

Forum: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

Issue: Evaluating the political future and prospects for dialogue in northern Cyprus

Student Officer: Sophia Albani

Position: Co-Chair

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The question regarding the evaluation of the political future and prospects for dialogue in northern Cyprus is a multifaceted, multidimensional and complicated issue that requires a deep understanding of the history of the island in order to be resolved.

Since 1570, on the island have existed Cypriots with Greek heritage and Cypriots with Turkish heritage. Although for the most part of their shared history they have been living peacefully together, this started to drastically change from their year of independence and on. In 1960 when their independence from the British was declared, a president was elected, the Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios.¹ One of the main beliefs that Makarios had was that Cyprus should be unified with Greece. That's why he tried to get more power, in comparison with what the Turkish side had, in order to achieve the unification with Greece, that to this day has not happened. The UN tried to solve the issue, but the damage was done and the Turkish community was deeply unhappy. This led to the 1974 coup against Makarios. This resulted in the island of Cyprus being divided and the illegal occupation of the northern area of the island, many deaths, loss of property and many families were cut in half.

The current situation of the island goes as follows: there are two halves, the northern part of the island, which has been under Turkish control since 1974 and where the Turkish republic of northern Cyprus declared independence in 1983, which is recognised only by Turkey, and the legal and internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus. Today, the two halves are separately governed, and although the large-scale violence has decreased, there are still important political, legal, and property issues that have yet to be solved. The issue that still constitutes a problem is the fact that one half of the island is still illegally occupied, by Turkey, and many families have still to be compensated for the tragedy of 1974.

The political future of the island remains unresolved. Both sides of the island of Cyprus have opened themselves to dialogue, and there has been dialogue in the past that has not bore any fruits and this can happen in the near future. After all, this island, its people and the people

¹ Cyprus - Mediterranean, Conflict, Independence | Britannica, www.britannica.com/place/Cyprus/History

that lost their lives in the process deserve dialogue and the determination of what is to come for their future.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Guerilla warfare²

“Type of warfare between small-scale actions by irregulars, at a fast- moving pace, against the military and/or police forces. Occasionally, this type of warfare is between rivals, smaller than a revolutionary scale, rebellious acts, independently or in conjunction with a larger political-military strategy.”

Enosis³

“A movement to secure the political union of Greece and Cyprus”

Coup⁴

“A sudden decisive exercise of force in politics, and especially the violent overthrow or alteration of an existing government by a small group.”

Military junta⁵

“A military government that has taken power in a country by force and not by election.”

Green Line⁶

It is a UN-controlled buffer zone that separates the south Greek from the north of Cyprus. It is the de facto border between the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. It is approximately 180km long, and it was created in 1963 by British General Peter Young.

²Guerrilla Warfare | Facts, Definition, & Examples | Britannica, www.britannica.com/fast-moving/topic/guerrilla-warfare.

³Enosis Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/enosis.

⁴ Coup Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coup.

⁵ “Military Junta.” Cambridge Dictionary, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/military-junta.

⁶ “About the Buffer Zone: United Nations Peace Operations.” UNFICYP, United Nations Peace Operations, 22 Nov. 2025, unficy.org/en/about-buffer-zone.

British Crown Colony⁷

“A Crown Colony is a British overseas territory under the direct authority of the British Crown. As such, a Crown Colony does not possess its own representative government and is not represented in the British Parliament. The colony is administered by a governor appointed by the Crown and responsible to the colonial office (or its forerunners) and, from 1966 onward, to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.”

Taksim⁸

“Taksim (from Turkish for "division" or "partition") denotes the political objective of ethnically dividing the island of Cyprus into autonomous Greek and Turkish zones or states, advanced by Turkish Cypriot leaders and the Turkish government as a defensive countermeasure against the Greek Cypriot campaign for *enosis*, the proposed annexation of Cyprus by Greece.”

Green Line⁹

“The buffer zone - also called ‘the Green Line’ - extends approximately 180 km across the island. In some parts of old Nicosia it is only a few meters wide, while in other areas it is a few kilometres wide. Its northern and southern limits are the lines where the belligerents stood following the ceasefire of 16 August 1974, as recorded by UNFICYP.”

Sovereign Base Area (SBA)¹⁰

“The Sovereign Base Areas (‘SBA’; ‘Areas’) are two relatively large pieces of land, amounting to approximately 3% of the territory of the island of Cyprus, over which the United Kingdom (‘UK’) exercises sovereignty.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Background

Ottoman empire

In 1570, Ottoman troops landed on the island of Cyprus and seized it. Although cities like Nicosia and Famagusta tried to defend themselves, in the end they failed, which led to the

⁷ Crown Colony | Encyclopedia.Com, www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/crown-colony.

⁸ Taksim, [grokipedia.com/page/Taksim_\(politics\)](http://grokipedia.com/page/Taksim_(politics)).

