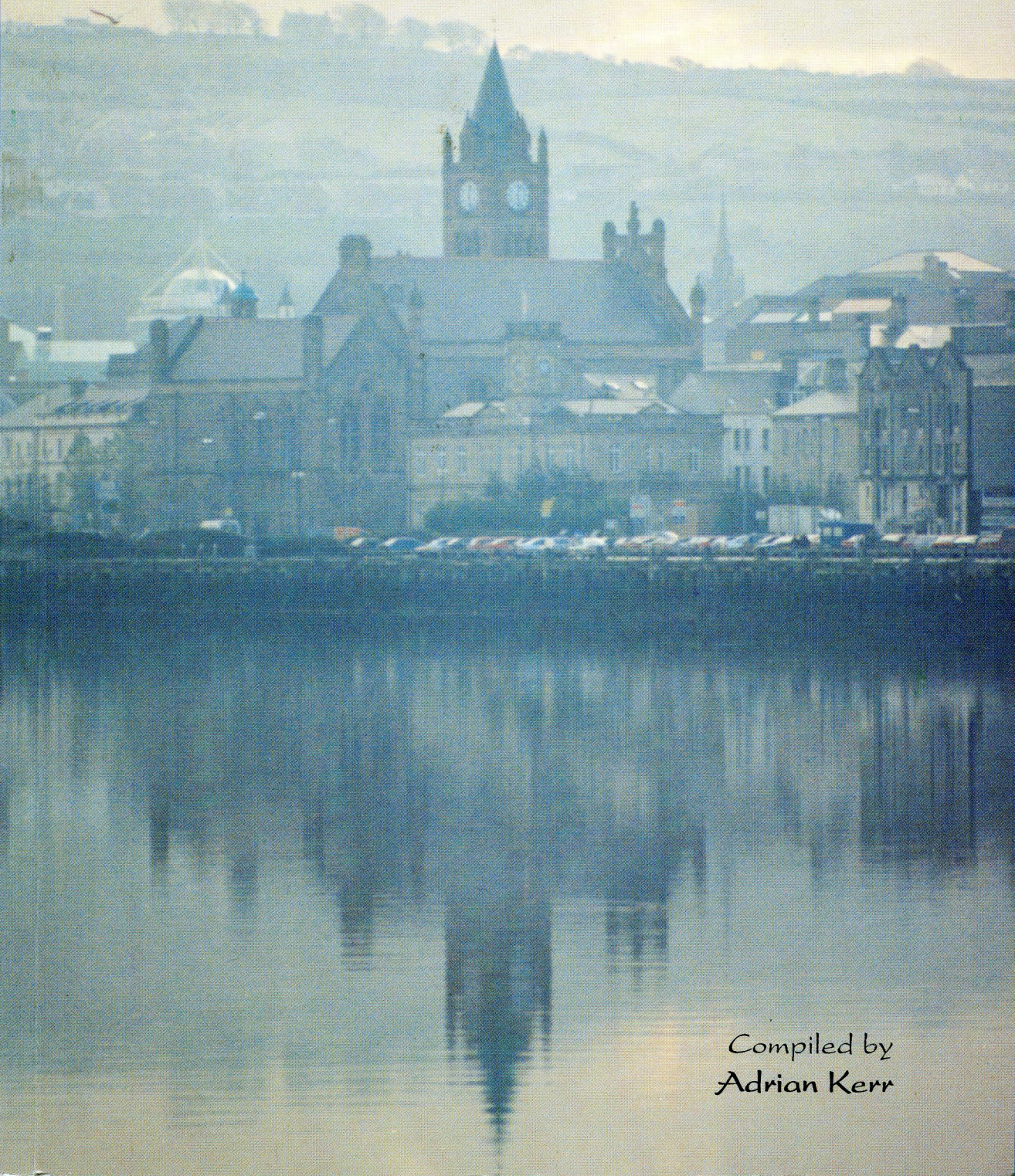


Perceptions

CULTURES IN CONFLICT



Compiled by
Adrian Kerr

'Perceptions begins to confront language, history and topography because it enables us to talk to rather than at each other by acclaiming the richness in diversity.'

Professor Paul Arthur, Department of Politics, University of Ulster.

War is an ever-present feature of human history. Most countries have at some stage experienced struggles between different cultures contained within their boundaries, and invariably the opposing factions have each perceived their own actions to be just. In few places has this been more pronounced than Ireland, where the most recent phase of conflict, simply known as the troubles, is the longest running dispute of its kind and has so far resisted all attempts at resolution. It has always involved a multi-faceted and complex conflict of mindsets and cultures: Nationalist/Unionist; Protestant/Catholic; Irish/British; Loyalist/Republican, and their many subdivisions.

Perceptions: Cultures in Conflict documents the experiences, beliefs, viewpoints and aspirations of a representative collection of people from Derry closely involved with the latest phase of the troubles in the city and throughout Northern Ireland. Based around a series of personal interviews conducted between September 1995 and April 1996, it covers the period from the origins of the troubles in the civil rights agitation of the 1960s, through almost three decades of violence, up to the ceasefires of 1994 and beyond.

In a period of increased tension and uncertainty in the North, *Perceptions* gives a valuable insight into the hearts and minds of a cross section of its inhabitants; what they think of the past, what they want for the future, and how they view each other.

Includes contributions from John Hume, Martin McGuinness, Gregory Campbell, Glen Barr, Nell McCafferty, Marlene Jefferson, Eamonn McCann and David Nicholl.



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