



*BLOODY SUNDAY*  
(2002; 111 MINUTES)

Written and directed by Paul Greengrass

## THE SECOND TROUBLES (1922–1972)

The 1922 Petition for Home Rule rejected by Unionists

Acceptance of 1922 Partition in Ulster

Unionists/Protestants → moral high ground

Nationalists/Catholics → subversion

Anti-Catholic discrimination in Ulster

Catholics excluded from political power

9,000 Unionist votes → 12 councillors

14,000 Nationalist votes → 8 councillors

Economics: acceptance of modernization

# CONSEQUENCES

- Bloody Sunday = point of no return
- Provos' recruitment increased
- British Embassy in Dublin burned down
- Bloody Friday in Belfast 1972: 26 IRA bombs
- The Shankill Butchers versus IRA car bombs
- Summer 1969: 2700 British troops in NI
- Summer 1972: more than 30,000
- Stormont dismantled

# SETTING

Setting: Londonderry aka Derry

Catholic zone (Bogside) and Protestant zone (still)

1<sup>st</sup> Parachute Regiment, British Army (red berets)

Official IRA

Provisional IRA (Provos)

The Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (1967–1970)

The Media

# DOCUDRAMA: A HYBRID FORM

Docudrama and truth

Strategies to avoid oversimplification?

Does the film take sides?

Is there a villain?

Visual style of the film

Docudrama and the “new realism”

Incorporation of other media

Film released on the 30th anniversary of the event

KEY  
CHARACTERS  
(AND THE  
ACTOR WHO  
PLAY THEM)  
\* = REAL  
PEOPLE

Derry Residents:

Ivan Cooper\*, Labour Party MP, Social Democrat, leader of NICRA  
(*James Nesbitt*)

Gerry Donaghy (*Declan Duddy*, whose uncle was killed on Bloody Sunday)

Gerry's girl (*Edel Frazer*)

Kevin McCorry, Gerry's friend (*Allan Gildea*)

Mary Donaghy, Gerry's sister (*Joanne Lindsay*)

Eamonn McCann\*, writer of *Bloody Sunday in Derry*, one source for the film (*Gerard Crossan*)

Dennis, Gerry's friend (*David Clayton Rogers*)

Bernadette Devlin\*, activist (*Mary Moulds*)

Bridget Bond\*, activist (*Carmel McCallion*)

Priest (*Don Mullan*, whose book was another source for the film)

Chief Superintendent Langan\*, RUC (*Gerard McSorley*)

British Forces:

Major General Robert Ford\*, commander of Land Forces in Northern Ireland (*Tim Pigott-Smith*)

Lt. Colonel Derek Wilford\*, commander of the Paras (*Simon Mann*)

Brigadier Patrick Maclellan\*, commander of Derry garrison (*Nicholas Farrell*)

Major Steele\* (*Christopher Villiers*)

Colonel Tugwell\* (*James Hewitt*)

Private Lomas\*, the dissenting voice (*Mike Edwards*)



LET'S WATCH THE MOVIE

## OFFICIAL VERDICT

- The Widgery Report (1972): a whitewash
  - Believed the military
- The Saville Report (2010): the truth
  - The marchers posed no threat and did not deserve to be shot at
  - Lt. Col. Wilford directly responsible
  - Maj. Gen. Ford selected 1 Para and shares responsibility