⁹ About the Buffer Zone | UNFICYP, unficy.unmissions.org/en/about-buffer-zone.

¹⁰ Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) - Oxford Public International Law, opil.ouplaw.com/display/10.1093/law-epil/9780199231690/law-9780199231690-e2261.

three-century-long Ottoman reign.¹¹ Although the two populations of the island, the Greek/Christians and the Turks/Islamists, shared many differences, like their religion and language, they coexisted peacefully. The two shared relations but they were not conflictual, for two main reasons. The first was that the Ottomans were a minority in the island, and they came to be through the colonization of the island. The second was that the Greek church was empowered by the Ottomans and from a certain point in history, namely 1670, and its aim was the protection of all populations, regardless of their religion.¹² Overall this period affected many aspects of everyday life, the social hierarchy, due to the minorities of the island, the religious and the language.

In 1821, Greece began trying to gain its independence from the Ottoman Empire. Shortly after the start of said war, there were many rumours going around that Cyprus would help in the war. This had as a result the deployment of 4000 Turkish soldiers in the island of Cyprus, where massive fights took place, due to fear of a broader uprising in the Greek community that could have as a result a situation that would not be easy to control. Essentially, the fear that was created through this situation was that there would be a scenario where the Ottomans would no longer be able to control Cyprus, and thus maybe lose it as a part of the empire. This evolved into mass slaughtering of Cypriots, which lasted 30 days. Although they tried to unite with Greece and failed, this indicates that there was still a strong connection between Cyprus and Greece, their way of lives and their shared culture (e.g. language and religion) were still strong and active.¹³

After that, the two countries were involved in the last Russo-Turkish war (1877-1878).¹⁴ Russia won the war and defeated the Ottoman Empire, which shows that by that time the Ottoman Empire had started to decline and that it was inevitable that in the near future it was bound for them to lose the power and administration over Cyprus.¹⁵ Then on the 9th of July 1878, the UK took over the administration of Cyprus in exchange for their entering the said war with the Turks.¹⁶ This was the end of the 307-year long Ottoman reign on the island of Cyprus, which overall remained peaceful, and helped Cyprus evolve in many aspects of the everyday lives of its population.

¹¹ What Caused the Division of the Island of Cyprus? | IWM, www.iwm.org.uk/history/cold-war/end-of-empire/what-caused-the-division-of-the-island-of-cyprus.

¹² Religion, Politics and Ethnicity in Cyprus during The ..., www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/24558/1/European_Journal_of_Sociology_Religion_p.pdf.

¹³ The Involvement of Cyprus during Greek Independence – Cypriot Society & Culture, cypriotsocietyandculture.wordpress.com/the-involvement-of-cyprus-in-greek-independence/. Cyprus Cyprus Cyprus English English English English

¹⁴ Russo-Turkish Wars | Causes, Consequences & Impact | Britannica, www.britannica.com/topic/Russo-Turkish-wars.

¹⁵ Cyprus - Mediterranean, Conflict, Independence | Britannica, www.britannica.com/place/Cyprus/History

¹⁶ "Cyprus under the Ottoman Empire." *The Island of Cyprus*, 7 Dec. 2023, theislandofcyprus.com/ottoman-empire

British empire

Until the year 1914, the sovereignty of the island was still theoretically under the Ottoman Empire. So this was the year that Cyprus was officially annexed. On the first of May 1925 Cyprus officially became an English Crown Colony. This was a move to formalize the fact that Cyprus was now under British power.¹⁷

In 1948, it was announced by King Paul, of the UK, that Cyprus had the desire to be unified with Greece. This announcement was later followed by a referendum, by the Greek Orthodox Church, that backed this statement up and showed the dismay of the Cypriot population with British rule. This was named Enosis, which was recognised by the UN and quickly became a part of the forefront of international affairs at the time. In 1952 both Greece and Turkey joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and after World War II (WWII), a small Cypriot group submitted a request to Britain about the unification with Greece (Enosis). This request was rejected, and instead there was a proposal about a ten year socioeconomic development plan. Later it was Archbishop Makarios who created a stronger force that aimed to get global attention and try to get Enosis to succeed. In 1955 Ethiki Organosis Cyprion Agoniston/ National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA) started becoming more violent towards the regime, which led the British Governor to declare a state of emergency. This is the beginning of the Guerilla Warfare between the Greek Cypriots and the British, which aimed to further push the situation and it was a more intense effort for unification with Greece. This resulted in the declaration of an emergency state by the British Governor and in 1956 the deportation of Archbishop Makarios, to the Seychelles. This situation further showed what the Cypriot population actually wanted for the future and how they were not satisfied with British rule. This goes to showcase that the feelings for the unification with Greece persisted for half a century and how the people were ready to fight for their requests. In 1957, the Turkish Cypriots adopted “taksism”, which was basically the answer to enosis. Later in 1959 with the Zurich Agreement, there was a Cypriot Constitution written for the first time, where there was a rule established that mandated that both “enosis” and “taksim” were illegal. Other than that, this agreement included the basic structure of Cyprus, like that both Greek and Turkish are the official languages of the island.¹⁸ With these agreements, Cyprus was to be independent, but there were to be military forces by Greece, Turkey and Britain on the island at all times. During the same year, Makarios returned to the island and was officially elected president.¹⁹

The first years of independence

¹⁷ “Cyprus Becomes a British Crown Colony: History: Research Starters: EBSCO Research.” EBSCO, www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/cyprus-becomes-british-crown-colony.

