



Memoir-writing and the Peace Process in Northern Ireland: New Labour and the Politics of Self-Justification

Guest Lecture BY Stephen Hopkins, University of Leicester

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spects, British policy under the coalition government has reverted to a semi-detached, arms-length approach to Northern Ireland, and this also risks a repetition of the problems associated with previous disengaged administrations.

This paper analyses the memoir-writing of some of the key figures in the New Labour government (1997-2007), in relation to the peace process in Northern Ireland. The paper will argue that these sources often take personal credit for the perceived successes of Northern Ireland policy, and dangerously under-estimate the ongoing divisions in Northern Ireland, and the fundamental flaws of the social and political institutions created via the 1998 Agreement. Furthermore, in many re-

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