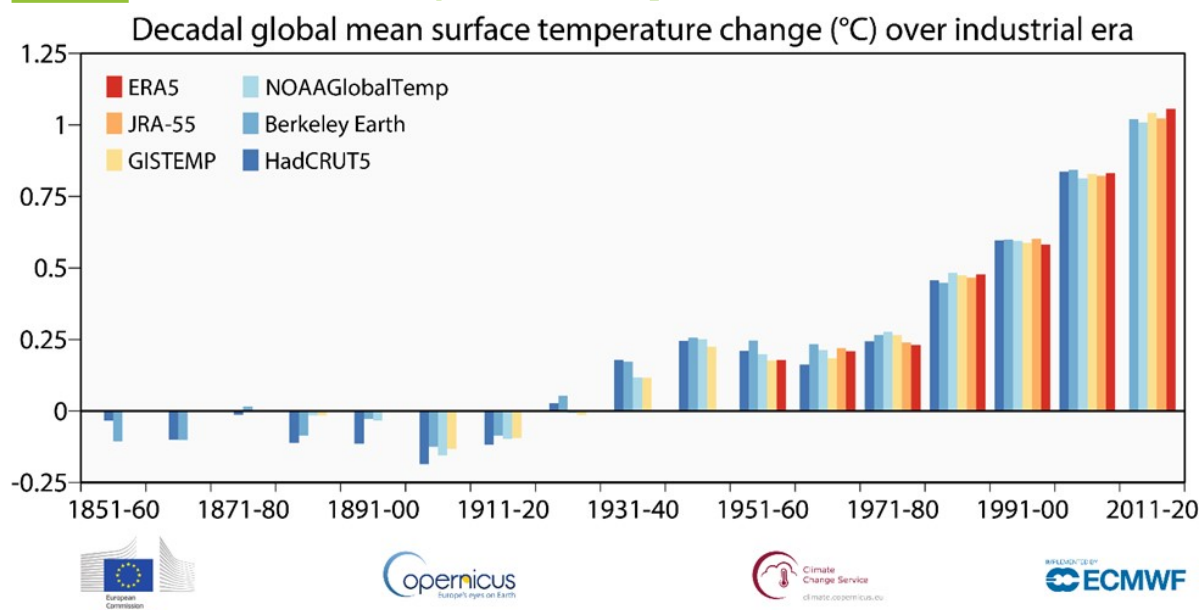


Peace People campaigners Betty Williams, front left, and Mairead Corrigan, front right, in 1976. Photograph: Bettmann/Bettmann Archive

Troubles would require much more than passion. Achieving peace required someone with determination, resilience, fortitude and extraordinary political skills. Someone who was not just a once-in-a-generation leader, but one in all history.