¹⁸ “Zurich Agreement.” *Zurich Agreement*, tc-america.org/issues-information/zurich-agreement-85.htm.

¹⁹ *Cyprus under the British Empire - the Island of Cyprus*, theislandofcyprus.com/cyprus-under-the-british-empire/.

In 1960, the creation of treaties, namely the Zurich and London agreements, that declared Cyprus' independence from Britain were ratified in Nicosia. The only sovereignty that is retained by Britain over the area was on the military bases that during the time they had power over the island they had created. Britain, Greece and Turkey agreed to keep military personnel on the island for its protection. In addition Greece and Turkey would not overstep the land of Britain, while simultaneously cooperating peacefully. The official date for the declaration of independence of the island of Cyprus is the 16th of August 1960, while on the same day Cyprus joined the UN. Regardless of the power sharing agreements that allowed both the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots to obtain the same power, the independence intensified the conflict between the two.²⁰ The constitution bore some regulations that president Makarios had difficulty with actually implementing, that led to the proposition 13 amendments, to the vice president Küçük, of Cyprus. These constitutional changes intimidated the Turkish population regarding the way that the power would be shared. In other words, there was fear that the Greek side would assume more power than the Turkish one and that the latter would have been treated unequally, and that is the very reason they were rejected almost immediately. This had as a result the eruption of violence within the communities and the withdrawal of the Turkish community from the power-sharing. Then Britain created the "Green Line", which divided Nicosia into two and was patrolled by British troops. In March 1964 the UN Security Council intervened and created a peacekeeping force. Later in the same year, Turkey's air forces intervened, after a fight broke out in the island.²¹ Both Greece and Turkey sent troops on the island to try and resolve the issue, which later led to lieutenant general Grivas coming to Cyprus and ordering the military. In 1967, Turkey gave Greece an ultimatum, that they either remove their military personnel or they would invade. The Greek military junta ordered Grivas and his troops to return, which although was not what that side wanted, it was necessary as the threat was so great. In 1968 and in 1973 Makarios was re-elected president, although many assassination attempts occurred. Grivas secretly returned to Cyprus in 1971, to continue his campaign for enosis, but later on died in 1974, in Limassol.²²

The 1974 Turkish invasion

In 1974 there was a coup against president Makarios, which was supported by the military junta happening in Greece. Essentially the military dictatorship that was ruling Greece at the time, was backing up a group of people that did not want Makarios to rule. That led to Makarios fleeing the country. Within days of those events, Greek Cypriots were fleeing their homes as many Turkish troops had landed in the north. The coup collapsed, and the Turkish troops occupied one third of the island and divided the island along the 'Green Line', namely a

²⁰ "Cyprus Gains Independence: History: Research Starters: EBSCO Research." *EBSCO*, www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/cyprus-gains-independence.

²¹ Revpacman, Author., et al. "Cyprus Independence Day." *revPACman*, 1 Oct. 2024, revpacman.com/2024/10/01/cyprus-independence-day/.

²² *Cyprus - Mediterranean, Conflict, Independence* | *Britannica*, www.britannica.com/place/Cyprus/History

ceasefire line drawn in 1963 by the UN, into north and south. The Security Council then unanimously passed a resolution, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the Turkish troops. Turkey refused, despite the many resolutions over the years demanding the withdrawal. Some months later, in October 1974 the Turkish Cypriots established an independent administration and agreed on a population exchange between the two sides of the island. Later in 1980, the UN resumed its peace talks and tried to resolve the issue.²³

