

National Identities in the United Kingdom

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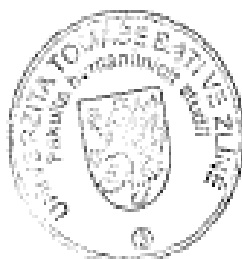
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ABSTRAKT

V této bakalářské práci se zabývám národními identitami ve Spojeném království Velké Británie a Severního Irska.

Teoretická část obsahuje stručný úvod do historie této země a vytvoření spojení mezi čtyřmi rozdílnými zeměmi. Další část poté blíže definuje jednotlivé identity těchto regionů a porovnává rozdíly jak v kultuře, tak v myšlení občanů.

Klíčová slova: národní identita

ABSTRACT

The present bachelor thesis aims at the national identities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Theoretical part describes short introduction into the history of this country and formation of alliance among four different countries. Another part then defines closer individual identities of the regions and compares differences both in the culture and the thinking of the citizens.

Keywords: national identity

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DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby declare that the work presented in this thesis is my own and certify that any secondary material used has been acknowledged in the text and listed in the bibliography.

April 17, 2009

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INTRODUCTION

I chose the topic concerning the humanity of the United Kingdom's regions because I have always been interested in different nations, their habits, customs and codes of conduct. Each country, each region is unique for something and the United Kingdom is country of four regions, each of them is different and similar at the same time.

In this bachelor thesis I aimed at the comparative analysis of the regions of the United Kingdom, their habits, customs, typical characteristic features and different identities.

First of all, the theoretical part is focused on defining of the national identity. As one of major factors influencing national identity, the history of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is introduced to analyze what has happened that only England took a control over the whole island. Also, an idea on the independence of individual regions in modern history is discussed.

The second part of the theory deals with individual regions, compares their habits, customs and identities. Consequently, the reasons why the national identity is important for people are examined.

The analysis of the work is based on the interviews with Northern Irish people and consists of comparison the theoretical knowledge from books with reality.

I. THEORY

1 NATIONAL IDENTITY

1.1 Definition of National Identity Term

“A nation is a body of people who share a common history, culture, language or ethnic origin, who typically inhabit a particular country or territory. Though “*nation*” is also commonly used in informal discourse as a synonym for *state* or *country*, a nation is not identical to a state. Small differences in pronunciation may be enough to categorize someone as a member of another nation. On the other hand, two people may be separated by difference in personalities, belief systems, geographical locations, time and even spoken language; yet regard themselves, and be seen by others, as members of the same nation.”¹

Encyclopaedic formulation of national identity is relationship appurtenance of individual to an institution, an organization, a state or a nation.² The national identity refers both to the distinguishing features of the group, and to the individual's sense of belonging to it. A very wide range of criteria can be used, with very different applications.

At this work, a term of national identity is used rather in social than political meaning; it is not affiliation to a country as a political subject, but the same group of people with the same history, language, race or customs.

1.2 Factors Forming National Identity

As referred above, a national identity can be influenced by many various factors. The factors, playing vital role in forming of the national identity, can be based on common origin, culture, language, and religion. Also, the national identity is bound to a region or country.

History of a nation has a major influence on forming the national identity. Origin and common historical experience of a nation strongly affects individual's sense of belonging to a nation. For example, initial separate historical development of individual nations on

¹ Yahoo! Answers, “Why is the idea of a national identity so important when it can't exist,” <http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20070814132616AAXB7UU>.

² Encyklopedický slovník (Praha: Encyklopedický dům, spol.s r. o., 1993), 430.

the British islands together with the fact that each nation has a different language lead to form a diverted national identities of particular nations.

2 INTRODUCTION INTO HISTORY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Behind the appellation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stay many battles, fights, unscrupulousness, greed, heavy losses and suffering. National identity of Scots, Welsh, and Irish has been formed by a separate course of their origin in the early phase of their history as well as their relationship to English nation dominating the British Isles.

2.1 Origins of the Countries

All countries were influenced noticeable by the Celts and Romans; nevertheless it had developed independently in each part of the British Isles.

“Wales was probably originally inhabited by Iberians (3000 BC). In the following centuries, the influx of Celtic people and in the 1st century AD, the Romans conquered the whole of Wales without use of violence and Welsh population was romanized such as the south of England during that time. After the Romans withdrew in the early 5th century, native rulers were unable to sustain Roman methods of government and keep Wales unified. As a result, a number of small kingdoms arose.”³

The Celts and Romans had considerable influence on the Scottish people. “The first inhabitants of Scotland were the Picts, a Celtic tribe. Between A.D. 82 and A.D. 208, the Romans invaded Scotland, naming it Caledonia. The Romans’ influence over the land, however, was minimal.

The Scots, a Celtic tribe from Ireland, migrated to the west coast of Scotland in about 500. Kenneth McAlpin, king of the Scots, ascended the throne of the Pictish kingdom in about 843, thereby uniting the various Scots and Pictish tribes under one kingdom called Dal Riada. By the 11th century, the monarchy had extended its borders to include much of what is Scotland today.”⁴

³ PhDr. Stella Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English-speaking countries* (Ostrava: University of Ostrava, 1991), 1.

⁴ Infoplease® All the knowledge you need, “Scotland: History, Geography, Government and Culture,” Information Please® Database, <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0777806.html>.

“Ireland was settled by Celts c. 500 BC. As the island lay in a distant corner of the world, off the confines of the Roman Empire and the main routes of commerce or the great movements of nations in the 4th and 5th centuries AD, it was spared large-scale immigration until the end of the 8th century. In the meantime, a number of communities and kingdoms developed there, each with its own king. There was a tendency in Ireland to have larger and more powerful kingdoms which would establish control over the others. Gradually, Ireland became divided into the rival kingdoms of Meath, Ulster, Leinster, Munster, and Connaught.”⁵

2.2 Medieval Ages (Ages of Fights and Anglicizing)

The 6th century is very important for Welsh people, because Welsh patron St. David brought Christianity. Another outstanding personality of Welsh history, whose work still remains on Welch country such as the remembrance of the past, is King Offa of Mercia and his Offa’s Dyke.⁶ “The settlement of Anglo-Saxon people along the Welsh borders separated the Brythonic people of Wales from the Britons of northern and south-western Britain. It was the great earthwork constructed in the 5th century and demarcated the line of English penetration into Wales. The aggression of the kings of Mercia and Wessex in the 9th century, and the attacks of the Vikings created circumstances in which certain powerful kings managed to enforce their authority over weaker neighbours, but attempts at unity were only partially successful.”⁷ No one of the following Welsh kings brought off to unify all Welsh kingdoms for long centuries. The first, who gained the whole of Wales under his dominion, was Gruffudd ap Llywelyn in the 11th century, however not for a long time. Following two centuries were full of attempts on a union and fights with English. “Till 13th century, when “the Last” of Gruffudd’s grandsons Llywelyn ap Gruffudd secured a hegemony over Wales.”⁸ “Throughout the Middle Ages, the Welsh princes remained vassals of the English king, holding their estates at his will, for which they had to pay public homage. Edward I, known in the history as the 'Hammer of the Scots' had every right to expect and demand that Llywelyn paid homage to his new king. However, the Welsh prince refused a total of five summonses to pay this homage, and then tried to marry

⁵ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 1.