⁵ www.peacepeople.com

Chart 1 Mean Surface Temperature Change, 1850-2020

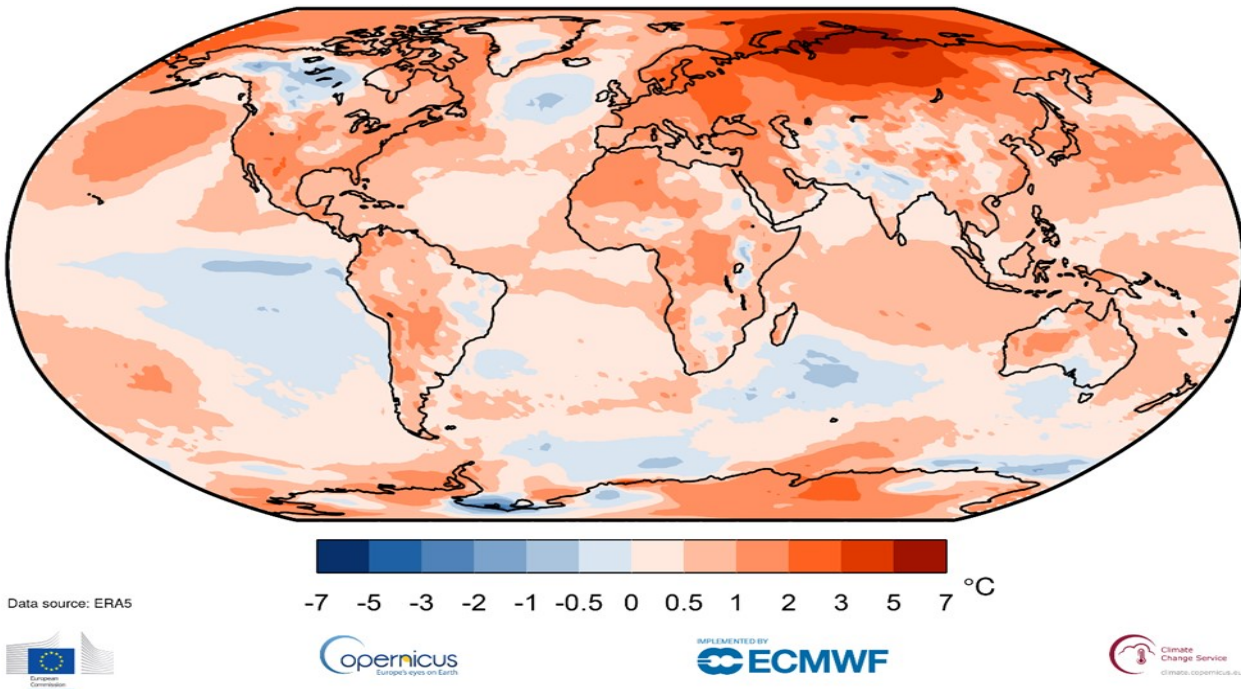


This past year is one for the history books. The year began with 6% of the Australian continent in flames, three million animals killed in the blazes. More than 10 million acres burned in the western United States, and the drought in the southwest is shaping up to be the worst in 1,200 years.⁶ It was the warmest year on record,⁷ more than 1°C warmer, on average, than a century ago (Chart 1). Parts of the Arctic were 6°C (10°F) above normal (Chart 2). There were so many destructive tropical storms that we ran out of letters in the English alphabet and had to borrow

Greek letters to name them all. The existential threat of global warming became more evident and more urgent in 2020.

In February, a U.S. president was impeached by Congress for only the third time in history.⁸ This month, Donald Trump became the only president to be impeached twice, this time for inciting mob violence against Congress and the Capitol building. It was a shocking, but not surprising, end to a disgraceful, malignant, amoral thug and demagogue.

Chart 2 Temperature Difference 2020 vs. 1981-2010



⁶ <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6488/314>.

⁷ <https://climate.copernicus.eu/copernicus-2020-warmest-year-record-europe-globally-2020-ties-2016-warmest-year-recorded>.

⁸ Joining Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Richard Nixon in 1974.

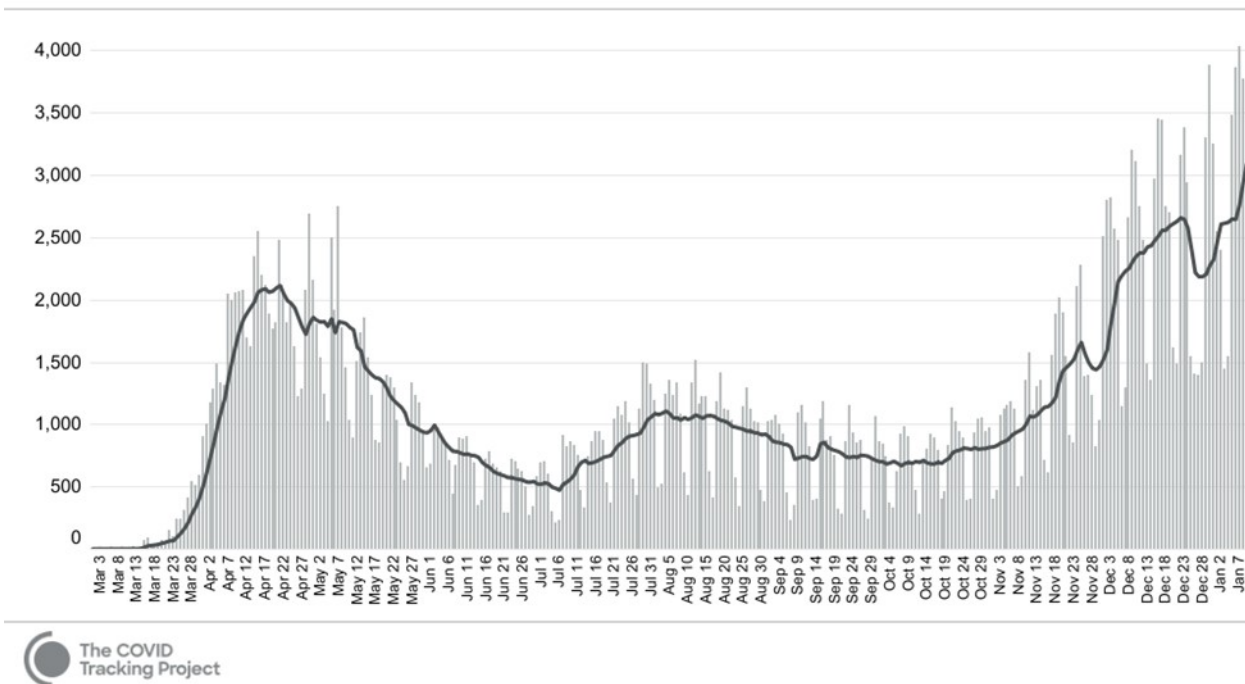
On May 25, George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis, setting off protests and riots across the United States and around the world. These actions raised the collective consciousness of the abject injustices and inequities suffered by minority groups, especially Black Americans, for too long.

