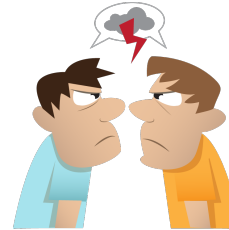


How successful was Terence O'Neill in achieving his aims?



Successful



Unsuccessful

1) ECONOMIC SUCCESSES

- O'Neill's policies created up to 35,000 new jobs
- New modern manufacturing companies like Michelin and ICI and DuPont set up in Northern Ireland
- Modern transport links were constructed such as investment in motorways and a new airport @ aldergrove
- Economic links with the Republic of Ireland brought benefits of cooperation on electricity supply and tourism
- A new oil refinery was established in Belfast reducing complete reliance on imports



WHAT WERE O'NEILL'S AIMS?

- 1) To create an economically prosperous Northern Ireland with new modern industries
- 2) To create a more modern society, free from the sectarian divisions of the past
- 3) To build better relations with the Republic of Ireland
- 4) To build better relations with northern nationalists enabling them to feel included in Northern Ireland and therefore accept it

1) ECONOMIC WEAKNESSES

- Up to 20,000 jobs were lost in the older industries NI had been reliant on .. Linen and shipbuilding
- unemployment remained stubbornly high at 7-8%
- There were unemployment black spots in the west especially where unemployment was particularly high
- Many in the west felt that all the investment was going to the eastern counties which were mostly Protestant. (many investors wanted to be closer to the ports of Larne and Belfast; this was also where the best infrastructure and support was. This therefore made the problem worse)
- Old industries like shipbuilding were regarded as too large to fail. So millions of pounds was pumped into them to keep them open.

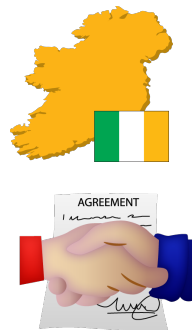


2) POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

O'Neill was a pragmatic politician - he was prepared to accept change if it brought benefits- He recognised that the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland shared similar problems and could offer solutions if they cooperated

- In 1965 he met the Irish Taoiseach (PM) Sean Lemass. It was the first meeting between North and South at this level for over 40 years!
- They promised to work on cooperation with electricity to begin
- This was followed by other meetings.. With Lemass in Dublin and later the new Irish PM Jack Lynch

It seemed an encouraging step forward in relations



2) REACTIONS TO LEMASS MEETING

While the visit of Lemass to Belfast seemed like a success, it was troublesome for O'Neill. He had not told his cabinet colleagues, preferring to keep it secret. This deeply annoyed some unionist cabinet members and made them worried about what he was planning to do next.

- some hard line unionists regarded it as a betrayal (Ian Paisley)
- O'Neill wasn't personally popular in the official unionist party and came from a very different background to many in the party. This made him appear aloof at times and made others mistrust him



One of O'Neill's big failures is that he was personally unpopular and aloof and didn't get the full support of his own party

3) RELATIONS WITH NORTHERN NATIONALISTS

O'Neill also realised that he had to reach out to northern nationalists who had been disaffected since partition. He aimed to cooperate with them and try to slowly reform NI

HOW DID HE REACH OUT TO NORTHERN NATIONALISTS ?

- He visited Catholic schools (Assumption Grammar) and hospitals (the Mater)
- He promised to help finance Catholic schools and hospitals
- He met the archbishop of Armagh William Conway
- He offered condolences on the death of Pope John Paul XXIII

These steps were welcomed by northern Catholics and created hope for more far reaching reforms such as...



3) NORTHERN NATIONALISTS

There is no doubt O'Neill's reforms were welcomed by northern nationalists. However, O'Neill had perhaps stoked up hope over what could and should be achieved. Many nationalists awaited the next steps.. Reform of housing and voting and jobs. When these were not forthcoming they began to protest for the. In non violent ways in groups such as NICRA. ... Leading to later stages to the outbreak of the troubles. O'Neill would have always struggled to deliver meaningful reform. He could suggest it but he needed his party to pass it.. Which was unlikely. Instead nationalists became more and more frustrated as unionist policies like placing the new university of Ulster at Coleraine (mostly Protestant) instead of Derry (larger but mostly catholic) or funding the building of a new city called Craigavon (named after a unionist PM)