Proclamation of the Turkish Cypriot Republic

In 1983, the President of the Turkish side, Denktash, paused dialogues and proclaimed the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is recognised only by Turkey, until today.²⁴ In 1998, the EU considered the Republic of Cyprus to join as a Member State. The official date that the Republic of Cyprus joined the EU and officially became a Member State is 1st of May 2004, as a divided island.²⁵ In June 2001, the UN Security Council, renewed its 36 year old mission, to keep the island safe, that led to approximately 2400 peacekeepers to patrol the buffer zone between the Greek and the Turkish side. In January 2002 the UN sponsored negotiations between the two presidents, to try and solve the persistent problem of the situation in the island.²⁶ In November of the same year, the UN Secretary General at the time, Kofi Annan, presented a peacekeeping plan for Cyprus. What that plan suggested was the creation of a bizonal, bicommunal federation, with interchanging presidencies in power.²⁷ In December of the same year, the EU summit invited Cyprus to Copenhagen, which would take place in 2004. That would happen if both sides of the island had agreed to it by early spring of 2003. Only the Greek side responded, which resulted in them gaining membership, as mentioned before. Then April 2003 marked the first time that Turkish and Greek Cypriots crossed the buffer zone and visited the other side of the island. Three years later, in June 2006, the UN sponsored talks between the two presidents of the island. This led to a series of confidence-building measures and contacts between the two communities to happen, like the resolution of some everyday problems that the citizens of the island were experiencing.²⁸ During the period of January to

²³ "Cyprus Profile - Timeline." *BBC News*, BBC, 17 Oct. 2022, www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17219505.

²⁴ *Declaration of Independence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus* — *Grokopedia*, grokopedia.com/page/Declaration_of_Independence_of_the_Turkish_Republic_of_Northern_Cyprus.

²⁵ *Cyprus and the European Union* | *University of Nicosia Library*, www.library.unic.ac.cy/cyprus-and-european-union.

²⁶ "Declaration of Independence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." *Grokopedia*, grokopedia.com/page/Declaration_of_Independence_of_the_Turkish_Republic_of_Northern_Cyprus.

²⁷ "Annan Plan Cyprus." *Model Diplomat*, modeldiplomat.com/learn/glossary/annan-plan-cyprus

²⁸ *Securitycouncilreport*, www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Cyprus%20S21183.pdf.

March 2007, the Turkish and Greek Cypriots demolished the barriers that divided the old city of Nicosia, becoming as it once was again.²⁹



Figure 1: Picture of the current state and shared portions of the island.³⁰

Current situation

To this day the conflict remains unresolved and the issue persists. The island is still divided in half and the UN buffer zone is still in place, which demonstrates that the conflict remains frozen. Although there have been negotiations over the years and the UN has repeatedly tried to solve the issue, there has not been anything done that actually solves it. In the last week of July this year, the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres visited the island and even though the relations between the two sides are better, there are no signs of a solution in the near future of the island.³¹

²⁹ C.anno. "The Unresolved Cyprus Problem." *Le Petit Juriste*, 28 Apr. 2016, www.lepetitjuriste.fr/the-unresolved-cyprus-problem/.

³⁰ Take Me to Europe | Small-Group Europe Archaeology & History Tours, takemetoeuropetours.com/.

³¹ Ellis, Tom. "Progress on Cyprus, but Should Turkey Hold the Key?" *eKathimerini.Com*, 30 July 2026, www.ekathimerini.com/opinion/1310988/progress-on-cyprus-but-should-turkey-hold-the-key/.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

*Republic of Cyprus*³²

The Republic of Cyprus is a globally recognised sovereign state, and the internationally recognised as the legitimate government that controls the a part of the island, while the turkish side falls out of its scope of power. It is an EU and UN Member State, and it has not yet recognised the Republic of Northern Cyprus. From their point of view, the land of the Republic of Northern Cyprus is illegally occupied, and the area controlled by that self-proclaimed government should be governed by the Republic of Cyprus alone. While this is just the position of the Republic of Cyprus, while Turkey and the Republic of Northern Cyprus have a different opinion than the former.

*Turkey*³³

Turkey was one of the main parties involved in the history of Cyprus. It played a decisive role, from the beginning of the occupation of the island from the Ottoman conquest of the island, to the 1974 invasion and the way that the situation was controlled after. Turkey is the only country that recognises the Republic of Northern Cyprus and there is a constant presence of Turkish military there, for the protection of their side. Alongside Greece, Turkey has played in a way a parental role to the island, as they also had the right to involve the military if anything happened through the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, which states in Article II that the three countries were to guarantee that the island remained safe, and that they were the ones to protect it at all times.

*Greece*³⁴

Greece has always been an ally of Cyprus and a firm supporter of enosis. It played a supportive part throughout the island's history, whether that was during the 1974 coup or later with the invasion of the island by Turkey. In a way Greece has had a protective role in the situation of Cyprus, as through the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, alongside Turkey, it had the same rights to get involved militarily, and also a key aspect has been Cyprus' efforts of unification with Greece. This shows the hellenic sentiment that Cyprus shared with this country. Greece has also played a key role in the relationship that Cyprus would have with Turkey as for many

³² *Cyprus Conflict: Key Issues on 50th Anniversary of Turkish Invasion | Reuters*, www.reuters.com/world/europe/what-are-key-issues-cyprus-conflict-50-years-since-invasion-2024-07-18/.