⁶ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 1, 3.

⁷ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 3.

the daughter of Edward's old enemy, Simon de Montfort. Two years later Edward I's patience ran out. He led the largest army seen in England since 1066 into Wales, with 9,000 of the 15,000 infantry actually being raised in Wales. Edward I then controlled more of Wales than any previous English king ever had. It is unlikely that he would have sought any further conquest if the Welsh had remained 'loyal' subjects by his own definition. Instead, it transpired that Edward eventually destroyed Welsh independence, stamped on its customs and then imposed the rule of the English law."⁹

Wales had never been independent from the point in history. There were a lot of rebellions; "the most serious was raised by Owain Glyndwr, angered by the process of Anglicizing the country", nobody succeeded. Wales went through the Wars of the Roses and headed towards Union with England, which was realized by Henry VIII.

"English influence in Scotland expanded when Malcolm III, king of Scotland from 1057–1093, married an English princess. England's appetite for Scottish land began to grow over the 12th and 13th centuries, and in 1296 King Edward I of England successfully invaded Scotland."¹⁰ "The following year William Wallace of Enderslie, a small landowner, led the resistance against Edward I. He organized himself and an army of commoners and small landowners, and attacked the English garrisons. In 1297, he won a brilliant victory over the English at Stirling Bridge. He was knighted and took the title "Guardian of Scotland". In 1298, however, Wallace was defeated by Edward at Falkirk and went underground for seven years and later executed in London."¹¹ "Within a year, Robert the Bruce led a revolt for independence, was crowned king of Scotland (Robert I) in 1306, and after the years of war defeated the English in 1314 at the Battle of Bannockburn. Finally, the English recognized Scottish independence in 1328."

"Christianity was introduced into Ireland by St. Patrick in 432. It was tribal and monastic in character, and though it transformed Ireland into a leading cultural centre of Europe in

⁸ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 3, 6.

⁹ Ian Bremner, "Wales: English Conquest of Wales c. 1200 – 1415: Invasion Llywelyn Ap Gruffudd and Edward I," *British History- Middle Ages*, (2001), http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/middle_ages/wales_conquest_04.shtml.

¹⁰ Infoplease® All the knowledge you need, "Scotland: History, Geography, Government and Culture," Information Please® Database, <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0777806.html>.

¹¹ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 5.

the period.”¹² “Irish monasteries, the equivalent of universities, attracted intellectuals as well as the pious and sent out missionaries to many parts of Europe and, some believe, to North America.

Norse depredations along the coasts, starting in 795, ended in 1014 with Norse defeat at the Battle of Clontarf by forces under Brian Boru. In the 12th century, the Pope gave all of Ireland to the English Crown as a papal fief. In 1171, Henry II of England was acknowledged “Lord of Ireland,” but local sectional rule continued for centuries, and English control over the whole island was not reasonably absolute until the 17th century. In the Battle of the Boyne (1690), the Catholic King James II and his French supporters were defeated by the Protestant King William III (of Orange). An era of Protestant political and economic supremacy began.

2.3 Final Formation of the United Kingdom of GB and NI

“It was Henry VIII who finally incorporated Wales into the English kingdom by two Acts of Union (1536 and 1543).”¹³ Wales was too small to protect itself against England. English inhabitants wanted to control Wales and to integrate whole island of Great Britain. Gradually it flourished them, but it took another two centuries than Scotland as an independent nation fell.

“In the 16th century John Knox introduced the Scottish reformation, and the Presbyterian Church replaced Catholicism as the official religion. In 1567, Mary, the queen of Scots, a Catholic, was forced to abdicate the Scottish throne and was later executed by Elizabeth I of England. Mary's son, James VI, was raised as a Protestant, and in 1603 he achieved his aim and got on the English throne as the King James I of England. James thus became ruler of both Scotland and England, though the countries remained separate. In 1707, after a century of turmoil, Scotland and England passed the Act of Union, which united Scotland, England, and Wales under one rule as the Kingdom of Great Britain.”¹⁴ “The three countries got a common coinage, but Scotland retained its law courts and laws.”¹⁵

¹² See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 1.

¹³ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 8-9.

¹⁴ Information Please® Database, <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0777806.html>.

¹⁵ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 15.

“By the Act of Union (1801), Great Britain and Ireland became the “United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.”¹⁶ “During the 19th century, Ireland went through one of the greatest disasters that have ever afflicted Ireland: The Great Famine, c. 800 000 people died through starvation or diseases caused by malnutrition”¹⁷ and British left them to their fate.

“The Irish Republican Army (IRA) formed in 1919 by the reorganization of the Irish Volunteers launched sporadic attacks on the British government forces and the Royal Irish Constabulary (i. e. police force), which escalated into a guerrilla warfare. The attempt to reconcile the aspirations of Irish nationalists and the rears of Ulster Unionists by the Government of Ireland Act of 1920 failed. In 1921 the British government entered into negotiations with the Sinn Fein Party, and the Anglo-Irish Treaty was concluded on December 26, 1921: the Irish Free State became a self-governing dominion within the British Empire, while the six counties of Ulster obtained a home rule system of their own, with Parliament, Prime Minister and government, with representation in the Parliament at Westminster.”¹⁸

2.3.1 Englishmen Was Spreading Englishness

Englishmen reached a peak at that time. Religions were unified and they dominated them. Regions languages and Catholicism were subdued, but English language, customs and Protestantism were spreading. It is unbelievable, but some of these crackdowns endured to the 2nd half of the 20th century.

There is an experience of a Welsh miner, who started to go to school in 1954. “Welsh was prohibited for the whole time of the school attendance, we can learn only our national anthem nothing more. When teachers caught us, how we spoke Welsh, we get through a mouth. It was English school.”

¹⁶ Infoplease® All the knowledge you need, “Northern Ireland: History, Geography, Government and Culture,” Information Please® Database, <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107648.html.html>.

¹⁷ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 11.

The most visible influence has Protestantism in Northern Ireland. Catholics had practically no laws compare with Protestants for 150 years. They could not sit in the parliament and educate arbitrarily their children according to the Catholic customs, so the Catholic illiteracy was radically increased. They could not manage their property and did not have good job positions.

2.4 Idea of Independence in Modern History of the United Kingdom

After almost 1000 years, when London governed unlimitedly, the year 1999 was coming and with it, a statute of partly independence for Scotland and Wales. Scots had gained full-fledged parliament, Welsh at least so-called National Assembly with authorities to control social services, health services or transportation. The dream of Welsh nationalists has fulfilling.

