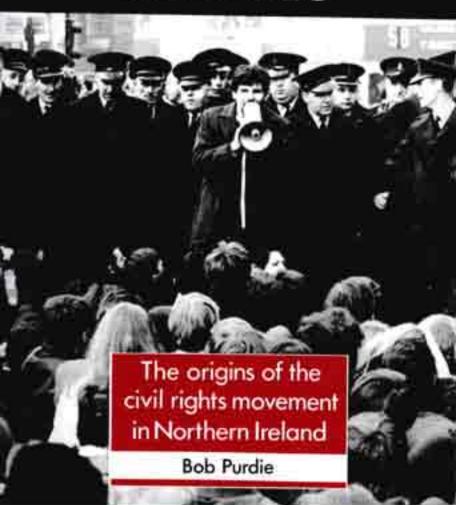
POLITICS STREETS



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POLITICS STREETS

The origins of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland

Bob Purdie

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in memory of my mother and father

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FOREWORD

Bob Purdie's account of the origins of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland is warmly welcomed by those of us who knew about his researches and were looking forward to seeing his analysis of that crucial period. Bob may speak with an Edinburgh accent, but we count him as one of us. He has been able to get closer to the events and the personalities involved than many earlier writers, who in some cases obscured the real truth of the civil rights movement. The story needed to be told; Bob was the right person to tell it, and he has done a fine job.

At the outset the movement was supported by every shade of political colour, including some individual members of the Unionist Party. In the end the campaign was hijacked by the gunmen who created a new and even greater need for basic civil rights in Northern Ireland. Bob investigates the background and the various components that made civil rights such an issue in Northern Ireland. Sensitive to the misconduct of the Unionist government and incisive in his interpretation of each incident, he analyses the movement's failure to achieve adequate reform. The tragedy is that it was almost our last hope for change by the ballot box. This depended on parliamentary responses in the debating chamber at Stormont: street politics should have been complementary to a parliamentary interface.

But that was not to be, and *Politics in the Streets* explains why. However late this story is, there are still lessons to be learned. Bob has helped us to understand our problems better.

PADDY DEVLIN BELFAST 1990

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AOH	Ancient Order of Hibernians
APL	Anti-Partition League
UEWTASS	Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers
	Technical and Administrative Staffs Section
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CDU	Campaign for Democracy in Ulster
CPNI	Communist Party of Northern Ireland
CSJ	Campaign for Social Justice in Northern Ireland
DCAC	Derry Citizens' Action Committee
DHAC	Derry Housing Action Committee
DUAC	Derry Unemployed Action Committee
DUP	Democratic Unionist Party
EEC	European Economic Community
GAA	Gaelic Athletic Association
HCL	Homeless Citizens' League
ICTU	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
IRA	Irish Republican Army
ITGWU	Irish Transport and General Workers' Union
IWG	Irish Workers' Group
MP	Member of Parliament
NCCL	National Council for Civil Liberties
NDP	National Democratic Party
NICCL	Northern Ireland Council for Civil Liberties
NICRA	Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association
NIHT	Northern Ireland Housing Trust
NILP	Northern Ireland Labour Party
PD	People's Democracy
QUB	Queen's University Belfast
RLP	Republican Labour Party
RSSF	Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation
RUC	Royal Ulster Constabulary
SDLP	Social Democratic and Labour Party
SRC	Student Representative Council

TD	Teachta Dála (member of the Dáil)
UVF	Ulster Volunteer Force
YSA	Young Socialist Alliance