Over all these events was the emergence of a global pandemic, the most severe the world has seen since the influenza of 1918-19. More than two million, and rising rapidly, have died from the COVID-19 virus globally. More than 4,000 people are dying,

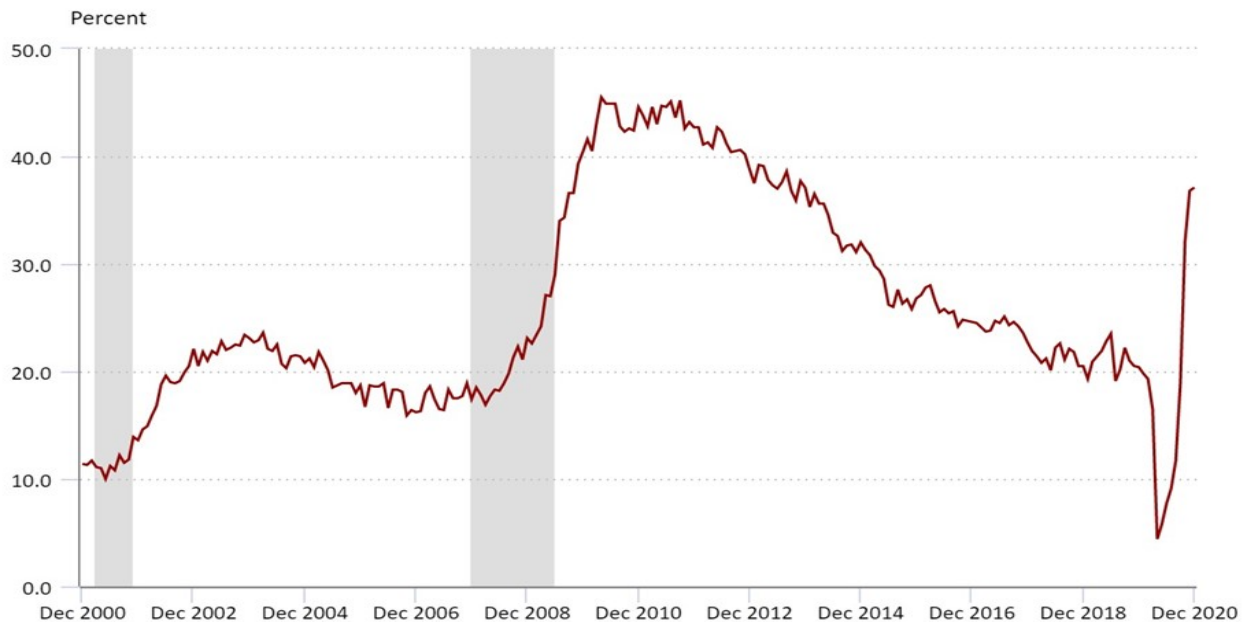
daily, in the United States (Chart 3), more than were killed at Pearl Harbor or on 9/11.⁹

The good news in all this, remarkable really, is that a number of companies have developed an effective vaccine for this virus in record time. Vaccines for similar viruses have previously taken many years to develop, or have never been successful at all. That an effective vaccine could be developed, tested and produced in less than a year is, thankfully, unprecedented. It is hoped that we will be able to inoculate the entire population this year.