My idea is that Scottish devolution was a great step and huge success for Scottish identity. "Alasdair Gray expresses that he would not worry about Scotland being poor. Were it so, he would find that to be an asset rather than a liability, because "an independent country" whose government is as poor as its citizens "has more hope than one governed by a big rich neighbour." (Gray 63) On the contrary, a very poor Scotland would be a serious problem indeed. It was poverty and debt which led to the Union of 1707 with England in the first place, which made it easy for the government and elites to be bribed out of their country. Scotland would definitely need wealth to maintain its sovereignty, and this has been established."¹⁹

Northern Ireland has gained its independence gradually; the first most important step was made in 1998. "The Agreement (also known as the Good Friday Agreement or Belfast Agreement) was reached in Belfast on Friday, April 10 1998. It sets out a plan for devolved government in Northern Ireland on a stable and inclusive basis and provided for the creation of Human Rights and Equality commissions, the early release of terrorist prisoners, the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons and far reaching reforms of criminal justice and policing."²⁰

¹⁸ See Nangonová, *Cultural, historical and economic survey on English speaking countries*, 15.

¹⁹ Alasdair Gray, *Why Scots Should Rule Scotland* (Edinburgh: Canongate Press, 1992), ed. <http://www.hfienberg.com/scots/490independence.html>.

²⁰ Northern Ireland Office, "The Agreement," <http://www.nio.gov.uk/index/key-issues/the-agreement.htm>.

“Agreement was reached on the creation of new departmental structures. These were approved by the Assembly on 18 January 1999 and form the basis of the present Northern Ireland Departments. At the same time, the Assembly approved various areas for North/South co-operation.

On 16 February 1999 the Assembly approved the numbers and titles of the new Departments and also provided for the composition and operation of the Civic Forum”²¹

“2 December 1999: The Irish government removes its territorial claim to Northern Ireland from its constitution and the Anglo-Irish agreement is revoked. The new Northern Ireland Executive meets for the first time.

The IRA announces that it has appointed a representative to the international body on decommissioning.”²²

2.5 Why is England Dominated on the British Isles?

From historical point of view England under domination of Romans had a huge influence for development of England. Romans were on the cultural top at that time and brought lots of new information for English.

“England is the biggest country in the UK and occupies most of the southern two thirds of Great Britain. The total area of England is 130,410 sq km (50, 352 sq mi). England contains about 84% of the UK population. The capital of the UK is in England. The capital, seat of government, and the largest city in the United Kingdom is London.

All of Great Britain has been ruled by the UK government in London since 1707. (In 1999 the first elections to the newly created Scottish Parliament and National Assembly for Wales took place leaving England as the only part of the Great Britain with no devolved assembly or parliament.)”²³

²¹ Northern Ireland Assembly, “Brief Summary, Northern Ireland Assembly,” http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/io/summary/new_summary.htm.

²² BBC News, “Northern Ireland: 1998 – 1999,” http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/northern_ireland/539391.stm.

²³ Woodlands Junior School, UK: British Life and Culture, “Why and How does England dominate the UK,” [projectbritain.com, http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/britain/england.htm](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/britain/england.htm).

London was a cultural and religious centre. England is closer to the Continent and all trades went through it. The British Royal family lives in London.

“English is a West Germanic language that originated in Anglo-Saxon England. The English language, today spoken by hundreds of millions of people around the world, originated as the language from England, where it remains the principal tongue today. English is the official language of the UK and the first language of the vast majority of the population.”²⁴

²⁴ Woodlands Junior School, UK: British Life and Culture, “Why and How does England dominate the UK,” [projectbritain.com, http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/britain/england.htm](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/questions/britain/england.htm).

3 NATIONAL IDENTITIES OF INDIVIDUAL REGIONS

The United Kingdom is formed from four nations, four different cultures; it is a state of various traditions, habits and attitudes to customs and life itself. Religion is at the first place for somebody, national costume is at the second place for somebody else.

3.1 England and its Englishness

English people are emblazoned with many legends and myths in reference to their behaviour, sense of humour and boring conversation. When many people imagine typical English married couple, see a reserved gentleman in a silk hat and his wife with small white gloves, devoted to her husband, who abound with minimal gestures, typical dry English humour and talk about weather.

English people would like to hold this “tradition” but contemporary society is changing quickly. In present multicultural world, people come back to their roots. English citizens are aware of it too and begin to pay attention that their red telephone boxes and houses with small windows in Victorian style are disappearing. No traditional shops, no “Made in England”.²⁵

23rd April 1999 on the Day of St. George the British tabloid daily newspaper The Sun published four pages insert with a title “100 reasons why it is great to be Englishman” in order to show to people that it is important to hold traditions, because traditions make us unique. And the reasons? E.g. 23. weather, 28. Pork brawn, 55. Charles Dickens, 71. Motorway M25 because of the biggest circular traffic jam all over the world, 88. Agatha Christie, 95. “Deidre” who writes marriage counselling for the daily newspaper.²⁶

English people, who are proud of their traditions and features of behaviour and almost each young or older man is capable of enumerating a hundred of typical aspects of Englishness such as: country-style cricket, music of Edward Edgar, punk, irony, Beatles, Shakespeare, Cumberland’s sausages, tea, people observing neighbourhood through net curtains, crosswords and quizzes, rural churches, bad hotels and good beer, feeling that foreigners

²⁵ Jeremy Paxman, *Angličané: Portrét národa* (Praha: Academia, 2006), 22-23.

²⁶ See Paxman, *Angličané: Portrét národa*, 38.

are funny, lack of interest in food, DIY, gardening, statement that we have emotions and feelings to overcome them.²⁷ In England, not claiming anything for sure is a matter of good manners. English people do not make decisions, they make considerations.²⁸ Etc. My idea is English are changing and their Englishness too. Majestic English people cannot prevent new trends and streams, which influenced whole world from wedging into their lives. E.g. nobody knows 23rd April is a national holiday, while a modern British ceremonial as “The Queen’s Official Birthday” is known to most.²⁹

3.2 CYMRU AM BYTH – Long may Wales live!

Nationalists proclaim that they will eat grass if Wales will be free. English and Welsh are as cat and mouse. The name is problem for Welsh. It is from English language derived from German word and means “foreign”. They are foreigners in their own country. Welsh call their country Cymru, it means Country of Compatriots. Welsh call abusively English people as Saxons in return.

Offa's Dyke has huge function for English-Welsh relations. Offa's Dyke was border between England and Wales in British culture. English speak about Welsh as They from the other side of the Dyke. Many people think incorrectly that the Dyke was built to divide Englishmen from Welshmen, but it is the other way around. It keeps Welsh outside from England.

Wales has 3 millions inhabitants, has third area in comparison with the Czech Republic and red dragon in an emblem. Wales does not have its own currency.

Wales is dragged kicking and screaming into Anglicanism approximately a thousand years. Old poems described how Welsh people, who were caught on English region, were cut off ears and English people kept in Wales, directly were axed heads. Welsh people stole livestock in England according to a legend and nowadays have partly this reputation: “It is not advisable trust them” according to English.

²⁷ See Paxman, *Angličané: Potrét národa*, 39-40.

²⁸ George Mikes, *Jak být cizincem*, trans. Zora Wolfová (Praha: Ivo Železný, 1994), 32.

²⁹ See Paxman, *Angličané: Potrét národa*, 25.

For typical Welsh person is enough to have roof over his head for the family, church, rugby and choral singing.

