

This source is an excerpt from a Socialist Worker pamphlet written in 1972.

ON 30 JANUARY thirteen people died on the streets of Derry. That day is now known throughout the world as 'Bloody Sunday'. The question remains: Why did it happen? Did the IRA use the cover of 20,000 people to engage in a fight with the British Army? Did certain members of the British Army go berserk? Was it part of a military plan carefully worked out beforehand? This pamphlet attempts to set out the facts and to decide which of these three possibilities meets the case.

I cannot claim to be neutral in the argument. I was in Derry. I saw the army open fire. The facts as explained here may be unpalatable to many of the British people. They are, nonetheless, facts. Nobody will convince me that the Paratroop regiment is incapable of discipline in crisis. The British people do not pay vast sums of money for the upkeep and training of a crack regiment that loses its head at the sight of 20,000 unarmed marchers. I know the IRA did not open fire. That I am prepared to swear. That this pamphlet sets out to prove. We are then left with the question of the British Army's military strategy. The British people may believe 'their' army incapable of such cold-blooded murder. Let's get the facts straight. The British Army may well be composed of their sons, men and boys from working-class families, individuals who join the army for many and varied reasons. That is not to say it is the army of the British people. It is the armed force of the British ruling class. It serves the political and economic interest of that class only. The function of the British Army in Northern Ireland.

Source taken and adapted from: <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/events/bsunday/mccann.htm>