

Irish Writers

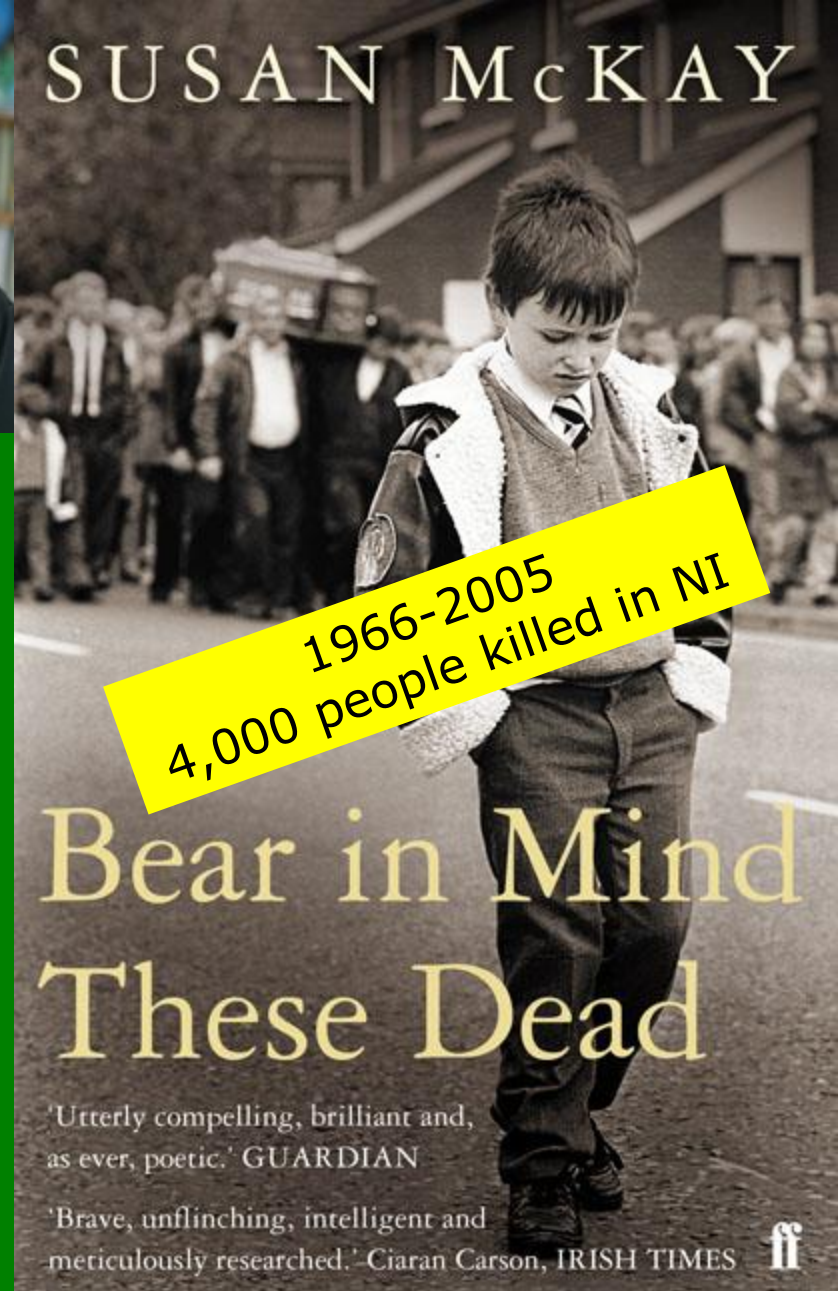
The North



Disruption



“Slaughter was met with slaughter. Children were used as killers, children were killed, parents were killed holding their child’s hand. People were murdered at weddings and funerals. One man shouldered the coffin of a dead comrade in the morning, visited his wife and their newborn baby in hospital at lunchtime, and was shot dead that evening.”