Chart 3 US Daily Deaths from Covid-19, 7-Day Average, 1 March 2020 to 9 January 2021



⁹ 2,403 were killed on December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. 2,977 people were killed on 9/11.

Chart 4 Long-Term Unemployment as % of Total Unemployed, 2000-2020


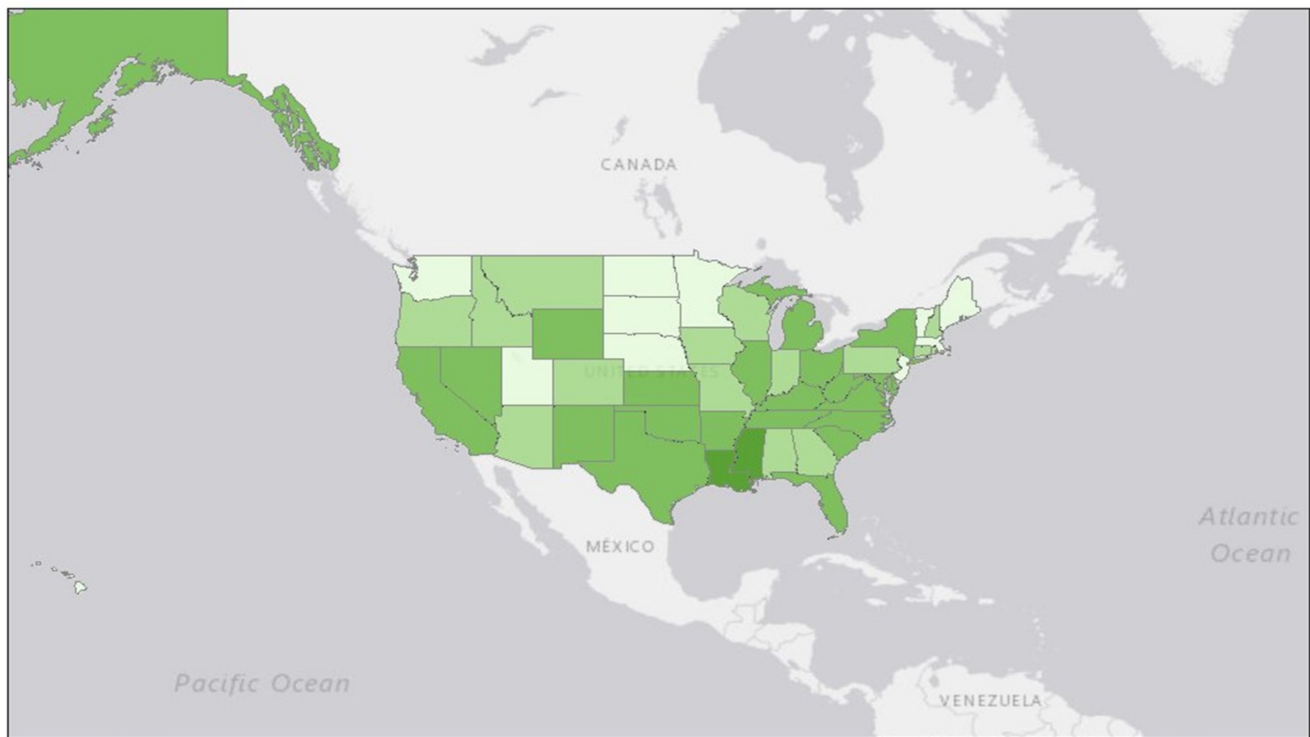
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

But this virus has left many scars, and while some will be ameliorated, some will be lasting. Twenty-two million lost their jobs in April and the economy dropped at the fastest pace since the Second World War. The economic rebound was swift, but there are still ten million fewer employed than were a year ago. While the unemployment rate has declined from nearly 15% to under 7%, the number of long-term unemployed has actually risen this past year from just

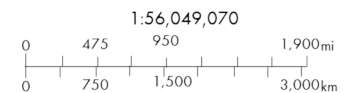
4.4% of those unemployed to over 37%, representing 2.5% of the labor force (Chart 4). Many of those job losses will be permanent.

