Northern Ireland's Lost Opportunity
The Frustrated Promise of Political Loyalism

Tony Novosel

• Unorthodox account of the Northern Ireland conflict, arguing that Loyalists were willing to make peace with Republicans as early as the 1970s

• Major media campaign planned in the Irish and UK broadsheet press

• 'Exposes the limitations of commonly held views that loyalism was apolitical and merely sectarian. A vital read.' – Professor Peter Shirlow, School of Law, Queen’s University Belfast

• A fresh and pioneering contribution to the field of Irish history and politics

Northern Ireland's Lost Opportunity is a unique in-depth investigation into working-class Loyalism in Northern Ireland as represented by the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), the Red Hand Commandos (RHC) and their political allies.

In an unorthodox account, Tony Novosel argues that these groups, seen as implacable enemies by Republicans and the left, did develop a political analysis of the Northern Ireland conflict in the 1970s which involved a compromise peace with all political parties and warring factions – something that historians and writers have largely ignored.

Distinctive, deeply informed and provocative, Northern Ireland's Lost Opportunity is the first study to focus not on the violent actions of the UVF/RHC but on their political vision and programme which included the potential for a viable peace in Northern Ireland based on compromise with all shades of opinion, including the Irish Republican Army.

Tony Novosel lectures in History at the University of Pittsburgh. He is involved in 'common history' projects in Belfast.
Abbreviations

Glossary Of Terms

Acknowledgements

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1  The Ulster Volunteer Force And O’Neill

2 Manipulation, Acquiescence And Awakening

3 The Prison Experience And Loyalist Politics

4  The Emerging Light: Political Loyalism, 1973-1975

5 Darkness At The End Of The Tunnel: The Failure Of Politics

6 The Light In The Darkness: Political Loyalism, 1975-1977


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