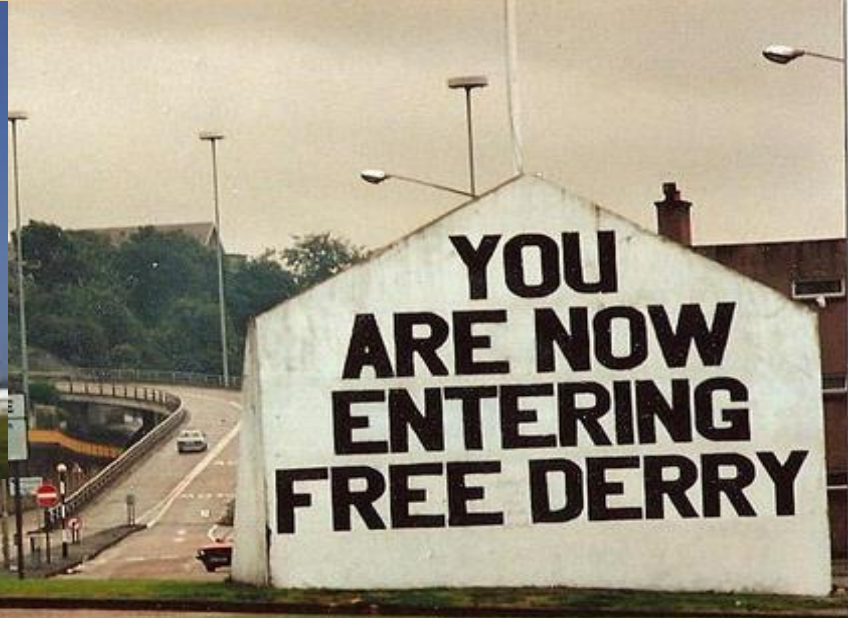


Susan McKay (2008:12)

In 1990 the IRA kidnapped Patsy Gillespie from Derry. They tied him into a van and forced him to drive a bomb into the middle of the British army checkpoint at Coshquin, near the border with Donegal. The IRA then detonated it, killing Patsy and five British soldiers. Patsy had been used as a human bomb. His wife Kathleen, was under IRA guard at the family home a few miles away in the city when she heard the explosion.

[...] 'After the funeral, my family wanted to make up my bed with clean sheets, but I insisted I wanted to sleep on the sheets that Patsy lay on. [...] I loved Patsy so much, and I know he loved me. I could never imagine living without him.

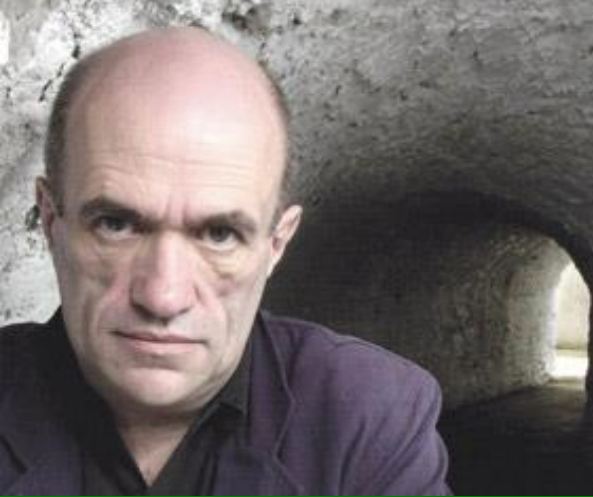
[...] 'Patsy used to spoon me or I'd spoon him in bed. Another night I felt the bed go down and the warmth and I got wrapped around.' She smiled. 'Maybe it was just wishful thinking, but it was so strong.'