Choral singing was established by miners. When miners go to the work together, one starts to sing and another one joins him. They start to meet and sing out of work, each mine has own chorus and they began to compete. The competition is known as Eistedfod's festival and continues till nowadays.

Festival in Eistedfod began in the 18th century to propagate Welsh culture. Nowadays, it is the biggest festival for artistically base youth. The festival brings singing, dancing and more self-confidence about their identity to young Welsh people.

3.3 Scotland

Scottish identity has the most chiselled features from all British nations according to my opinion. Relationship between England and Scotland is the most charged.

Scottish identity does not lie only in their famous national costume, but in their kitchen, huge measure of festivals, where there is an evidence of Scottish identity and pride of their nation and of course their never-ending desire for freedom.

Who are the Scots? "Scot is everyone who lives in Scotland or identifies himself as being Scottish. Whether you can trace ten generations of Scots in your ancestry or came to live here yesterday is irrelevant. If you consider yourself to be a Scot, you are one.

Scotland has existed as a specific national entity since the year 843, though its borders have shifted on a number of occasions since then. It is the oldest country in Europe and has the oldest flag, the saltire."³⁰

Scots from Lowlands are hardworking, sparing, resolute, finical, careful, and quarrelsome and they don't have any sense of humour."³¹

³⁰ Scottish Independence Guide, "Scottish Independence Guide: Who are the Scots?," <http://www.scottishindependence.com/who.htm>.

³¹ Richard Faber, High road to England, s.132, ed. Jeremy Paxman, *Angličané: Portrét národa*, 70.

Typical for Scottish culture and their identity is their national costume. Tie, Kilt with tartan patterns, belt and buckles, sporrans, socks, ghillies etc. is heart and soul of each Scot. Nobody knows that Scotland is a birthplace of golf, fan of football and rugby and mainly Scotland is country of festivals and is famed for its traditional kitchen.

English people had respected Scots after all in depth of soul, even if they presume that English had to tell their contempt in terms. Statement of Dr. Johnson is telling the gesture: "Scotland is only abortive England." In the 19th century, the situation is changed. The opinion of bloodthirsty traitor is turned to not-confined enthusiasm. English people had envied romantic life of Scottish Highlanders and more wealthy Englishmen had bought homesteads in Scottish highlands.³²

History of Scotland offers a different point of view. While England was dominated during certain periods of time by Romans, Vikings or Normans, nobody subjugated Scotland completely before Scotland had become a part of the UK. Scottish corrupt nobility had signed law of union according to Scottish nationalist view on the history. In the Scottish highlands still after two centuries cast Scottish mind back indignantly on dislodgement of local people by sheep breeders as a "Scottish holocaust".³³

English still underrate other British nations, but they don't mind that English nation doesn't have so trivial issue such as its own national costume. If you have ever seen some international competition of beauty e.g. Miss World, the finalist Miss England has the uniform of beefeater, a keeper of the Tower in London.³⁴

3.4 Northern Ireland and its Dividing Nation

Northern Irish identity depends on religion of the people. Northern Ireland or Ulster is really divided into two social parts Protestants and Catholics. When you meet with Protestants it is almost the same when you talk with English. They feel as English, hold English traditions and cook English dishes. Nevertheless, Catholics are absolutely different. They tend to Irish identity and customs.

³² See Paxman, *Angličané: Portrét národa*, 68-69.

³³ See Paxman, *Angličané: Portrét národa*, 63.

“Northern Ireland is composed of 26 districts, derived from the boroughs of Belfast and Londonderry and the counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone. Together they are commonly called Ulster, though the territory does not include the entire ancient province of Ulster.”³⁵

Civil conflicts in Northern Ireland had caused that only a few people took a notice of a fact that a problem of their own identity opened before Irishmen. Ireland became multicultural society during centuries from arrival of British colonists to the country. Relevant question was, what exactly mean a name “Irish nation” at the beginning of the 20th century. Irish Protestants were not only a tens or hundreds thousands such as before 200 or 150 years, but more than one million, well they formed almost quarter inhabitants of Ireland. Protestants in Ireland and mainly the Ulster’s, who created literally “different Ireland” on the north, related to British Protestant’s culture and their country was British Islands in the broad sense of the word.³⁶

3.5 Other Parts of the National Identities

3.5.1 Festivals

English people have never been oppressed, so they did not need to save their identity by some dances and songs. It is true that England has many celebrations and festivals but they are not so important for them neither for English identity. It is the reason that England want to strut with borrowed plumes and has established “BAFA” (British Arts Festivals Association)³⁷, almost all Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish celebrations and festivals are attracting many visitors there.

3.5.2 Region’s Kitchen

Various national kitchens were developed in the each area in the scope of national customs. National identity dictates the variation of a cuisine.

³⁴ See Paxman, *Angličané: Portrét národa*, 25.

³⁵ Infoplease® All the knowledge you need, “Northern Ireland: History, Geography, Government and Culture,” Information Please® Database, <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0108101.html>.

³⁶ Jan Frank, *Konflikt v Severním Irsku* (Praha: Triton, 2006), 21-22.

³⁷ Bafa, British Arts Festivals Association, <http://www.artsfestivals.co.uk/festivals/index.cfm>.

3.5.3 Religion

The question of religion is the most important in Northern Ireland, because of the differences in religion, which is indicated on ecclesiastical ground and its organisations, is unreelod other forms of social dividing of the country. One of the most important manners is physical segregation, in the process reached on maximum in Belfast.³⁸ [see appendix number 1]

Noticeable question among Protestants and Catholics is endogamy or more simple, marriages among Protestant men and Catholic women or vice versa. Sociologists estimate that the marriages are sporadic generally and formed approximately 4 % of all marriages. There are exceptions which prove the rule. Scientists found a village, where 22 % of all couples comprised mixed marriages. On the example you can see that relationships among Protestants and Catholics are not so critical, Protestants see Catholics as “ordinary decent people, BUT Catholics” and Catholics say the same with one small change ..., BUT Britons”.³⁹

Scotland and Wales took religion as an instrument of keeping their identities and fortunately most of people were Protestants. However, Highlands had to defend against Anglicizing.

“For a people whose sense of nationhood was removed early in the 18th century, religion remained one of the few facets of Scottish civil life in which a collective identity could survive.”⁴⁰

³⁸ See Frank, *Konflikt v Severním Irsku*, 53.

³⁹ See Frank, *Konflikt v Severním Irsku*, 54-55.

⁴⁰ David McCrone, *Understanding Scotland: The Sociology of a Stateless Nation* (London:Routledge, 1992). 36-37.

II. ANALYSIS

4 INTERVIEWS WITH NATIVE NORTHERN IRISH CITIZENS

The practical part is focused on the real life of Northern Irish people. Readers can find out if theory in books answers the reality, real traditions, customs and if modern Northern Irish man is proud of his roots and keeps his identity in a common life.

Most of the respondents were from the Northern Irish border with Ireland; therefore they are closer to the Irish thinking and traditions.

4.1 Citizenship

4.1.1 Irish or English Citizens

Northern Ireland is divided into two religion parts and there is a real evidence. Most respondents were Catholic creed and mostly feel as Irish citizens. However, Protestants feel more as English citizens and hold UK passports. But many of the Northern Irishmen hold dual citizenship of Ireland and the United Kingdom and do not solve the question of their identity.

