

Time to Think

Open University Journeys in British and Irish prisons during the years of conflict, 1972-2000

Oral History interview clip transcript

Name of Interviewee: **Brian Barton**

Interviewed by: **Pat Jess**

Date of interview: **26/06/2014**

Important

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Brian Barton Clip

Clip title: Reflections on Teaching World War Two History in the H Blocks

Duration: 00:02:22

Clip start point in full interview: 00:30:54

Clip end point in full interview: 00:33:38

Interview identifier: 050_T_01

Description:

Brian Barton reflects on tutoring 'War, Peace and Social Change: Europe 1900-1955' with Republican students in the H Blocks (the Maze and Long Kesh Prison) in the 1990s; student attitudes to causes of World War Two; anti-English sentiment in essays, and reactions to his opposition to physical force in Irish politics.

Transcript:

It was certainly the case that you, I was aware that it would have been a strong anti-English expression in their essays. I have got to say that it was patent and palpable particularly if you had something like say a question on the cause of World War Two where the causes very often in some of their essays have blamed appeasement almost as much as Hitler or whatever but on the other hand having said that, it wasn't specific or unique to them. I didn't, occasionally one would have wandered off into Irish Politics and I would have made it clear that I was uneasy about the use of physical force and would have been opposed to the use of physical force and so on and they would certainly have known my background in terms of being Protestant and so on. I don't think however that was in any way a bar, something that inhibited them. I think it possibly made them appreciate the fact that I was there at all.