The Census Bureau survey in mid-December found that 7 million Americans were at risk of housing eviction or foreclosure, with more than 40% of Black and Hispanic renters having little or no confidence in being able to pay rent the next month. The same survey

Chart 5 Food Scarcity, Household Pulse Survey, December 9-21, 2020



January 6, 2021



Census Bureau
Esri HERE, Garmin, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Copyright US Census Bureau

found that 90 million reported having difficulty in paying for normal household expenses, and 30 million Americans are food insecure (Chart 5). In households with less than \$25,000 in annual income, 32% of adults said they missed at least one meal in the previous week.

The pandemic has left permanent scars, but it has also accelerated and accentuated a number of latent trends. E-commerce is one. Online sales were projected to reach 24% of total retail sales in the US by

2024; it hit 33% in July. The first half of 2020 saw an increase in e-commerce equivalent to that of the previous ten years, according to a report by McKinsey.¹⁰ In Latin America, e-commerce doubled its share of retail sales last year. The implications for physical retail, and the 15 million employed in retail, are immense.

¹⁰ Arun Arora, Hamza Khan, Sajal Kohli, and Caroline Tufft, "DTC e-commerce: How consumer brands can get it right," November 2020.

Prior to the pandemic a few percent of employees were working remotely. Immediately, large swaths of the economy transitioned seamlessly to remote working, and businesses that were more curiosities than substantial, from food delivery to telehealth, exploded overnight. In just one example, Michael Fisher, president and CEO of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, noted that they had 2,000 telehealth visits in 2019. By July 2020, they were conducting 5,000 per week. Telehealth is likely to be a permanent feature of health care delivery. Again, consider the implications not only for physical space, but who provides these services and how they are priced.

The extraordinary rapid and successful development of COVID-19 vaccines is but one example of the massive strides science has made in the past few years. At our conference in October 2019 (<https://www.angelesinvestments.com/events/2019-precision-medicine-the-future-of-health-care>), we highlighted areas of precision medicine that are currently and about to be available. Gene-editing technologies, cellular therapies, new vaccines are powering these trends. These advances will also apply to areas beyond medical science, from agriculture (with heat- and disease-resistant crops with enhanced nutrition) to energy (where synthetic biofuels could be generated) to materials (such as self-repairing fabrics).¹¹

The events of 2020 will be with us for a long time. The successful vaccines point to a more hopeful future. Environmental damage, social strife and political turmoil remain as enormous challenges we must still confront. Fortunately, we have a guide to help us.

¹¹ The Bio Revolution: Innovations transforming economies, societies, and our lives," McKinsey Global Institute, May 13, 2020.

¹² In 2010, UK Prime Minister David Cameron would apologize for the shooting, calling it "both unjustified and unjustifiable," placing full blame on the British government.

Anglo-Normans first invaded Ireland in the late 12th century, and dominated the isle for much of the subsequent 800 years. The majority of English and Scottish settlers clustered in the northern province of Ulster. A formal union between Ireland and Great Britain was signed in 1801. But many in Ireland, which is predominantly Catholic, agitated for independence throughout the 19th century. A War of Independence in 1919-21 led to a free state in the south, but a separate Northern Ireland, which was two-thirds Protestant, tied to the United Kingdom. Protestants dominated the politics and economy of Northern Ireland, and subjugated Irish nationalism by banning the teaching of Irish history, speaking the Irish language or flying the Irish flag.

There is no formal start to The Troubles, a period of increased violence by both the British army and the IRA, but most point to a march organized by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) in Derry on 5 October 1968 to protest the political disenfranchisement of Catholics. The march was banned by authorities, but went ahead anyway, and turned violent when police used water cannons and batons to break up the crowd.

