

■ **When did Turkish rule begin in the Island of Cyprus?**

The Island of Cyprus became Ottoman territory in 1571 and remained under Ottoman Turkish rule for 307 years until 1878.

Since the Ottoman period, two ethnic peoples have existed in Cyprus, namely the Turkish Cypriot people – descendants of the Ottoman Turks from mainland Türkiye, who settled in the island following their conquest of the island, and the Greek Cypriot people –members of the Greek Orthodox community hailing from the Byzantine period. Under the Ottoman “Millet” system, the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots lived in peace and harmony, despite their differences in terms of ethnicity, religion, language and culture.

Under the 1878 Cyprus Convention, Britain took over the administration of Cyprus although the island remained under Ottoman sovereignty. In 1914, the island was unilaterally annexed by Great Britain when the Ottoman Empire entered the First World War on the side of the Central Powers. In 1925, Cyprus was formally declared a Crown Colony.



■ **How was the 1960 Republic of Cyprus established?**

Although the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots peacefully co-existed under Ottoman administration, their relationship deteriorated following the take-over of the island by Great Britain, as the Greek Cypriot community campaigned for the union of Cyprus with Greece (Enosis). This campaign was fully aided and abetted by Greece as part of its “Megali Idea” (the Grand Ideal) ideology. An underground organization named EOKA was established on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1955 to achieve Enosis. EOKA reigned terror and violence against everyone – British soldiers, Turkish Cypriots and even some Greek Cypriots—who stood in the way of Enosis. In response to this grave threat to their

very existence, Turkish Cypriots defended themselves demanding their own share of the island under the slogan Taksim (partition).

As part of its decolonization policy, Great Britain decided to relinquish its sovereignty over the island (except for two military bases) and the partnership Republic of Cyprus was born in 1960. This was a partnership between the Turkish Cypriot people and Greek Cypriot people, established by the agreements of London and Zurich. Attached to the 1960 Constitution were the Treaties of Establishment, Alliance and Guarantee. The legitimacy of the 1960 Republic rested in the joint presence and effective participation of both peoples as political equals. According to the Constitution, neither of the partners had the right to represent or act on behalf of the other, or Cyprus as a whole.



The Treaty of Alliance provided for the stationing of Turkish and Greek troops in Cyprus in agreed numbers. Under the Treaty of Guarantee, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and Greece became Guarantor Powers with the right and obligation to undertake concerted or unilateral action, if the state of affairs created by these Agreements was breached.

■ **When and by whom was the 1960 Republic of Cyprus destroyed?**

The 1960 Partnership Republic could only last for three years, as the Greek Cypriot side refused to abandon its ultimate goal of Enosis. In 1963, it first proposed amendments to the Constitution aimed at relegating the Turkish Cypriot partner to the status of a “minority”. When the Turkish Cypriots rejected this unilateral attempt, the Greek Cypriot side put into force the notorious Akritas Plan (published as a UN document (A/33/115) which envisaged the total annihilation or suppression of the Turkish Cypriot people, with mass killings, displacement, destruction and oppression, squeezing the Turkish Cypriot population to a mere 3% of the island, until 1974.

Parallel to this violence, The Greek Cypriot side expelled the Turkish Cypriot partner by force of arms from all State organs, monopolizing the government. Thus, between

1963-1974, the Turkish Cypriots underwent untold suffering, discrimination and oppression at the hands of the Greek Cypriots, who were bent on materializing union with Greece, at the expense of the Turkish Cypriots. Türkiye, as a Guarantor, awaited patiently, hoping the bloodshed would stop and a negotiated settlement would be found. These hopes and expectations were dashed as the military junta ruling Greece since 1967, decided to launch a bloody coup *d'état* in order to expedite the achievement of Enosis.

■ **What, then, is the Cyprus issue?**

It will be seen from the above that the Cyprus issue started in December 1963, not in 1974 as the Greek Cypriot side claims, with the usurpation of the 1960 partnership Republic by the Greek Cypriot partner by force of arms.

The Turkish Cypriot people, rejecting this attempted take-over of the bi-national partnership Republic, put up a strong resistance and prevented the Greek Cypriot leadership from extending its authority over them. Since the deliberate destruction of the partnership Republic in 1963, there has not been a single constitutional government or administration representing both peoples of the island and each side has been governing itself.

