



Sinn Fein and the SDLP: From Alienation to Participation

By Gerard Murray, Jonathan Tonge

C Hurst & Co Publishers Ltd. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Sinn Fein and the SDLP: From Alienation to Participation, Gerard Murray, Jonathan Tonge, A political history of the SDLP and Sinn Fein, from the onset of "the Troubles" in 1970 to the 2001 general election. It outlines the political fortunes of the SDLP from its participation in the 1974 power-sharing government to facing direct competition from Sinn Fein during the Hunger Strikes of the early 1980s. The Anglo-Irish Agreement of November 1985 signified a major coup for the SDLP over the Republican movement. Henceforth it was the SDLP's analysis of the Northern Ireland conflict that was accepted by the British and Irish governments, along with the White House. By 1993 it was polling well ahead of Sinn Fein, and in the 1998 Assembly elections it obtained its highest vote ever. Yet three years later, at the 2001 general election, Sinn Fein overtook it as the largest nationalist party. What explains this dramatic reversal of fortunes for the SDLP, and why has Sinn Fein achieved far greater political influence than it ever dared hope for? Drawing on interviews with prominent Sinn Fein members, including Mitchel McLaughlin, Pat Doherty, Alex...

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Sinn Féin are traditionally perceived as a party of the Catholic working class, whilst the SDLP were dominant amongst the middle classes. 77 Research by Evans and Tonge identifies how Sinn Féin have been successful in attracting previous non-voters and new voters as well as middle-class nationalists who were happy to transfer their support to Sinn Féin to consolidate the party's constitutionalism. 78 Sinn Féin have de-ghettoised to create broader appeal, the result being that "post-IRA republicans could-conceivably-enjoy not merely the rewards of prisoner release or norther Sinn Fein President Mary Lou McDonald (C) flanked by Northern Leader Michelle O'Neill (L) and party candidates applauds during their manifesto (Photo: Getty Images). UUP. The SDLP has produced some ambitious infrastructure proposals in this manifesto. As might be expected for a nationalist party, there is a commitment to improving the Belfast-to-Dublin railway line, but there are also wider commitments on rail and roads, such as "fast-track funding" to upgrade the Northern Ireland road network. The party launched its document on electoral reform on Thursday, and said lowering the voting age is the pathway to participation for young and first-time voters. The document also proposed extending voting rights to those who have been resident in the state for more than five years. Equality. A political history of the SDLP and Sinn Fein, from the onset of the Troubles in 1970 to the 2001 general election. Drawing on interviews with Sinn Fein members, the authors explain the dynamics of Republican politics, showing how Sinn Fein became northern nationalism's primary representative. Product Identifiers. Gerard Murray is Honorary Fellow, Institute of Governance, Edinburgh University, and author of *John Hume and the SDLP: Impact and Survival In Northern Ireland* (1998). Jonathan Tonge is Professor of Politics and Director of the Centre for Irish Studies at the University of Salford. His previous books include *Northern Ireland: Conflict and Change* (2001).