Unfortunately, a prejudice is still alive and a number of Irish people would prefer not to associate with English people at all. To judge anyone solely on their nationality is ridiculous and humiliating, but Irish had suffered a lot from English. It depends on the point of view. However, the exception proves the rule and one of the respondents had answered that most of her friends is non-Catholics thus Protestants.

4.1.2 Difference between Irish and Northern Irish Citizens and their Relationship

Most people do not see the difference in the characteristic features, but in the accent, currency, educational system, and prices.

Northern Irish currency is Sterling, while Ireland uses Euro. There is an English educational system in Northern Ireland. They have “A” levels and Irish educational system has the Leaving Certificate.

4.2 Culture

It has been mentioned a couple of times in this work that Northern Ireland is a country of two cultures. It is actually true. Everything in the country is connected with the religion and the culture is not an exception.

4.2.1 Northern Irish Identity, Customs and Kitchen

There were done many researches concerning the question of the Northern Irish identity in 2007 and 2008 and almost all of them ended equally and my one is not an exception. People introduce themselves according to their religion's creed. Catholics are proud to be Irish or Irish Catholics and Protestants mark themselves as British or British Protestants.

People keep their identity by dancing traditional Irish dance, playing traditional Irish music, learning and speaking Irish language and by the support of the Irish athletes and players. One of the options how people keep their Irish identity is participating in Irish Culture talent shows such as the Scór na nÓg, where visitors can compete in Irish dances and traditional Irish music as well.

Northern Irish people share many of their feasts with the English people as they are very similar to theirs, for example some of the national holidays such as the Bonfire Night. Other celebrations such as Christmas and Easter have only one difference and that is how strong the faith of each person is. Many Northern Irish people keep these celebrations and mainly Easter in a traditional way without regard to their creed. Christmas is taken half commercially and half traditionally such as the rest of the world does it but do not forget how religion is important in this country.

Northern Ireland and Ireland have two unique feasts which are held only in these two countries and not in the UK. One of them is St. Patrick's Day on the 17th of March and the other one is St. Brigit's Day on the 1st of February.

Northern Ireland is largely rural; there are a lot of moors, pastures and mountains, therefore ideal conditions for breeding sheep and other cattle. Thanks to these conditions, Northern Ireland produces excellent milk products such as butter, cream and cottage cheese. Typical Irish meals are very frequent not only during celebrations. They cook potatoes all year round as well as Irish beef, pork, lamb and mutton stew. Ireland is an island; which means that majority of meals is prepared from sea products and fishes. There is one specialty in the Irish kitchen. Namely, Ulster Likes fried breakfast and delicious cottage cheese. The fried breakfast consists of bacon, egg, sausage, soda farls and potato bread, which will set you up for the whole day.

4.2.2 Irish Language

Irish language is part of the Irish identity and they try to keep it and broaden the language as much as possible in the country. Media and school are inseparable part of this process.

Half of the respondents watch television channel TG4. It was formerly known as Teilifís na Gaeilge or TnaG, before a rebranding campaign in 1999. It is a common TV channel, where viewers can hear Irish language in programmes across all the main programme types. Daily news is called Nuacht or the most popular soap opera Ros na Rún.

Another very popular TV and radio channel is Television or Radio Na Gaeltachta. The word Gaeltacht marks regions, where Irish language is the first language. There are only two parts of Northern Ireland, where visitors can hear Irish language more often than the English one. The first place is a small area in Belfast and the second place is Donegal. Ulster's Irish has unmistakable accent and is very popular with both Catholics, who want to be as close as possible to South Irish culture and Protestants as well, who take it such as a rarity of their country.

Radio channels are an outstanding media and can influence many people and their thinking. Many televisions have their own radio stations such as already mentioned Radio Na Gaeltachta or independent radio RíRá Irish radio, which was established to spread Irish language and culture among people.

Irish language plays an important role in the Irish educational system. Irish is taught in many schools in the North. More provision of the Irish language has been done and children are being educated in the Northern Ireland to immerse them in the Irish culture. There are also a number of schools in which the children are taught everything in Irish. These are called Bunscoils. However, Irish language is not compulsory for pupils and students in Northern Ireland.

4.2.3 Religion

It was written a lot about religion in Northern Ireland. Generally, the division between Catholics and Protestants reflects in the politics, social sphere and also in the common life. For example Belfast is divided not only imaginarily on the area of Catholics and the area of Protestants, but also colourfully. Bollards and walls are painted by conspicuous political

pictures and typical British or Irish colours according to the area as a sign of respect to Great Britain or Ireland.

4.3 Independence of Northern Ireland

Almost all people believe that Northern Ireland should be independent. It is the part of Ireland and therefore should be governed by the Irish people.

As far as the question of possible discrimination of Irish people in England is mentioned for example salary level, working promotion, all respondents answered that they had never met with it.

Independence of Northern Ireland is important not only for the Irish identity but also for the economic area.

Northern Ireland as a British colony used to be more advanced in the economic sphere in the past than Ireland itself. A few years ago, Ireland became a part of the European Union and its economic area boomed a lot. Therefore, Northern Ireland and Ireland can be equal partners in these days.

CONCLUSION

The bachelor thesis has discovered that relationships which were very charged at the beginning of the formation of the United Kingdom are almost over. Of course, there are some obstinate patriots, who have certain reservations against English but young people destroy these prejudices, myths and borders.

The United Kingdom is a very varied country; everything has a scent of a long history, old traditions, old culture and never ending desire for independence. All regions of the United Kingdom return to their roots and try to dust off old traditions. All of them keep their identity and peculiarity.

Northern Ireland, country of two nations, develops their identities gradually. Firstly, English Protestants had a big support from England, which tried to press on religion and culture of the Irish citizens; however it is different in these days. Irish Catholics have a huge support from Ireland; Irish language is taught at schools, you can hear it on TV or radio and Irish traditions and culture is very popular among all people of Northern Ireland. Nevertheless, religion is a hot issue, which still divides the nation and the solution of the issue is too far away. People must not lose their hope for peaceful life.

