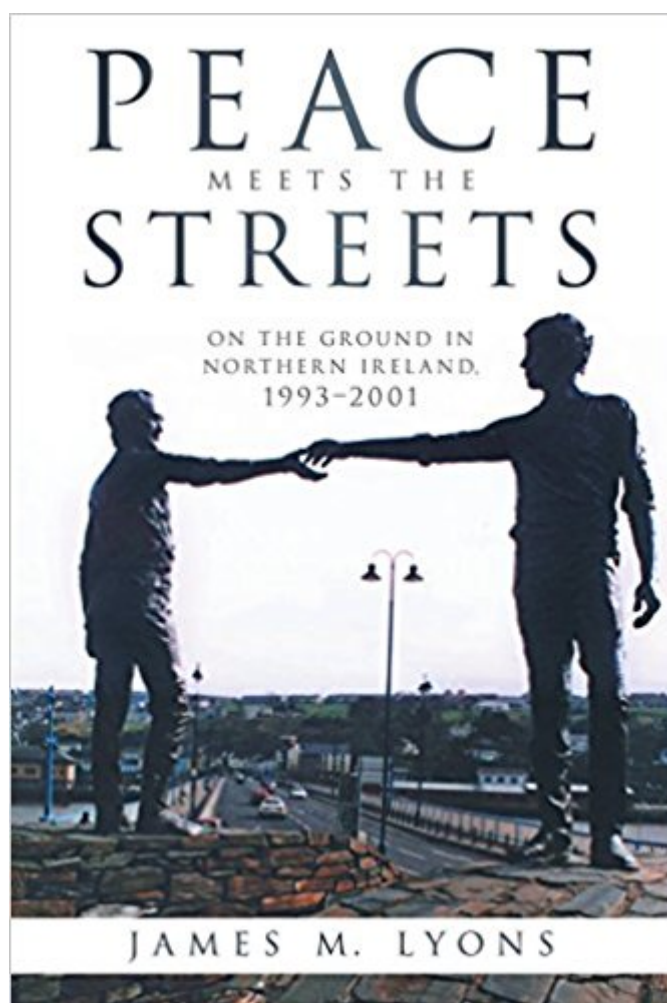




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Peace Meets The Streets: On The Ground In Northern Ireland, 1993-2001



Synopsis

A story of the grassroots economic work to support peace and reconciliation in Ireland. *Peace Meets the Streets* chronicles the highlights of the work of author Jim Lyons in Ireland and Northern Ireland from 1993 to 2001. During this critical period in Irish history, he first served as President Clinton's US Observer to the International Fund for Ireland. Lyons was later appointed by the President to a second role as Special Advisor to the President and Secretary of State for Economic Initiatives in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland. From his unique role and personal experiences, Lyons explains his work in the gritty, sectarian neighborhoods of Belfast and Derry and in the rural towns and villages of the twelve counties. *Peace Meets the Streets* revolves around the people and leaders in those neighborhoods, cities, and towns-both Catholic and Protestant. He tells of the painstaking effort to build trust in both communities and the key players with whom he worked, trusted, and came to befriend. President and First Lady Hillary Clinton are central characters in Lyons' narrative as well as leading business and public figures; high public officials from London, Washington, and Dublin; community organizers and local politicians; Nobel Peace laureates; a convicted murderer; and the grieving mother of a lost child. *Peace Meets the Streets* provides insight into this key period of Irish history and offers an insider's look at the successful efforts of the Clinton administration to help restore this troubled democracy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James M. Lyons has been a commercial banker, political activist, and a trial lawyer. From 1996 to 2001, he served as President Clinton's representative and special advisor for economic initiatives in

Northern Ireland. He and his wife, Marcia, live in Denver, Colorado, and have three adult children and one grandchild.

Excellent look at the challenges, successes and disappointments of ground-up economic development in Northern Ireland. The history is concise and efficient, the characters are vibrant, the vignettes engaging, and the whole thing wonderfully told with good writing. On top of this it gives a good look at the roles of top government in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the U.S., including the direct participation of President Clinton. Finally, this is a touching story of the unique role Lyons played, his embrace of the project and his genuine and touching affection for the people of Northern Ireland. I was sorry to see it end and hope Lyons gives us a sequel.

Building a peace is hard, as we are seeing daily in the Mid-East. This book offers a heart-warming glimpse into the step by step process of building trust and converting combatants to citizens. The story should be more widely known and recognized -- a rare success in both nation building and peacemaking, and done without US drones, aircraft carriers, or boots on the ground. Lyons demonstrates how patient and generous work can change hearts and respect for the interests and grievances of both sides of a conflict conveys strength, not weakness.

A concise and well written summary of the recent history of Northern Ireland.

History waits for no one. A person must be prepared, ready, willing and able to take on challenges at all times that might seem insurmountable. Ireland's Honorary Consul James M. Lyons of Colorado to his credit, has done just that. In his new book, "Peace Meets The Streets", the author takes us beyond the news headlines, beyond the cameras, and political parties that sometimes still the voices of reason and change. He introduces us to men and women who live in Northern Ireland, individuals who want to better their communities through economic development. Men and women who put their own lives in jeopardy so that others can live peacefully on their streets. This is a must read for anyone of Irish ancestry, and for those who are friends of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Jim Lyons "Peace Meets the Streets" is a thoughtful, deeply informed principal's account of the 1990's Peace Process in Northern Ireland. He is a fine writer and sees the best in a very wide range of people, who he profiles delightfully. He is comfortable in chaos and patient. I hurried through

much of it because I needed to catch a plane and had to leave the book with my hosts, who suggested it to me. I plan to buy the e-book when I submit this review.

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