Unit Plan: The Troubles

By Justin Aube

I plan on teaching the unit of The Troubles in Northern Ireland to my 20th Century History Through Film Class. The two films that I intend on using are Bloody Sunday and Hunger. Through the unit I intend to use the two Power Points that I created in conjunction with the films. I plan to start with the Power Point titled “The Troubles” and I would use sections of it as I use sections from the film Bloody Sunday. I then plan to use Hunger in the same way. I also will use clips from the interviews that were conducted in Northern Ireland. Such clips include the bonfires, the Orangeman Parade, Voice over from Nigel’s Life, as well as the two H-Block prisoners we met. I also plan to use two of the clips that I handed in, by Trevor from Belfast and Sam the Taxi Driver. I will follow up the unit with the Power Point on The Murals of Belfast. I lecture the historical information and material through Power Points, as well as generate student discussions by these. I also intend to use the publications, such as the British apology for Bloody Sunday that came out in June of 2010.

I anticipate this to be a 7-9 day unit, keeping in mind that my students will have some background prior to this unit because they will have seen the film Michael Collins, which would have been covered in a unit titled “The Effects of British Colonialism.”

I haven’t completely decided yet how I will assess my students. Here are the rough ideas of what I intend to do.

• Create guiding questions for the films
• I also have my students reflect on the films they watch as well.
• A thought that I have right now is to have the students do a writing assignment that would compare and contrast the interviews of people who would have opposing viewpoints.
• I also think it would be good to have students compare and contrast what the life of a person might have been like living in a specific area at a specific time that I designate (i.e.- The Falls Road, Shankill Road, Ardoyne, Omagh, Derry/Londonderry, Bombay Street, Gavarghy Road, Drumcree Road.)

• A DBQ using images that would have been covered in the Power Points

• A reflection discussing whether the students think that peace will last, with specific explanations as to why/why not. This could also lead into their ideas on conflict resolution.