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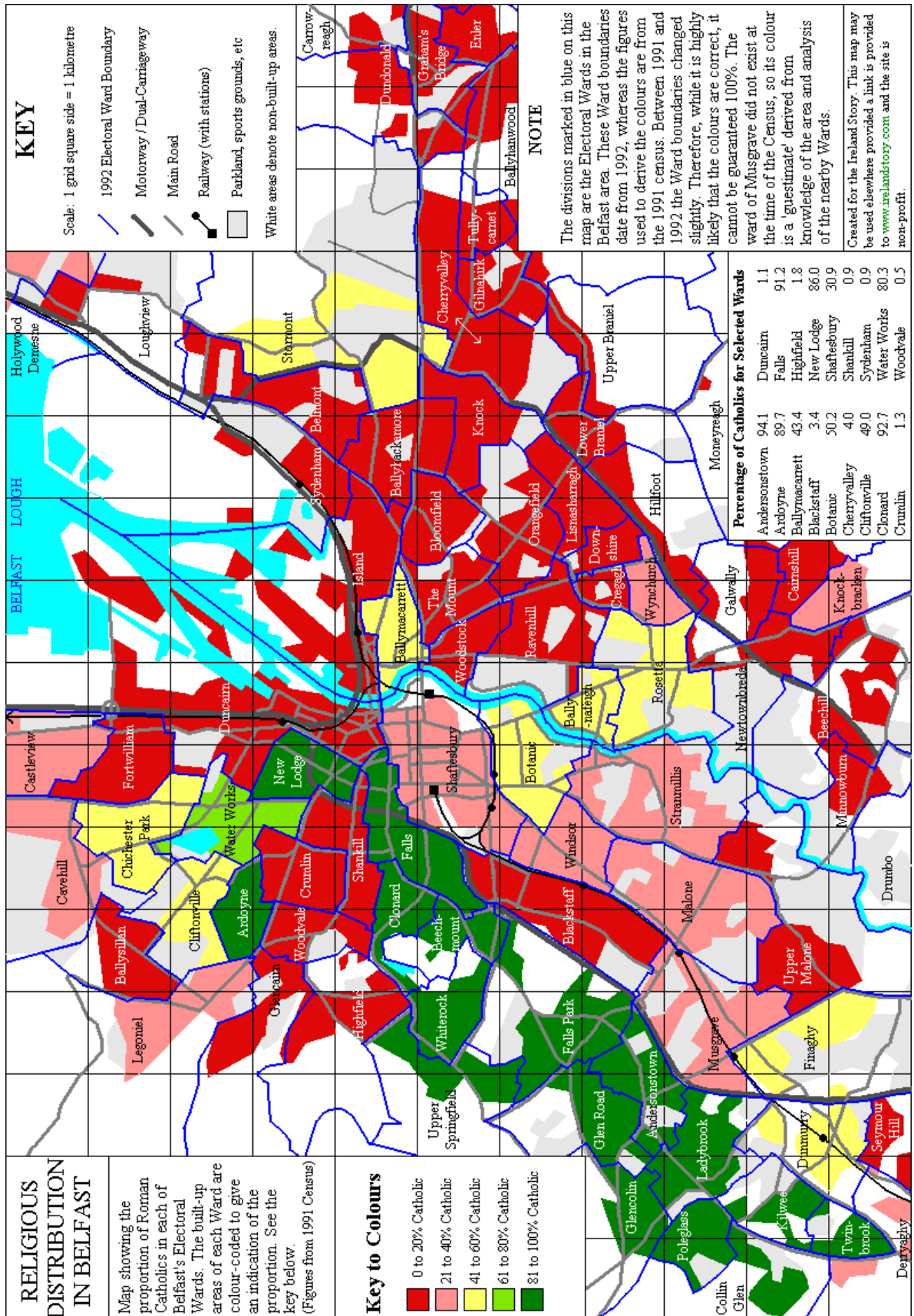
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APPENDICES

P I The first appendix.



P II The second appendix.

QUESTIONNAIRE OF NORTHERN IRISH IDENTITY

Dear Madam/Sir,

My name is Marie Talafová, I am a student of Thomas Bata University in Zlin in the Czech Republic and I want to learn something more about Northern Irish nation. The questionnaire has function as a base to my bachelor work. Your answers to the questions are very important for me. Please, expand your answers maximally; write your personal opinions and feelings.

NAME: Carrie
AGE: 40
CITY: Belfast
OCCUPATION: receptionist

1) Do you feel to be more Irish or English citizen?

I consider myself an Irish citizen, even though the North of Ireland is considered part of the United Kingdom.

2) Do you make differences between Irish and English citizens, or you don't deal with it nowadays.

I would never let nationality or religion colour my judgement of another person but I do know a number of Irish people who would prefer not to associate with English people. I think this is quite ridiculous though as it is unfair to judge anyone solely on their nationality.

3) What are relationships between Irish and Northern Irish citizens?

From what I am aware of the relationships between Irish and Northern Irish citizens are good. However there is still some sectarianism present in Ireland between Catholics and Protestants, especially after the events which have unfolded in recent weeks.

4) Do you try to keep your Irish identity? Which way?

I do as much as I can to maintain my Irish identity, such as learning and speaking the Irish language and participating in Irish Culture talent shows such as the Scór na nÓg. I Irish dance and play traditional Irish music also. There are many opportunities to immerse yourself in the Irish culture in local pubs and halls at community gatherings

5) Do you respect some typical Irish folk customs? Which ones?

Irish and English customs are very similar. Irish people tend to be very family orientated and I also feel that spending time with family is one of the most important things in my life. Irish customs are typically based around your religion, Catholics follow Irish Catholic traditions such as the celebration of Easter, Christmas, All Saints and All Souls day, St Patrick's and St Bridget's Day

6) Do you respect any typical English customs? Which ones?

We share many of our customs with the English people as they are very similar to ours.

7) And what about Christmas and Easter, are they under way traditionally or commercially?

I feel that the commercialization of Easter and Christmas is personal choice. Many people forget the value of spending such occasions surrounded by family and friends and have become very materialistic. Many Irish people keep these celebrations traditional and instead of buying extravagant gifts they make more of an effort to give to money to charities and spend time with their loved ones.

8) Do you perceive history only as history of Ireland or as history of the whole United Kingdom?

Because I consider myself an Irish citizen I have a keen interest in Irish history. However as Irish history and the history of the United Kingdom are linked I have a good knowledge about the history of the UK too. As I was schooled in the Northern Ireland I was taught a curriculum which is standard to the UK therefore I had to learn all about the history of the UK as a whole.

9) Do you agree with independence of Northern Ireland (referendum in 90s)?

I feel that Northern Ireland should be independent from the UK. It is part of the island of Ireland therefore it should be governed by the Irish people

10) Do you still have any programmes or channels in the original Irish language?

Name at least 1.

Yes there are a number of Irish speaking channels such as TnaG. As a resident of the North we do not receive these channels unless we have Sky television. In the South there are a number of Irish speaking channels. There are also a number of radio channels that are spoken in Irish.

11) Is Irish still taught at schools?

Irish is taught in many schools in the North and South. More provision of Irish language has been made to children being schooled in the North to immerse them in the Irish culture. There are also a number of schools in which the children are taught everything in Irish. These are called Bunscoils.

12) What religion do you profess? What is closer to you Protestantism or Catholicism?

I am a Catholic and I have a strong faith, therefore I prefer Catholicism

13) Does discrimination of Irish in England exist in working grade or other activities, e.g. salary level, working promotion etc.?

In some companies nationality plays a major role but due to the fair employment act this discrimination has been reduced.

14) Do you still cook typical Irish meals at celebrations etc.?

Yes we cook many traditional Irish dishes on a daily basis.

15) Do you perceive successes of English sportsmen as your own too?

As Ireland has many of their own sports teams such as football and rugby I would strongly support those. We also have our own national sport therefore I wouldn't have an interest in supporting any teams outside my own country.

