Exploring the roads to consensus

CONSENSUS IN IRELAND: Appraisals and Realities
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By Brendan O'LEARY

Nationalists, Unionists and Marxists share the defect of blunting the prime mover of the conflict in essential causes (whether it be British imperialism or the Republic's internment). As John Whyte argues that the best residents show the dominant agenda of power-sharing is the management of the Irish conflict perspective. The Irish Political Economy of Conflict project (the "POLCO") has awarded Irish Research Council for the Humanities a £333,000 grant. The project is led by Dr. John Whyte, a political economist at the University of Dublin. The project aims to explore the economic drivers behind the Northern Ireland peace process. The research team will study the role of power-sharing agreements, the impact of economic policies, and the implications for future conflict prevention.

The Anglo-Irish Agreement must be understood within a context of shared power-sharing. It is a framework that allows for the resolution of conflicting interests in a peaceful manner. The agreement has been widely recognized as a significant step towards stability in Northern Ireland. The Anglo-Irish Agreement was signed in February 1985, and its provisions include a joint declaration by the British and Irish governments on the basis of mutual consent.

The most significant of the consequences of this agreement is that it provided a platform for the development of power-sharing institutions. These institutions include the Northern Ireland Assembly, which plays a role in the governance of Northern Ireland. The agreement also paved the way for the establishment of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, which was a significant step towards peace in Northern Ireland.

The agreement has been criticized for its limitations and for not addressing some of the underlying issues in Northern Ireland. However, it is generally recognized that it marked a significant shift in the way that power-sharing was approached in the region. The agreement was a milestone in the development of power-sharing in Northern Ireland, and it paved the way for future efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

The agreement was signed on behalf of the British and Irish governments by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald. The agreement was the result of negotiations between the two governments and was signed in London in February 1985. The agreement was later referred to as the Anglo-Irish Agreement or the Baker-Sheehan Agreement. The agreement provided for the establishment of a joint commission to consider the future of Northern Ireland, which would include representatives from both the British and Irish governments.

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