³³ *War-Split Cyprus on Edge as Turkey Reels in Crisis | Reuters*, www.reuters.com/article/world/war-split-cyprus-on-edge-as-turkey-reels-in-crisis-idUSKCN1020X7/.

³⁴ *Cyprus Conflict: Key Issues on 50th Anniversary of Turkish Invasion | Reuters*, www.reuters.com/world/europe/what-are-key-issues-cyprus-conflict-50-years-since-invasion-2024-07-18/.

decades the relationship between the two has been complex. Even though Cyprus was under Ottoman reign for many years, and its later relationship with Turkey was also complex, the relationship that Greece had with Turkey also played a big part in that.

United Kingdom (UK)³⁵

The UK has been involved with Cyprus for many years. It started when Cyprus was a Colony, and it evolved to the UK becoming a guarantor power and maintaining Sovereign Base Areas on the island (SBA's). The UK has maintained a neutral force during the years of escalations, the exact opposite of the stance that Greece and Turkey adopted. The geography of the area is very important for the UK as it is closely located in the Middle East, while also it is able to have relations with the Mediterranean. The UK has also been a country that has affected the relationship that Cyprus has with Turkey. The relationship that the UK has with Turkey is less complex compared to the one that Greece has with Turkey. The UK and Turkey are in NATO and they share a relationship that focuses on economic growth and on defence from shared foes.

European Union (EU)³⁶

The EU has played an important role in the situation of Cyprus and is actively affected, as the Republic of Cyprus is a Member State. It has tried to help the UN to solve the issue and has funded the Turkish Cypriots. The EU has been neutral and diplomatic and has supported both sides equally. To be more specific, the EU has aligned its opinion with the UN and is in favour of the bi-zonal, bicomunal federation. Additionally, they have had the European Commission appoint experts that would engage in dialogue with both the leaders of the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Northern Cyprus. Even though they have been actively trying to solve the issue, their efforts have not been successful.

NATO³⁷

Neither of the republics in Cyprus are a member of NATO, which is the reason as to why it has been very passive with the issue. Because both Greece and Turkey are a member of NATO, if at any point NATO intervened, there would be a clash with the interests of the aforementioned. Thus, NATO has not contributed in any way or form to the dispute at hand.

³⁵ *Official UK-Cyprus Joint Statement*, assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6761a7f726a2d1ff182534be/UK-Cyprus_Joint_Statement.pdf.

³⁶ *Delivering on EU Support for a Cyprus Settlement: Legacy and Vision - European Commission*, commission.europa.eu/publications/delivering-eu-support-cyprus-settlement-legacy-and-vision_en.

³⁷ Albás, Jan Gallemí. "EU-NATO Cooperation on the Cyprus Conflict. Global Affairs. University of Navarra." *Global Affairs and Strategic Studies*, en.unav.edu/web/global-affairs/eu-nato-cooperation-on-the-cyprus-conflict.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
June 1570	Ottoman forces invaded Cyprus.
25/3/1821	The beginning of the Greek independence war and Cyprus' effort for unification.
31/1/1877	The Turks lost against the Russians in the last Russo-Turkish war.
9/7/1878	The UK is vested the authority of Cyprus.
5/11/1914	The UK gains officially the sovereignty of Cyprus.
1925	Cyprus becomes a British Crown Colony.
1948	Announcement about reunification with Greece and referendum of the Cypriot population.
15-22/1/1952	Greece and Turkey join NATO and a small group of Cypriots request the unification with Greece. Britain denies the request.
1/4/1955	Beginning of Guerilla war between EOKA and Britain.
26/11/1955	Announcement of emergency state and deportation of Makarios.
1957	Creation and adoption of "taksim", as a response to enosis.
16/8/1960	Creation of first Cypriot constitution, independence from British rule, return and election as president of Makarios, as well as the official date of the independence of Cyprus and that it joined the UN.

1960	Ratification of treaties that declare Cyprus independent.
March 1964	The UN intervenes and creates a peacekeeping mission.
1964	Military troops from Greece and Turkey are deployed in Cyprus, after Turkish air forces are in the area.
15/11/1967	Turkish ultimatum, regarding Greece's military presence on the island. General Grivas and his troops are ordered to return to Greece.
25/2/1968	Makarios was voted president.
15/7/1974	Coup against Makarios and he fled the country.
20/7/1974	The beginning of the occupation of 1/3 of the island by Turkish troops.
1/8/1974	The UN passed the resolution that ordered the Turkish troops to stop aggressions.
1/10/1974	Establishment of the administration of Northern Cyprus.
1980	The UN resumed peace talks.
15/11/1983	The president of the occupied side paused peace talks and proclaimed the Republic of Northern Cyprus.
June 2001	The UN Secretary General renewed the 36 year old mission of the safe keeping of Cyprus.
2002	The beginning of UN sponsored peace talks between the two administrations
November 2002	Proposal by Kofi Annan for the bizonal, bicomunal federation.
1/5/2004	Cyprus joined the EU.