16) Do you celebrate any national holiday which is celebrated only in Ireland and not in the whole United Kingdom? Which one?

St Patrick's Day is a huge celebration for the Irish people but it is also celebrated by many people throughout the world. However I feel that many people abuse this Saint's Day and use it as an excuse to over indulge in alcohol.

P III The third appendix.

NAME: Aine O'Brian
AGE: 35
CITY: Keady
OCCUPATION: Customer Service

1) Do you make differences between Irish and Northern Irish citizens, or you don't deal with it nowadays?

I consider Northern Ireland is different to Southern Ireland. I live in the north. In Northern Ireland we use a different currency, sterling. Prices of all goods are cheaper in Northern Ireland. We follow the English not Irish school system.

2) What is the relationship between Irish and Northern Irish citizens?

The relationship is good, but sometime suspicious. They need to know if we consider ourselves English or Irish.

3) Do you try to keep your Irish identity? Which way?

Yes I keep my Irish identity.

I am proud to be Irish

4) Do you respect any typical Irish folk customs? Which ones?

Yes, St. Patrick's Day, 17th March is the biggest

5) Do you respect any typical English customs? Which ones?

There are a number of typical English customs which are now part of our culture because of our history of English rule. An example is Guy Fawlk's Day where bonfires and fireworks are common.

6) And what about Christmas and Easter, are they kept traditionally or commercially?

I would say 50/50 traditional/commercial

7) Do you agree with the independence of Northern Ireland (referendum in 90s)?

Absolutely yes.

8) Do you still have any programmes or channels in the original Irish language?

Name at least 1.

Yes we have 1 national TV Channel TG4. It was formerly known as Teilifís na Gaeilge or TnaG, before a rebranding campaign in 1999.

9) Is Irish language still taught at schools?

Irish Language is optional at school.

10) What religion do you profess? What is closer to you Protestantism or Catholicism?

Catholicism

11) In your opinion, does any discrimination of Irish citizens who work in England exist? E.g. salary level, working promotion etc.?

Not in professional jobs. I am not sure about unskilled jobs, cleaners, security work etc.

12) Do you still cook typical Irish meals at celebrations etc.?

Yes

13) Do you celebrate any national holiday which is celebrated only in Ireland and not in the whole United Kingdom? Which one?

St. Patrick's Day

P IV The fourth appendix.

NAME: Mark
AGE: 44
CITY: Brackaville
OCCUPATION: Self Employed

1) Do you make differences between Irish and Northern Irish citizens, or you don't deal with it nowadays?

I consider Northern Ireland is different politically to Southern Ireland. I live in the north. We operate a different set of rules and regulations including currency. Culturally many items overlap and many sports are played as one team such as rugby and hockey. If someone did not live here it is probably very confusing.

2) What is the relationship between Irish and Northern Irish citizens?

Currently it is less problematic however I can remember fearing visits to play sports there. This means a history of fear that is hard to overcome.

To be honest, it's difficult to say. I have an Irish passport and consider myself Irish by birth and British by - well without starting a major political row - occupation, some of my friends, good friends I might say, come from the non catholic religions consider themselves British. my family on my mothers side come from county Monaghan which as you know is in the Irish republic so I would naturally consider myself at least part Irish, my friends would have no family ties to the south of Ireland so naturally they consider themselves British. It's not an easy question to answer but the person that comes up with the answer would surely be in line for a major Nobel award.

3) Do you try to keep your Irish identity? Which way?

Yes I keep my Irish identity.

I am proud to be Irish and to identify with Irish success; I am fan of Northern Irish athletes for example Ulster Rugby.

4) Do you respect any typical Irish folk customs? Which ones?

Yes mostly

5) Do you respect any typical English customs? Which ones?

Any that involve holidays, fun, etc. We are conditioned to be unable to see the “britishness” of many customs as they are probably embedded in religious rather than political history and therefore cross over to culture.

6) And what about Christmas and Easter, are they kept traditionally or commercially?

I would say 50/50 traditional/commercial

7) Do you agree with the independence of Northern Ireland (referendum in 90s)?

I am not sure about this.

8) Do you still have any programmes or channels in the original Irish language?

Name at least 1.

Yes we have 1 national TV Channel. TG4 and RiRa irish radio

9) Is Irish language still taught at schools?

Irish Language is either optional or compulsory at school, it depends on the school.

10) What religion do you profess? What is closer to you Protestantism or Catholicism?

Catholicism

11) In your opinion, does any discrimination of Irish citizens who work in England exist? E.g. salary level, working promotion etc.?

I am not sure however having many relations working in London and there does not seem to be any problem

12) Do you still cook typical Irish meals at celebrations etc.?

No

13) Do you celebrate any national holiday which is celebrated only in Ireland and not in the whole United Kingdom? Which one?

St. Patrick's Day

P V The fifth appendix

NAME: Dave McCarthy
AGE: 49
CITY: Londonderry
OCCUPATION: Rehabilitative Training Instructor

1) Do you make differences between Irish and Northern Irish citizens, or you don't deal with it nowadays?

Yes. In The North, people can hold dual citizenship of Ireland and of the United Kingdom. The protestant majority there hold UK passports.

2) What is the relationship between Irish and Northern Irish citizens?

I think we are a harder people. We have suffered a lot. They have had an easier life.

3) Do you try to keep your Irish identity? Which way?

Yes I do. I speak Irish. I delight in welcoming people to this country who travel here because of our Irish identity which connects us with many foreign visitors.

4) Do you respect any typical Irish folk customs? Which ones?

I tell stories. I sing. I can dance traditional Irish a little. I enjoy playing Irish traditional music.

5) Do you respect any typical English customs? Which ones?

None, only I attend football games. This sport is English in origin.

6) And what about Christmas and Easter, are they kept traditionally or commercially?

Christmas and Easter are not Irish. They are international. I see Christmas both as commercially and religiously significant time of year. I see Easter as being religious only.

7) Do you agree with the independence of Northern Ireland (referendum in 90s)?

The referendum was never meant to be about independence of The North. It was about the freedom of the province to decide, by a majority of voters, to become a part of the

Republic of Ireland, or remain as a part of the United Kingdom. And yes, I do agree with the principal of allowing the people of The North to make that decision for themselves.

8) Do you still have any programmes or channels in the original Irish language?
Name at least 1

Yes. TG4 - Daily news Nuacht and my wife watches soap opera Ros na Run.

9) Is Irish language still taught at schools?

Yes, very badly.

10) What religion do you profess? What is closer to you Protestantism or Catholicism?

I am a practising Catholic.

11) In your opinion, does any discrimination of Irish citizens who work in England exist? E.g. salary level, working promotion etc.?

I do not have an opinion on this, only reports of people I know, and what I have learned in the media. What I have heard consistently is that Irish people compete well for salary and position in English employment.

12) Do you still cook typical Irish meals at celebrations etc.?

I never did. However I do cook potatoes all year round, not just for celebrations. Also, Irish beef and pork and lamb.

13) Do you celebrate any national holiday which is celebrated only in Ireland and not in the whole United Kingdom? Which one?

Yes. St. Patrick's Day.

