



The Media and Northern Ireland
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The Media and Northern Ireland

I. Introduction

II. Media coverage

- British Press
- Terrorism
- List
- The Press and the IRA

III. Censorship

- Direct censorship
- Indirect censorship
- Self censorship

IV. Reasons of censorship

V. Consequences of censorship

VI. Conclusion

Introduction

- **The Conflict in Northern Ireland** :
considered as « troubles » by the media
a war in reality
- **World-wide media attention** :
high level of media coverage
wrong analysis
- **Journalists as political actors** :
propaganda
censorship

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IV.	Reasons
V.	Consequences
VI.	Conclusion

Media coverage

- **The British Press :**

supposed to be « the guardians of liberty »
manipulated and controlled by British governments

- **The Northern Ireland Press :**

the News Letter, unionist

the Irish News, nationalist

the Belfast Telegraph and the Sunday Life, neutral
about 50 local newspapers, for each communities

- **Impacts on the conflict :**

half truths presented as hard fact

important factors in the persistence of crisis

- **The Press and the IRA**

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Censorship

- **Direct censorship** :

ban on interviews with representatives of Sinn Fein
over 100 TV programmes banned (1969 to 1993)

- **Indirect censorship** :

economic context of media production

intimidation

propaganda

- **Self censorship** :

policy of censorship imposed in the national interest.

self censorship became natural

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Reasons of censorship

- **The press in general serves a certain interest :**
for instance the British press is a constant state of adaptation to the needs of the British ruling class
- **There is no free press :**
the ultimate control to big business
newspapers industry is a part of the capitalist system

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Consequences of censorship

- **In the interest of the British state :**
pressure in order to support government policy
manipulation to fight against terrorism
- **The consequences of this policy :**
loss of the British press's independence
convince the world of the normality of life in Ireland
a distorted view of the Northern Ireland Conflict
serves the political needs of British government
- **media complicit in the maintenance of the crisis**

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Conclusion

- **Media coverage** :

a political solution might have been reached sooner with a better media coverage.

- **Censorship** :

winnig the war of the media

policy of censorship imposed in the national interest

- **Living life in peace** :

if only Catholics and Protestants learn to live together then everything would be fine ...

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Questions ...



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Thank you for your attention



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