June 2006	More UN sponsored talks between the two presidents took place.
March-January 2007	The city of Nicosia became one whole again.

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES, AND EVENTS

[S/RES/193](#)

This UN Security Council resolution was drafted on the 9th of August 1964. It was adopted due to the use of military force, from Turkey to the island, that had not yet been illegally occupied. The use of such force was happening, due to hostilities against the Turkish community by the Greek. It specifically states that due to the severity of the situation there must be an immediate ceasefire. It also called for the peaceful cooperation of the two communities of the island and for all the inhabitants of the island to refrain from doing anything that would make the situation worse. Although it was partially implemented, the ceasefire did not happen for the duration that it should have, as it was seen as a necessary action to ensure that the Turkish population was safe, so it failed, to an extent.

[United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus \(UNFICYP\)](#)

UNFICYP was established in 1964, as means for the two communities that inhabited the island to stop further fighting from taking place. It was established by the UN Security Council Resolution 186. This attempt tackled many aspects of the issue, including the humanitarian through monitoring cross-border exchanges as well as the access of the civilians to land and water, and by this mission the Green Line was created. Although this mission tried to keep things peaceful in the area and prevent situations where more people would be harmed, it did not provide a solution regarding the status of the island. Despite this fact, this past attempt has been very helpful to the affected population and has protected their lives and rights.

[The Annan plan](#)

The Annan plan was a comprehensive UN proposal that aimed at the reunification of the two sides of Cyprus after the 1974 invasion. This was proposed in 2002 by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan. What this solution proposed was the creation of a bicomunal and bizonal federation. This is basically a framework that would compromise two politically equal communities that were governing two constitutional zones, that would function under one

government and would govern the two communities as one. This was modeled on the Swiss confederal system and that would include, a federal government that would include a rotating president and a Senate split 50/50 between the two communities, two component states (Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot), with remarkable autonomy, territorial amendments that would return approximately 7% of ground from the Turkish Cypriot side to Greek Cypriot administration, it would limit the right of return and property restitution for displaced persons, meaning people who lost their property would have a smaller chance of getting their property back, there would continue to be Greek and Turkish Troops under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee on the island, that would gradually lessen and there provisions of demilitarization and an EU-compatible legal framework. Although this proposal was approved by the Turkish Cypriots with roughly 65% of the population in favour, it was rejected by the Greek side with approximately 76% against. This proposed solution bore a plausible and doable solution and could actually be proven very beneficial for the island of Cyprus. The reason why it failed could probably be that the wound was still open to the Greek population and they were not ready or really wanted to share the island and the government with the Turkish side. Regardless of the plausibility and doability of this plan, the outcome showed that the population was not ready yet for such drastic changes.

[S/RES/360](#)

This UN Security Council resolution was drafted on the 1st of August 1974, a few days after the invasion. This resolution stated that the situation that was happening at the time in Cyprus was highly looked down upon by the international community, and it was deemed illegal. It also urged the Member States to take action and help alleviate the situation. It also requested that the Member States respect the work of the UNFICYP and that they also cooperate with it, in order for its effect and work to be of a larger magnitude. Its effect was not so grave but it did help. This is because with this resolution the situation was partially better, but that did not discourage Turkey from continuing to behave in the manner that it did, meaning that they invaded and occupied 37% of the island, that legally belonged to the Republic of Cyprus.

[Zurich Agreement](#)

The Zurich Agreement was drafted on the 11th of February 1959, by the prime ministers of Greece, Konstantinos Karamanlis, and Turkey, Adnan Menderes, as well as their foreign ministers, respectively Evangelos Averoff and Fatin Rüştü Zorlu. It recognises the Republic of Cyprus and it mandates the way that the government will be organized. It also recognises both Greek and Turkish as the official languages that will be spoken on the island. Generally it mandates the way that governmental things need to be done, in the island and how the two communities need to cooperate with each other. To be more specific, it also included the way that the island would be organised, like the official language, the way that the government would



be organised and other structural matters for the parliament. At the time, its effect was great and it helped a lot with the situation on the island, as it dictated the way that the first government would be structured, and it also mandated the way that the two communities would interchange their obligations so that the situation remained fair for the both of them. Generally, before the invasion, it was effective and to an extent the things that it mandated were being followed.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

EU Financial Aid Regulation 2006³⁸

The EU financial aid regulation of 2006, aimed at the economic development of the Turkish community of Cyprus. Essentially it was an instrument through which that community would be able to be more autonomous and have a better economic future. It was approved on the 27th of February 2006 and it allocated roughly \$259 million that would end the community isolation that was happening. Its core goals were economic growth, the improvement of infrastructure, like public transportation and the better alignment in policies with the EU. At the end, it had the result that it hoped for, after the allocation of \$760 million, instead of the \$259 million that was at first the budget. It almost eliminated the isolation and the public infrastructure was improved.