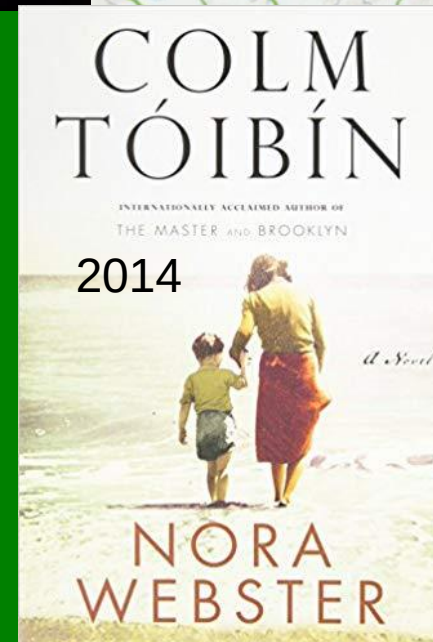
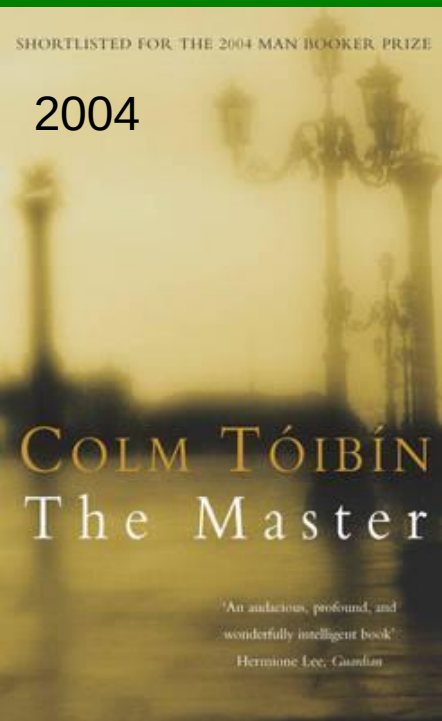
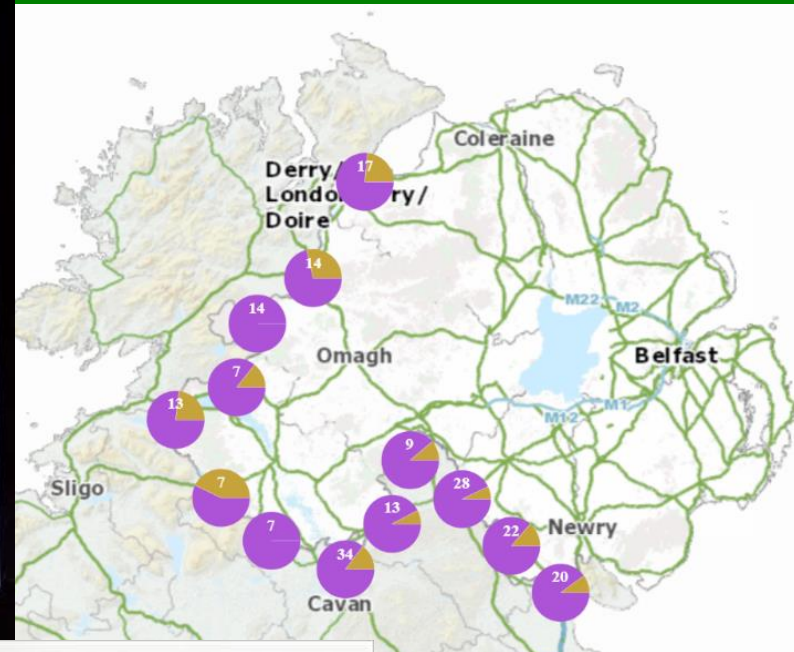
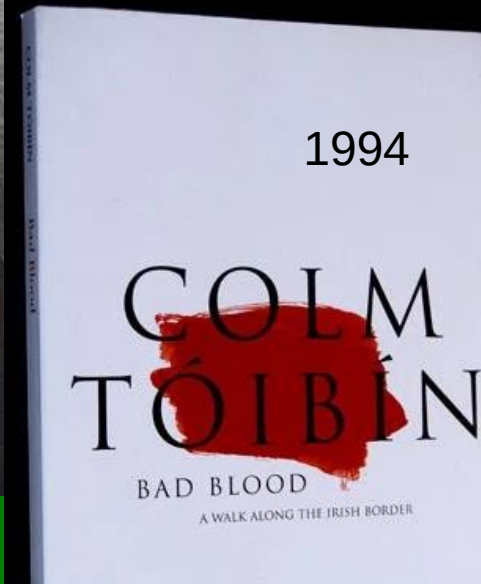
Omagh (15 August 1998)