Each subsequent year saw more episodes of violence, most notably on 30 January 1972 in Londonderry, when British soldiers fired into a crowd of Catholic civil rights demonstrators, killing 14 people. "Bloody Sunday" became infamous around the world.¹² Violence continued throughout the decade, with over 3,000 people killed. The Provisional IRA retaliated with high-profile attacks, killing Lord Mountbatten, father-in-law of Queen Elizabeth, in 1979, and bombing the Conservative Party conference in Brighton in October 1984, just missing killing Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

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John Hume speaks to riot police at a protest in Derry, Northern Ireland, in 1969. DAILY MIRROR / MIRRORPIX / GETTY

John Hume was born in Derry in 1937. He planned to study for the priesthood, but after three years, switched to French, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in the language. He began teaching in local schools, but yearned to do more for his community. He and his friends started the Derry Credit Union with four members and seven pounds; in time it would grow to tens of thousands of members. At the age of 27, he became head of the Credit Union League of all of Ireland. In 1964, Hume started the Derry Housing Association to help provide housing relief for its citizens. Inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr., Hume founded the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, the organizer of the fatal march in 1968 that began The Troubles. In that ensuing mayhem, Hume was arrested for "obstructing Her Majesty's forces" and fined £20. He refused to pay the fine, and appealed his case to the House of Lords in Westminster, which overturned his conviction.

Hume was elected to the Northern Ireland Parliament in 1969, and became the leading voice for a peaceful political solution. But the British government refused to negotiate with the IRA, which it considered a terrorist group, or its political arm, Sinn Féin, which espoused unification with Ireland by any means necessary.

Hume was not a member of Sinn Féin, but he knew Sinn Féin would need to be a part of any settlement talks, and for years he met secretly with Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Féin. Those secret talks became public in 1993, and both Hume and Adams came under heavy criticism and threats from all sides. But Hume saw an opportunity to conduct in his own shuttle diplomacy between Dublin, Belfast, London and Washington, where he engaged President Clinton to his cause. Clinton appointed Senator George Mitchell as his envoy. On Good Friday 1998, the

parties reached an agreement to share political power and to allow for formal consultation between the governments of Ireland and Britain. The IRA agreed to turn in its weapons, Ireland agreed to remove language in its constitution claiming sovereignty of all of the territory of the island, and Britain agreed to self-rule for Northern Ireland.



John Hume accepting the Nobel Peace Prize of 1998. BJOERN SIGURDSEN / AP

The Good Friday Agreement required

commitment and concessions by all parties, but it was largely the work of John Hume. It marked the end to The Troubles, but no piece of paper can erase decades (centuries) of animosities and resentment. In the generation since the pact, there have been isolated incidents of violence, but the peace has held because the Agreement provided a framework for a more equitable distribution of power and a mechanism for settling disputes. The Good Friday Agreement, the end of The Troubles, and the beginning of peace, are the legacy of John Hume.

To his fellow Catholics who agitated for Northern Ireland to break with the United Kingdom and join the Republic of Ireland, Hume argued that it was necessary to unite the people first before uniting the territory. To the unionists who insisted that Northern Ireland must remain a part of the UK, Hume argued that they would never see peace without finding an ac-

commodation with the nationalists. He won both sides to his arguments.

John Hume was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998, along with his unionist political partner, David Trimble. A few years ago, the Irish Broadcasting Company conducted a poll of the greatest people in Irish history.¹³ Nobel Laureate poet William Butler Yeats placed 40th, writer James Joyce and the other Irish Nobel Laureate in Literature, Séamus Heaney, were 20th and 19th, respectively. Bono made it to number five, and Michael Collins, leader of the War of Independence in the 1920s, Ireland's George Washington, was second. John Hume was selected by his countrymen as the greatest Irishman in history.

¹³ The poll was held in 2010 by Raidió Teilifís Éireann.

In a year of violence, turmoil, upheaval and death, we lost Betty Williams (in March) and John Hume, in August. Their passing allows us to reflect on their legacies, their accomplishments, their values.

Violence is wrong in all circumstances, Hume believed, intentionally channeling King and Gandhi. Yet he worked with those who espoused, and committed, violence. He knew that true peace could not be attained

without finding a place in the political structure for every citizen, and to do that we must look beyond that which divides us to a better future for everyone. Hume did not believe it was necessary to compromise one's identity or beliefs in order to find common ground.

"The first thing we have to do sounds like a contradiction," he said. "We must accept diversity. The essence of unity ... is the acceptance of diversity."

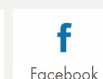


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