



States of Ireland

Republished

Author: [Conor Cruise O'Brien](#) [1]

Faber & Faber, London, 2015

Originally published: 1972

Mixture of history, personal memoir and analysis by this Irish academic, writer and statesman. In chapter 8, 'Civil Rights: the Crossroads' (pp. 147-77) he argues that the campaign of civil disobedience begun by the civil rights movement in 1968 was bound in the context of Northern Ireland's deeply divided society to increase sectarianism and lead to violence. Defends Partition on the grounds that the alternative would have been a much bloodier civil war than the one that occurred in the South in 1922-23. Cites a loyalty survey conducted by Richard Rose in 1968 to dismiss as unrealistic the proposition that the Catholic and Protestant working class might unite in a struggle against a common class enemy and create a workers' republic in a united Ireland.

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