Bloody Sunday (30 January 1972)

It is impossible to understand Irish identity or 20th Century Irish history without reference to the 30 year war in Northern Ireland, referred to as "the Troubles"



Colm Tóibín 1955-



Colm Tóibín – Bad Blood 1994

More than a travelogue

- Earthy account of the everyday tensions along the **border between Ireland and NI** in the aftermath of the Anglo-Irish Agreement (1985).
- **Anglo-Irish Agreement** (1985) between UK and Ireland: Irish government gets an advisory role in NI's. No change in the constitutional position of NI unless a majority of its people agreed to join the Republic.
- **Troubles**: sectarian violence propagated by the Provisional Irish Republican Army, the British Army, and the Ulster Volunteer Force.
- **Good Friday Agreement** (1998) provided the framework for the devolved system of government present in the North.

I turned right and began to climb once more, unsure of my route, the Michelin and the Ordinance Survey map contradicted each other, and neither seemed to correspond with the actual terrain. (pg 149)

Of all the killings in those years, Kingsmills stood out. The twelve men had been coming from work in the evening in a minibus when they were stopped. The killers wanted the one Catholic man to stand out; the others thought that they were going to shoot the Catholic, Richard Hughes, and they tried to shield him. The others were all Protestants. But the killers made Hughes stand out. They told him to run, and then they turned and shot the eleven Protestants [...] The men who were killed were his friends, he said, shaking his head in bewilderment [...] (pgs 188-189)