Green line regulation³⁹

In 2004 there was a law created by the EU, that set some rules for the crossing of people and goods across the two parts of the island. This aimed at the better cooperation of the two communities, while also ensuring their safe crossing and that the UK bases remained unfacted. In the end, it did help with the better cooperation of the two and the safe passing of people and goods.

Acheson plan⁴⁰

In 1964, the former US Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, proposed a plan to resolve the dispute regarding Cyprus while also limiting the chances of a clash between the interests of the countries involved with NATO. Essentially what this plan proposed was that Cyprus should be unified with Greece, meaning that enosis happened, and that Turkey would maintain a military base on the Karpas Peninsula, that was a self-governing territory of the Turkish-Cypriot community. In the end, this plan was rejected and it led to the collapse of the Geneva

³⁸ "Regulation - 1998/2006 - En - EUR-Lex." *EUR*, eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1998/oj/eng.

³⁹ "Green Line Regulation." *European Commission*, commission.europa.eu/about/departments-and-executive-agencies/regional-and-urban-policy/green-line-regulation_en.

⁴⁰ *U.S. Department of State*, history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1964-68v16/d155.



negotiations regarding Cyprus. So it did not alleviate the situation and was completely unsuccessful.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Creation of two separate sovereign states

This proposed solution calls for the creation of two separate sovereign states. In other words, the now illegally occupied area of Northern Cyprus and the area of the Republic of Cyprus would be declared as two separate, both legal sovereign states. Through this solution, both would acquire separate governments, constitutions and legal systems and would both be able to peacefully coexist, without bearing the burden of having to cooperate, which in the past has been deemed unsuccessful. This could be a potential long lasting solution that could have many benefits for the both communities involved. What has been noticed in the past is that both nations that inhabit the island have a fear of the other assuming more power and overthrowing the other. So with this solution the two would just have to co-inhabit the island in a way that does not require a shared government or any cooperation.

Creation of a shared government and constitution for both sides of the island

Another possible solution that could solve the situation in Cyprus is the creation of a shared government and a constitution for both sides of the island. What this solution would do is that it would basically create an environment where both communities would be equal. In the parliament there would be an equal number of politicians of both sides, every time that there would be an election the ethnicity of the president and vice president would change, meaning that the president would be a Greek Cypriot and the vice president a Turkish Cypriot and they would “take turns”. Until it would be deemed that this solution was working, the UN would be actively involved, through the creation of a new peacekeeping mission. When it would be deemed that the government was working the UN would not be as involved and the island could go back to the way that things were before. The issue with this solution is, that due to the history of the two communities, it is uncertain that the politicians and the inhabitants would be able to exist and co-operate peacefully together.

Creation of mechanism that monitors the situation between the two sides

Essentially, with this solution the UN would create a mechanism that would monitor the living situation on the island and the way that its citizens cooperated. This mechanism would aim for better cooperation between the two communities, while also would improve the living conditions and the things that made the lives of its citizens hard. At its core, this solution would try to solve the issues that could be happening on the island and that would reduce the hardships of the population.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

General Bibliography

Cyprus - Mediterranean, Conflict, Independence | *Britannica*,
www.britannica.com/place/Cyprus/History

“Annan Plan Cyprus.” *Model Diplomat*, modeldiplomat.com/learn/glossary/annan-plan-cyprus.

“Cyprus under the Ottoman Empire.” *The Island of Cyprus*, 7 Dec. 2023,
theislandofcyprus.com/ottoman-empire

“Cyprus Profile - Timeline.” *BBC News*, BBC, 17 Oct. 2022,
www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17219505.

Guerrilla Warfare | Facts, Definition, & Examples | *Britannica*,
www.britannica.com/topic/guerrilla-warfare.

What Caused the Division of the Island of Cyprus? | *IWM*,
www.iwm.org.uk/history/cold-war/end-of-empire/what-caused-the-division-of-the-island-of-cyprus
S.

Coup Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/coup.

Revpacman, Author:, et al. “Cyprus Independence Day.” *revPACman*, 1 Oct. 2024,
revpacman.com/2024/10/01/cyprus-independence-day/.

“Cyprus Gains Independence: History: Research Starters: EBSCO Research.” *EBSCO*,
www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/cyprus-gains-independence.

“Military Junta.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/military-junta.

“Court Orders Turkey to Pay Cyprus over 1974 Invasion | CBC News.” *CBCnews*, CBC/Radio Canada, 12 May 2014,
www.cbc.ca/news/world/turkey-ordered-to-pay-cyprus-135m-over-1974-invasion-1.2639969..