In the wake of the coup *d'état* carried out by the Greek junta in Athens and its collaborators in Cyprus aimed at annexing the Island to Greece, Türkiye had to intervene in 1974 in accordance with its rights and obligations under the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960. Even though the Greek Cypriot side continues to distort the tragic events that preceded Türkiye’s intervention, none of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Cyprus refer to the rightful and legitimate intervention by Türkiye as “invasion” or the continued presence of the Turkish forces on the island to deter the recurrence of Greek Cypriot atrocities as “occupation”.

Since their expulsion from the partnership Republic in 1963, the democratic evolution of the successive



administrations of the Turkish Cypriot people, who had been governing themselves in their own areas, continued culminating in the proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) on 15 November 1983, as an independent State.



■ **When and why did UNFICYP (United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus) deploy in the island?**

In the face of the atrocities committed against the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriot side, the United Nations Security Council decided to deploy a Peacekeeping Force to the island. However, Security Council Resolution 186 of 4 March 1964, by referring to the “Government of Cyprus”, led to the treatment of only one side, namely the Greek Cypriot side, as if it were the legitimate “Government of Cyprus”. The situation arising from this wrong diagnosis is the main cause of the continuation of the Cyprus issue until today.

Despite its reporting and humanitarian functions, UNFICYP was not successful in stopping the mass attacks



**FACTS ON THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS (TRNC)**

**Established on:** 15 November 1983  
**President:** Ersin Tatar  
**Regime:** Parliamentary Democracy, Secular Republic  
**Location:** TRNC is the northern part of the Island of Cyprus which is located in the Eastern Mediterranean.  
**Area:** TRNC 3,248 km2(whole Island 9,251 km2)  
**Neighbours:** Türkiye, 65 km to the north; Syria, 112 km to the east; Israel, 267 km to the east; Egypt, 418 km to the south; Greece, 965 km to the west and the Greek Cypriot administration at the south of the border.  
**Climate:** Mediterranean (long dry summers and short rainy winters). The average annual temperature is 19°C.  
**Demography:** Turkish Cypriots: %95, British, Greek Cypriots, Europeans, Maronites, Armenians, Russians & others: %5  
**Religion:** Muslim  
**Language:** Turkish (English is widely spoken)  
**Capital:** Lefkoşa (North Nicosia)  
**Currency:** Turkish Lira ₺  
**Traffic:** On the left.  
**Calling Code:** +90 392  
**Electricity:** 220/240 Volts A/C. 50Hz. Three pin British plug.  
**District Administrations**  
**Lefkoşa:** Main administration and business center.  
**Gazimağusa:** Centre for tourism, industry and commerce with the main trade port.  
**Girne:** Tourism center with holiday resorts and yacht harbour.  
**Güzelyurt:** Citrus production, agriculture and natural beauties.  
**İskele:** Golden beaches, five star touristic hotels and agriculture.  
**Lefke:** Agriculture and historical places.  
**Population:** 382,836 / TRNC Statistical Institute (December 2021)



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on, or massacres of, the Turkish Cypriot population between 1963 and 1974.

In fact, some of the darkest days in the history for the Turkish Cypriot people were unfortunately in the presence of UNFICYP. It is in fact not the presence of UNFICYP on the island which has prevented recurrence of bloodshed, but that of the Turkish Peace Force as an effective deterrent. This force is the guarantee of peace and stability not only for the Turkish Cypriot people, but for the island as a whole.

■ **What is the unjust isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people?**

Ever since the destruction of the 1960 Partnership Republic, the Turkish Cypriot people have been prevented from exercising their basic human rights deriving from principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without any meaningful or tenable explanation much less justification.

Hiding behind the unlawful claim that it is the legitimate “Government of Cyprus” and with the acquiescence of the international community, the Greek Cypriot side instigates or directly undertakes measures of isolation and restrictions against the Turkish Cypriot people, preventing them from enjoying their most basic rights.