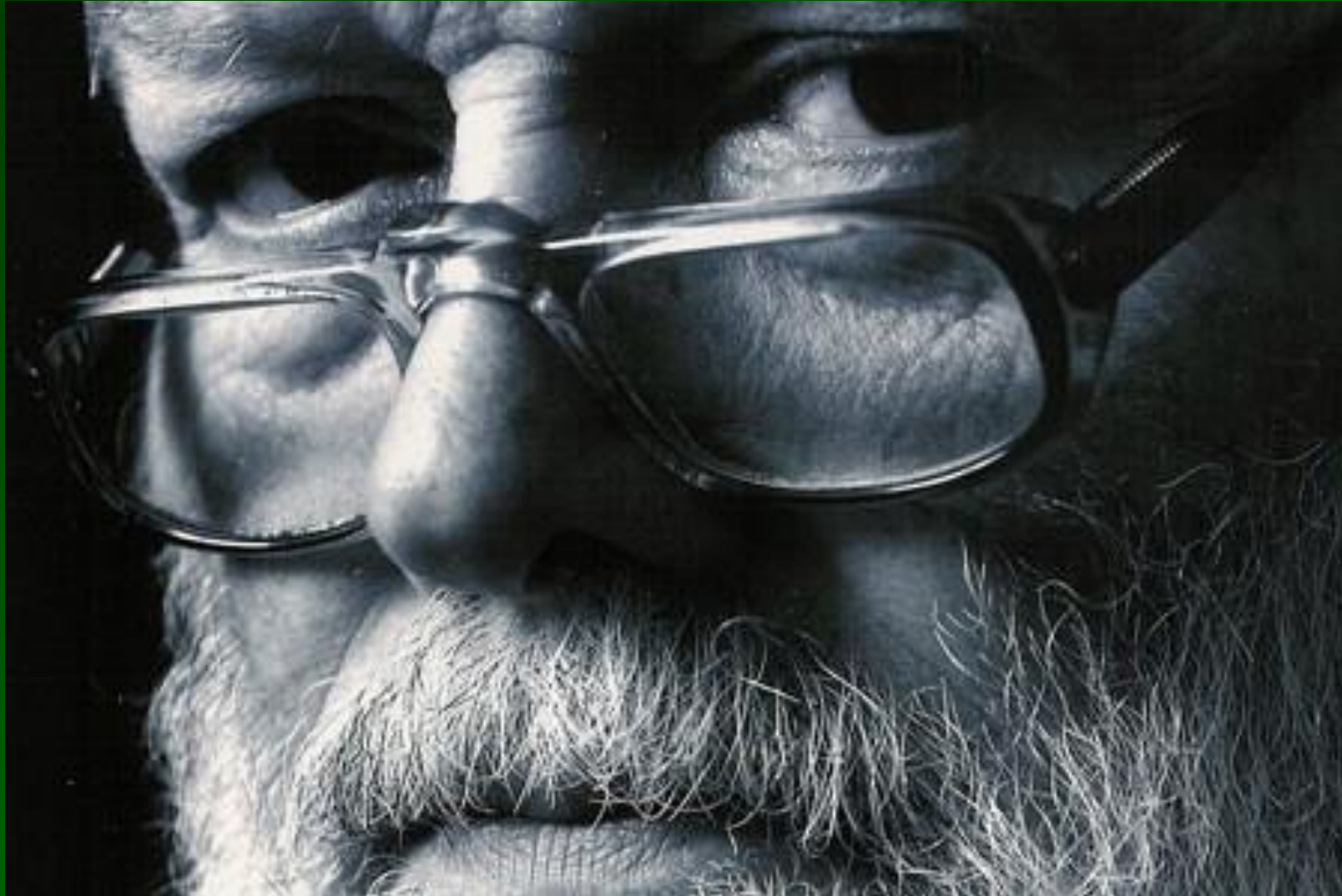
‘Protestants are being told that Catholics are the enemy. Catholics are being told that Protestants are the enemy. The Devil is the enemy.’ (pg. 167)

Some Mother's Son - The Auld Enemy – Ireland and Britain –



Gdsm Steve Albrighton Belfast 1970

Michael Longley (1939-)



The Civil Servant

He was preparing an Ulster fry for breakfast
When someone walked into the kitchen and shot him:
A bullet entered his mouth and pierced his skull,
The books he had read, the music he could play.

He lay in his dressing gown and pyjamas
While they dusted the dresser for fingerprints
An then shuffled backwards across the garden
With notebooks, cameras and measuring tapes.

They rolled him up like a red carpet and left
Only a bullet hole in the cutlery drawer:
Later his widow took a hammer and chisel
And removed the black keys from his piano.

The Greengrocer

He ran a good shop, and he died
Serving even the death-dealers
Who found him busy as usual
Behind the counter, organised
With holly wreaths for Christmas,
Fir trees on the pavement outside.

Astrologers or three wise men
Who may shortly be setting out
For a small house up the Shankill
Or the Falls, should pause on their way
To buy gifts at Jim Gibson's shop,
Dates and chesnuts and tangerines.

Video: Police attacked in Derry during Easter Rising commemoration parade



<https://www.irishnews.com/news/northernirelandnews/2018/04/02/news/video-police-attacked-in-derry-during-easter-parade-1294219/>

02 April, 2018 15:05

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The “Troubles” scarred the country permanently. These wounds have not been forgotten

Battle Of The Bogside

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDnkudlwjLE>

No Go: The Free Derry Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKrO1AoOpAU>

Bloody Sunday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EM4vblG6BVQ>

Sunday Bloody Sunday - U2 (only lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQZLPV6xcHI>

U2 - Sunday Bloody Sunday (Images from film)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yv5U0A10hrl>

***Sunday Bloody Sunday - U2 (lyrics)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1KO-XF_P_c



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