“Cyprus Becomes a British Crown Colony: History: Research Starters: EBSCO Research.” *EBSCO*, www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/cyprus-becomes-british-crown-colony.

“Declaration of Independence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.” *Groklopedia*,
groklopedia.com/page/Declaration_of_Independence_of_the_Turkish_Republic_of_Northern_Cyprus.



C.anno. "The Unresolved Cyprus Problem." *Le Petit Juriste*, 28 Apr. 2016, www.lepetitjuriste.fr/the-unresolved-cyprus-problem/.

"About the Buffer Zone: United Nations Peace Operations." *UNFICYP*, United Nations Peace Operations, 22 Nov. 2025, unficy.org/en/about-buffer-zone.

Cyprus: The Island Rebound - International Finance Magazine, internationalfinance.com/magazine/economy-magazine/cyprus-the-island-rebound/.

*Banking Crisis in Cyprus: Causes, Consequences and Recent Developments**, sites.uwasa.fi/mfjuva/wp-content/blogs.dir/4/files/sites/231/2025/02/MJ0p1dg2hfl4fdhu1i4g1a4vu441ejj4.pdf.

Religion, Politics and Ethnicity in Cyprus during The ..., www.um.edu.mt/library/oar/bitstream/123456789/24558/1/European_Journal_of_Sociology_Religion_p.pdf.

The Involvement of Cyprus during Greek Independence – Cypriot Society & Culture, cypriotsocietyandculture.wordpress.com/the-involvement-of-cyprus-in-greek-independence/.

Russo-Turkish Wars | Causes, Consequences & Impact | Britannica, www.britannica.com/topic/Russo-Turkish-wars.

U.S. Department of State, history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1964-68v16/d155.

Ellis, Tom. "Progress on Cyprus, but Should Turkey Hold the Key?" *eKathimerini.Com*, 30 July 2026, www.ekathimerini.com/opinion/1310988/progress-on-cyprus-but-should-turkey-hold-the-key/.

Crown Colony | Encyclopedia.Com, www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/crown-colony.

Securitycouncilreport, www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Cyprus%20S21183.pdf.

Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian, history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/nato.

EOKA | Greek Cypriot, Nationalist Movement, Armed Struggle | Britannica, www.britannica.com/topic/EOKA.

Taksim, [gropedia.com/page/Taksim_\(politics\)](http://gropedia.com/page/Taksim_(politics)).

An Island Divided: Next Steps for Troubled Cyprus | *International Crisis Group*,
www.crisisgroup.org/rpt/europe-central-asia/western-europemediterranean/cyprus/268-island-divided-next-steps-troubled-cyprus.

About the Buffer Zone | *UNFICYP*, unficyc.unmissions.org/en/about-buffer-zone.

Unficyc History | *United Nations Peace Operations*, unficyc.unmissions.org/en/unficyc-history.

War-Split Cyprus on Edge as Turkey Reels in Crisis | *Reuters*,
www.reuters.com/article/world/war-split-cyprus-on-edge-as-turkey-reels-in-crisis-idUSKCN1020X7/.

Cyprus Conflict: Key Issues on 50th Anniversary of Turkish Invasion | *Reuters*,
www.reuters.com/world/europe/what-are-key-issues-cyprus-conflict-50-years-since-invasion-2024-07-18/.

Official UK-Cyprus Joint Statement,
assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6761a7f726a2d1ff182534be/UK-Cyprus_Joint_Statement.pdf.

Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) - Oxford Public International Law,
opil.ouplaw.com/display/10.1093/law-epil/9780199231690/law-9780199231690-e2261.

Delivering on EU Support for a Cyprus Settlement: Legacy and Vision - European Commission,
commission.europa.eu/publications/delivering-eu-support-cyprus-settlement-legacy-and-vision_en

Declaration of Independence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus — *Grokikipedia*,
grokipedia.com/page/Declaration_of_Independence_of_the_Turkish_Republic_of_Northern_Cyprus

“Green Line Regulation.” European Commission,
commission.europa.eu/about/departments-and-executive-agencies/regional-and-urban-policy/green-line-regulation_en.

Cyprus and the European Union | *University of Nicosia Library*,
www.library.unic.ac.cy/cyprus-and-european-union.

Enosis Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/enosis.

“Zurich Agreement.” Zurich Agreement,
tc-america.org/issues-information/zurich-agreement-85.htm.

Albás, Jan Gallemí. “EU-NATO Cooperation on the Cyprus Conflict. Global Affairs. University of Navarra.” *Global Affairs and Strategic Studies*,
en.unav.edu/web/global-affairs/eu-nato-cooperation-on-the-cyprus-conflict.



“Regulation - 1998/2006 - En - EUR-Lex.” *EUR*, eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1998/oj/eng.

Media Bibliography

Take Me to Europe | Small-Group Europe Archaeology & History Tours,
takemetoeuropetours.com/.