14) Do you recognize any Irish ethnic minorities?

Yes, the Irish Travellers.

P VI The sixth appendix.

NAME: Louisa Nash
AGE: 44
CITY: Bressbrook
OCCUPATION: Quality Auditor

1) Do you make differences between Irish and Northern Irish citizens, or you don't deal with it nowadays?

What is very noticeable difference is the accent. Strong Gaelic footballers in the North. Northern Irish more passionate about their political affiliations.

2) What is the relationship between Irish and Northern Irish citizens?

People from the North who came down to the South integrated fairly well. But while euro gained against sterling there was a lot of cross border shopping especially at Christmas time.

I guess it depends on which side you are on whether you are Protestant or Catholic.

3) Do you try to keep your Irish identity? Which way?

It's nice when you are abroad and asked your nationality it's nice to be able to say yes I am Irish. We are would think considered (well in the main) neutral, I compassionate people. We tend to be easy enough to get along with.

4) Do you respect any typical Irish folk customs? Which ones?

St Brigit's day 1st February- visit a holy well

St Patrick's Day- 17th March

May Eve sprinkling of holy water on the farm and animals

5) Do you respect any typical English customs? Which ones?

No.

6) And what about Christmas and Easter, are they kept traditionally or commercially?

For us traditional

7) Do you agree with the independence of Northern Ireland (referendum in 90s)?

Yes.

8) Do you still have any programmes or channels in the original Irish language?

Name at least 1.

TG4

9) Is Irish language still taught at schools?

It is compulsory in some schools.

10) What religion do you profess? What is closer to you Protestantism or Catholicism?

Catholicism

11) In your opinion, does any discrimination of Irish citizens who work in England exist? E.g. salary level, working promotion etc.?

I don't think so.

12) Do you still cook typical Irish meals at celebrations etc.?

yes

13) Do you celebrate any national holiday which is celebrated only in Ireland and not in the whole United Kingdom? Which one?

St. Patrick's Day

P VII The seventh appendix.

NAME: Carol Boylan
AGE: 44
CITY: Bessbrook
OCCUPATION: Housewife and mother of 4 children

1) Do you feel to be more Irish or English citizen?

Irish, we live on the island of Ireland

2) Do you make differences between Irish and Northern Irish citizens, or you don't deal with it nowadays.

Yes there are differences. They use the Euro, in N.I. the currency is Sterling. The education system is different. We have A levels, they have the Leaving Certificate. I always think that the roads in Ireland are in worse condition than in Northern Ireland!

3) What are relationships between Irish and Northern Irish citizens?

Generally I would consider the relationship very good. Certainly, any time I have been in Ireland I have found the people very friendly and helpful.

There would be certain areas in N.I. where one would have to be very careful, as one could be viewed with suspicion. I would always be careful of what I say up there, and would never speak of politics as some people would be loyalist, others republican.

4) Do you try to keep your Irish identity? Which way?

Yes. I am proud to be Irish, and like Irish traditional music. I am proud of the Irish language and think it is important that it is taught in school.

5) Do you respect some typical Irish folk customs? Which ones?

St. Patrick's Day (March 17). He is the patron saint of Ireland.

6) Do you respect any typical English customs? Which ones?

Bonfire Night is very popular, and I would think that it was originally an English custom.

7) And what about Christmas and Easter, are they under way traditionally or commercially?

We try to keep Christmas and Easter in the traditional way but certainly commercialism has crept in, with advertising in the media beginning in early November for Christmas, and also weeks before Easter. However, with a recession looming, perhaps we will all begin to celebrate both festivities in a more traditional manner, which would be a good thing. Some people got a little carried away, especially at Christmas!

8) Do you perceive history only as history of Ireland or as history of the whole United Kingdom?

I know both, but more important is Irish history for me.

9) Do you agree with independence of Northern Ireland (referendum in 90s)?

I think it was the best option at the time.

10) Do you still have any programmes or channels in the original Irish language? Name at least 1.

TG4 is an Irish language channel. There are also some Irish language programmes on RTE1 and RTE2, but you have to own Sky television.

11) Is Irish still taught at schools?

Yes.

12) What religion do you profess? What is closer to you Protestantism or Catholicism?

Catholicism

13) Does discrimination of Irish in England exist in working grade or other activities, e.g. salary level, working promotion etc.?

Not yet, I think so.

14) Do you still cook typical Irish meals at celebrations etc.?

Yes.

15) Do you celebrate any national holiday which is celebrated only in Ireland and not in the whole United Kingdom? Which one?

St. Patrick's Day (17 March)

P VIII The eighth appendix.

NAME: Dan Byrne
AGE: 72
CITY: Donegal
OCCUPATION: Retired Accountant

1) Do you feel to be more Irish or English citizen?

I am Irish citizen.

2) Do you make differences between Irish and Northern Irish citizens, or you don't deal with it nowadays.

No, I don't make any differences, but the Southern Ireland citizen doesn't have to try to hold his identity – it happens all round him in his religion, song and games.

3) What are relationships between Irish and Northern Irish citizens?

The relationship is good, however sometimes the Southern people are more cautious of the Northern people rather than the other way round.

4) Do you try to keep your Irish identity? Which way?

Yes. I am proud of Irish language.

5) Do you respect some typical Irish folk customs? Which ones?

Yes, neighbourly customs, Irish games (hurling and football) and small amounts of Irish language.

6) Do you respect any typical English customs? Which ones?

We are not really exposed to respecting English customs excepting some songs, television and National holidays. We do of course trade to a great degree with England.

7) And what about Christmas and Easter, are they under way traditionally or commercially?

Christmas and Easter are kept traditionally in both countries as both festive and festive seasons.

8) Do you perceive history only as history of Ireland or as history of the whole United Kingdom?

I am not sure.

9) Do you agree with independence of Northern Ireland (referendum in 90s)?

Yes. Northern Ireland is a separate region and is so respected by most Irish people.

10) Do you still have any programmes or channels in the original Irish language? Name at least 1.

Yes, we have one T.V. Channel and one Radio channel – Radio na Gaeltachta.

Gealtacht marks regions, where people speak only Irish. It is in Belfast and Donegal. People have specific accent there and is supposed to very popular among N.I. citizens.

11) Is Irish still taught at schools?

Yes. The Irish language is taught compulsory in some schools.

12) What religion do you profess? What is closer to you Protestantism or Catholicism?

Yes. I am a Roman Catholic

13) Does discrimination of Irish in England exist in working grade or other activities, e.g. salary level, working promotion etc.?

No. No discrimination exists. The UK government is most fair in this regard. However they show more caution in these terrorist times.

14) Do you still cook typical Irish meals at celebrations etc.?

Yes. Typical meals are cooked at Christmas, Easter and other holiday times.

15) Do you celebrate any national holiday which is celebrated only in Ireland and not in the whole United Kingdom? Which one?

Not really, excepting St. Patrick's Day, this is our National holiday.

APPENDIX P I: APPENDIX TITLE

City of Belfast. "Industry, Tourism, Regional Segregation, map."

<http://www.wesleyjohnston.com/users/ireland/geography/belfast.html>