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An Stát mar Bhriathar

The State as a Verb

CONFLICT AS POLITICAL PRODUCTION IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND, 1968-1998

Anailísí Traidisiúnta Traditional Analyses

- ▶ “**Terrorism**” is **evil**
- ▶ “The” **state** is fundamentally **good**
 - ▶ Or, at least, **necessary** and only **occasionally problematic**
- ▶ “The” **state** is *a priori* **legitimate**
 - ▶ Unworthy of critical scrutiny
- ▶ Non-state **violence** is **atavistic**

Tá Foréigean Comhchoiteann

Violence is Communal

Foucault

- ▶ **Power struggles** permeate **every social interaction**
 - ▶ **Conflict** is a practice of the **every day**
- ▶ **States** are not completed, rather an **assemblage of power relations**
- ▶ Consequently, **colonisation** is not an event, but a **practice**

Schmitt

- ▶ **States**, institutions, deliberative democracy are **all peripheral**
- ▶ What matters is **The Political**
 - ▶ The distinction between **Friend** and **Enemy**, insider and outsider
- ▶ Inherent in the political, **exclusive** as it is, is always a *trace* of **conflict** and **violence**

Cén Fáth? Why?

- ▶ Writing
 - ▶ Policy
 - ▶ The **logocentric *raison d'être*** of International Relations and traditional Criminology
- ▶ Knowing
 - ▶ How is **colonisation done**?
- ▶ Doing
 - ▶ How is **resistance done**?
 - ▶ To neonazism, to neoliberalism: how do we ***do* decolonisation**?

Na Trioblóidí 1968 The Troubles 1968

- ▶ Gael ≈ Catholic ≈ Nationalist
- ▶ Briton ≈ Protestant ≈ Unionist
- ▶ 1960s: **Gaels protest** for civil rights, **Britons riot**, paramilitary violence
- ▶ 1968: Violence intensifies, **ethnic enclaves**, British Military “peacekeepers”.
- ▶ 30-ish years of **conflict** for **control of Northern Ireland**

***An
Pholaitíocht
a Imscaradh
Deploying
The Political***

- ▶ Physical Violence
- ▶ Intelligence/Counter-Intelligence
- ▶ Occupation and Exclusion of Space
- ▶ Welfare and Service Provision
- ▶ Manipulating Symbolism
- ▶ Language and Discourse

Treoracha Amach Anseo - Teanga

Future Directions - Language

- ▶ Conflict, violence, and language as creative of the two
- ▶ Depoliticising and repoliticising through criminalisation
- ▶ Silence and misdirection as central to colonial neoliberalism across the Commonwealth
- ▶ Silence and misdirection in Criminology and IR research: complicit in colonial neoliberalism across the Commonwealth

Further Discussion

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