The battle for the middle ground

NORTHERN Ireland is arguably the last remnant of political chaos and confrontation. Extreme politicians and their supporters have dominated the political landscape for over half a century. The coming election is the first since the Good Friday Agreement and the dismantling of the IRA and Sinn Fein. The political landscape is more divided than ever, with political power divided between the three main parties: the Ulster Unionists (UUP), the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), and the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP).

An American in an alien culture

Traveling to Northern Ireland is a unique experience. The combination of American culture and Northern Irish culture creates an intriguing contrast. Americans are often seen as more laid-back and open-minded, while the Northern Irish have a more reserved and puritanical attitude. This contrast can create some interesting cultural clashes, but also provides an opportunity for cultural exchange and learning.