The all-encompassing isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriots ranges from the denial of the Turkish Cypriot people’s right to representation in international fora (e.g. the Turkish Cypriot people are prevented from representing themselves at international institutions like the United Nations and/or its affiliated organs); the prevention or restriction of their travel abroad (e.g. no direct flights, travel documents not accepted) and their communication with the outside world (e.g. no direct posts or and telecommunications); the hindrance of trade and tourism with the outside world, and the hampering of all cultural and sporting relations of the Turkish Cypriot people with other countries (e.g. Turkish Cypriot people are prevented from participating in international cultural and sporting



events such as the Olympics, Eurovision, FIFA and UEFA activities).

The continuation of the isolation is also unjustified in view of the political will displayed by the Turkish Cypriot side in terms of a negotiated settlement in Cyprus throughout the 50 years of negotiations, as evidenced most notably in 2004, and at the end of the process which had started in 2008, collapsing in 2017 at the Cyprus Conference, in Crans-Montana Switzerland, due to Greek Cypriot intransigence. Successive UN reports attest to the fact that there is no justification for the continuation of these measures of isolation.

■ **Why has the search for “a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation” failed?**

The main reasons behind the repeated failures of the negotiations in search of a federal settlement in Cyprus are:



- The Greek Cypriot side’s intransigence emanating from their treatment as the sole legitimate government on the island while not acknowledging the equal sovereign rights of the Turkish Cypriot side.
- Hence, their refusal to share power and wealth with the Turkish Cypriots on the basis of genuine equality.
- The Greek Cypriot leadership’s ideology that Cyprus is an integral part of Hellenism. Greek Cypriot leaders are on record stating: “Cyprus has always been a Hellenic island.”
- Lack of confidence between the two sides -- an essential element for federations.
- Lack of a spirit of cooperation between the two sides.
- The Greek Cypriot leadership’s persistence on the isolation on the Turkish Cypriot side.
- The Greek Cypriot campaign to whitewash or conceal their atrocities against the Turkish Cypriot people between 1963-74 and their unfounded claim that the Cyprus problem started in 1974.

■ **What is the vision of the TRNC State regarding the settlement of the Cyprus issue?**

After spending over 5 decades at the Cyprus negotiations, much of it conducted on the basis of a “bi-zonal and bi-communal federation” based on political equality, the Turkish Cypriot side declared that the time had come for a new policy which would be more realistic and sustainable.

Following the collapse of the Cyprus conference (5+UN) in Crans-Montana in July 2017, as a result of the continuing rejectionist stance of the Greek Cypriot side, the Turkish Cypriot side tabled its new vision at the Cyprus talks held in Geneva in April 2021, with the firm belief that the type of negotiations that would bring results can only be between the two existing States on the island, based on their sovereign equality and equal international status.

The Turkish Cypriot people are asking for the formal recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the acknowledgement of their inherent rights, namely the sovereign equality and equal international status of the Turkish Cypriot State.



As our firm supporter and voice in the international arena, President of the Republic of Türkiye, H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made a historic speech at the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 20 September 2022, calling on the international community to put an end to the unjust persecution of the Turkish Cypriot People who are being isolated from the rest of the world with restrictions which clearly run counter to United Nations principles, and to formally recognize the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

President of the TRNC H.E. Mr. Ersin Tatar expressing his gratitude to President Erdoğan for this historic call, stated that; “it is the first time the issue of formal recognition

of the TRNC has been brought before the international community at the United Nations... I sincerely hope that the international community will listen to President Erdoğan on the matter, and the door is opened for the TRNC to reach the place it deserved in the international arena, free from isolation and restrictions.”



H.E. Mr. Tahsin Ertuğruloğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the TRNC, welcomed President Erdoğan’s call during his speech at the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation in New York on 22 September 2022. Foreign Minister Ertuğruloğlu stated that the Turkish Cypriot people are asking for the formal recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the acknowledgement of their inherent rights, namely the sovereign equality and equal international status of the Turkish Cypriot State. He emphasized that the Cyprus issue is an issue of status and only negotiations between sovereign equals have any chance of success.

In November 2022, the TRNC was admitted to the Organization of Turkic States as an Observer Member. Foreign Minister Ertuğruloğlu emphasized that; “obtaining observer status at an international organization with our Constitutional name, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, for the first time, is a confirmation of the fact that the new vision put forward by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus together with full support of the Republic of Türkiye, based on two sovereign States in Cyprus is rightful, realistic, sustainable and in harmony with the regional and global circumstances.”



# Cyprus

## “One Island Two States”



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