**Case Study: Apprentice Boys of Derry**

**Context/ Origins:** To commemorate the Siege & Relief of Derry (1689)

* Clubs established in 19th Century
* Members were/ are of the **Reformed Protestant Religion**, Loyal to the **Throne of England** & Active in celebrating/ commemorating **their Protestant religious & political identity**
* Celebrations centre on **two events**:

***Closing of the Gates by 13 Apprentice Boys*** (18th of December)

***Lifting/Relief of the Siege*** (12th of August)

* All clubs named after 13 Apprentice Boys except

For the ‘No Surrender’ Club

* Headed by a **General Committee** which oversees

The **Parent Clubs**

* Branches in Scotland/ Australia & Canada

***Lord Brookeborough***

**Aims:**

* ***To celebrate the Civil & Religious Liberty defended by the Derry people during the siege = “No Surrender”***
* ***To celebrate their Protestant Religion, Culture & Identity***

***Terence O’ Neill* Apprentice Boys**

***Brian Faulkner***

***Ian Paisley***

**1971** = 178 branches  ***Possibly due to perceived threat***

**1989** = 200 + branches ***to Protestant Religion & Culture***

* ***Siege Mentality***?
* ***No Compromise***/ ***Intransigence***? (Majority Rule?)
* ***No Surrender***?

***during civil & political struggle of the ‘Troubles’?***

**Commemorations:**

1. ‘Roaring Meg’ fired
2. Visit to Derry Walls\*\*\*
3. Initiation of new members into Apprentice Boys

***Conflict during the ‘Troubles’: Differing Perspectives***

**Nationalist Civil Rights (NICRA)**

**Apprentice Boys of Derry**

***Traditional*** & ***Cultural*** Rights ***Humiliation*** (Walk on City Walls) by &

**1968** – *Civil Rights Protestors clash with RUC*

**1969** – Led to ***‘Battle of the Bogside’***

**1970/71 *–*** *Parades banned (restricted to church services)*

***Political*** & ***Civil*** Liberties  ***Sectarianism*** of Apprentice Boys

Underlined Unionist ***‘domination’*** of Nationalist/

Catholic population of Derry (***Gerrymandering***)