

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910786682503321
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Titolo	Making the peace in Ireland // Jeremy Smith
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : Routledge, , 2014
ISBN	1-317-87382-3 1-315-83742-0 1-317-87383-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (297 p.)
Disciplina	941.60824
Soggetti	Peace movements - Ireland - History Northern Ireland Politics and government 1969-1994 Northern Ireland Politics and government 1994-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	"First published 2002 by Pearson Education Limited"--T.p. verso.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Half Title; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Preface; Chronology; Maps; Chapter 1 Northern Ireland and the Prospects for Peace; Chapter 2 Britain and Ireland, 1600-1920; Chapter 3 Britain and Northern Ireland, 1920-1968; Chapter 4 The Birth of the Troubles, 1964-1972; Chapter 5 London Initiatives, 1972-1983; Chapter 6 Shifting Grounds, 1984-1987; Chapter 7 In from the Cold: The Origins of the Peace Process, 1988-1993; Chapter 8 'One step forward, two steps back': The Piecemeal Process, 1994-1996; Chapter 9 The Final Furlong, 1996-1998 Chapter 10 The Hand of History: The Good Friday Agreement 1998 Chapter 11 Loose Ends and New Beginnings, 1998-2001; Abbreviations, glossary and personalities; Selected bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	For nearly thirty years Northern Ireland has been a by-word for terrorism, bloodshed, military coercion and intense communal conflict. However, Ireland is now experiencing a transition from a society in conflict to one at peace. Where did the violence come from and why could it not be pacified? Why has it taken thirty years to solve the Northern Irish conflict, and why did early attempts at settlement fail? Jeremy Smith explores these questions by placing the events in context with wider British and European patterns, giving the first in-depth

