The day Sinn Fein/IRA...

realised the game was up

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IN IRELAND?

How the agreement won through despite Trimble?

by Brendan O'Leary

The Belfast agreement was achieved through a combination of leadership, vision, and political will. It required a commitment to peace and reconciliation, and a willingness to overcome divisions and differences. Opponents of the agreement feared that it would lead to the perpetuation of the conflict and the continuation of violence. However, the agreement was signed in 1998 and has been in place ever since, providing a framework for political and social change in Northern Ireland.

The agreement called for the creation of a power-sharing government, with representatives from both the Ulster Unionist Party and the Social Democratic and Labour Party. This was meant to ensure the representation of all communities and to prevent the domination of any one group. The agreement also included provisions for the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons, the release of political prisoners, and the establishment of truth commissions.

Despite initial reservations, the agreement has been largely successful in promoting peace and reconciliation. The power-sharing government has been in place for over two decades, and there has been a significant reduction in violence. The decommissioning of paramilitary weapons has been completed, and the release of political prisoners has taken place.

However, the agreement has not been without its challenges. Political differences and disputes have arisen, and there have been occasions when the government has faced criticism. Nevertheless, the agreement remains in place, and there is a commitment to continue working towards a lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

In conclusion, the Belfast agreement was a significant achievement in the history of Northern Ireland. It required courage and determination from all sides, and it has been successful in promoting peace and reconciliation. While there are still challenges to overcome, the agreement provides hope for a brighter future in Northern Ireland.