

July 1690: battle of the Boyne, near Belfast. William of Orange defeated the Catholics. Every year, to celebrate this Protestant victory, Orangemen march through the streets, often causing clashes with Catholics.



Loyalist mural with the Ulster flag and the Union Jack

NORTHERN IRELAND

The population of Northern Ireland (1.8% of the U.K. population) is divided:

- on one side, the *Loyalists* (or *Unionists*): Protestants who want to remain part of the U.K.
- on the other side, the *Nationalists* (or *Republicans*): Catholics who want Ulster to be united with the Republic of Ireland.

1999: as in Wales and Scotland, a new Assembly (Parliament) opens in Belfast.



Republican mural in Belfast

Terrorist attacks and ceasefires*, demonstrations and treaties: peace in Northern Ireland is always fragile.

