

Forum: United Nations Security Council

Issue: The agency and self-determination of Turkish and Greek-speaking communities in Cyprus

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Introduction



Map of Cyprus



Cyprus is the third-largest island located in the East Mediterranean Sea, with an area of 9251 km². The region's sea-wide neighbors are Türkiye with a 54 km distance, Syria with a 112 km distance, Lebanon with a 162 km distance, Israel with a 267 km distance, Egypt with a 418 km distance, and Greece with a 965 km distance.

The island's total population is approximately 1.4 million, with two separate states: the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) and the Republic of Cyprus (RoC). %36 of the island belongs to the TRNC, and %64 belongs to the RoC. Besides these two states, there is a "UN Buffer Zone," which covers 180 kilometers across the island. Following this, there are also 2 military bases under the United Kingdom's jurisdiction on the island that have been established and operational since the implementation of the "Treaty of Nicosia" in 1960.

Throughout history, Cyprus has always been in a strategic position for controlling the Eastern Mediterranean Sea and has rich soil because of the resources it consists of. With these elements, the island has caught the attention of different states and caused conflicts. The history of the island clearly shows the rivalry between states for the occupation of the island, such as Roman-Egyptian, Byzantine-Caliphate, Ottoman-Venetian, and lastly, Turkish-Greek conflicts. Moreover, with the island being under the different rules of the states, the region has enriched cultures, different religions, and ethnicities.

Since the 19th century, tensions in the area have been rising, and a competent solution has not been implanted. These tensions have promoted unrest and brought third-party involvement, which has delayed peace and possible collaboration between the residents. Moreover, the island has been withdrawn into a complicated power struggle and awaits applicable solutions. This responsibility falls under the United Nations Security Council. It is essential to increase diplomatic efforts since history shows military intervention is not a solution, and collaboration is necessary in order to cease the tensions and enhance the sufficiency of representation for the residents.



Definition of Key Terms

Self-proclamation : It is a term used for expressing a title, position, or independence recognized by only the proclaiming body and not by any legal authority. This term is used for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus since it is only recognized by Turkey.

Buffer Zone: An area or a line governed and inspected by a third party used for dividing regions to cease harm, tensions, or hostility. A "UN buffer zone" was established in 1964 and still exists, dividing the northern and southern parts of the island. The buffer zone is under the governance of UNFICYP.

Federalism/Federal Settlement: It is a governmental structure that combines an overarching government (national) and a provincial government (sub-national) in the same region. In this system, political authority, responsibility, and power are divided by a constitution, which is allocated separately between these two governments. The overarching government has the authority to make national-wide decisions. However, provincial governments have independent status regarding their internal decisions. This system is mostly used by states that consist of different cultures, languages, and ethnicities within their territory. The United States of America, India, Canada, the Russian Federation, and the Swiss Confederation are the countries that are known for using this system.

Two-State Solution: It is a solution that consists of two independent states over a region. These independent states are not linked to each other in any way. In this



system, residents of both states elect their own presidents, constitutions, and members of their assembly. This solution is used for regions that have been affected or are being affected by border disputes. A well-known example of this solution is the "Two-State Solution" for the Palestinian-Israeli region.

Systemic Discrimination: Systemic discrimination occurs in organizations, states, and systems that prioritize one group over another. This can be seen in different bodies, such as the enforcement of laws, education, health, employment, and the constitution. This type of discrimination is backed by governmental structures and enhances the unrest within the region. It can be seen between regions that have different ethnicities while having a non-neutral government towards their residents. As an example of this, the situation in the USA can be shown. Until recent times, Afro-Americans were deprived of many rights, such as not being allowed to eat at the same lounge, work in the same place with other citizens, use the same restrooms, and get an equal payment with the other citizens.

Enosis: It is a movement for the unification of the Aegean (13 islands) and Cyprus submitted to Greece. This movement has parted ways in Cyprus and created unrest within the republic. It consisted of Greek nationalism.

Taksim Movement: A movement of the Turkish Cypriots supporting the division of the island and the two-state solution as a response to the enosis movement. It consisted of Turkish nationalism.

Bases of Akrotiri and Dhekelia: These are the military bases under the UK's jurisdiction and authority in the region of Cyprus.

EOKA: It is a paramilitary organization that aims to achieve "Enosis" in Cyprus. The organization fought against British governance at first. However, once Cyprus gained independent status, their actions turned against the Turkish minorities. The organization had strong ties with the Greek government.



TMT: A paramilitary organization established against the activities of EOKA in Cyprus. The organization supported British governance against enosis ideals, which made it an enemy of EOKA. The organization had strong ties with the Turkish government.

The 13 Amendments: Amendments that were proposed by President Makarios to the Republic of Cyprus. The amendments were in favor of removing the laws that separated the governmental bodies between the two communities because of "inefficient governmental functions." The amendments were also in favor of changing the proportions of Turkish Cypriots in governmental bodies to be directly proportional to their population in the region. The veto powers of the President and Vice President were to be abolished by modifying their election method, electing them from the whole Hall of Representatives instead of electing them separately by both communities. This amendment was heavily rejected by the Turkish community and the Vice President. By changing the constitution, the influence of the Turkish Cypriots was to be reduced according to their population on the island.

The Greek Junta : It was a right-wing, nationalism-based military dictatorship that ruled Greece between 1968 and 1974. A group of colonels removed the temporary government one month before the scheduled elections. The dictatorship was known for its anti-communism, against civil liberty, tortures, imprisonments, and most importantly, its influence on EOKA. The Greek Junta had vital relations with the organization as most of the officers were placed in the Greek Army to train militias on the island. One of the most-known officers who had been assigned to the region by the Junta was Yeoryos Grivas, the founder and leader of EOKA.

Background Information

Status of Cyprus before the British occupation:



From the early stages of world history, Cyprus became a valuable territory because of its rich copper reserves and natural ports. These aspects made the island a vital trade center for the Mediterranean Sea. According to the resources, the first country to claim Cyprus was the Assyrian Empire (1500 BCE). With time passing, Greek immigration to the island can be seen around 1200–1100 BCE, after the collapse of the Mycenaen civilization. Since the dawn of the first millennium BCE, Greek culture has influenced the island, as Greek has become the primary language on the island and signs of Greek pottery, art, and poetry have started to be seen. Once the Assyrian Empire fell, Egypt took over the island (7th BCE). However, a dominant Egyptian influence did not partake in the island, making residents keep their Greek culture. After 200 years, Cypriot kings have shifted their allegiance to the Persian Empire. The island kept its sovereignty until the end of the 5th century BCE. With the Persian Empire occupying the island, the Cypriot kings started revolts between the fourth and third centuries BCE. These revolts were not successful until the victory of the Macedonian Emperor Great Alexander over the Persians. The Cypriot kings assisted Alexander in his fight, and as a result, their independence was guaranteed. Between the fourth and third centuries BCE, the Attic influence on the island was enhanced by Cypriot kings supporting pro-Hellenistic ideas. After Alexander, the island became a target for Egypt again, and a fight broke out between the nations. Cyprus was ruled under Egyptian governance until the first century BCE. The Roman Empire conquered the island and governed it until the division of the Empire. During this period, Cypriots had a peaceful life and focused on developing the island. Moreover, the first signs of Christianity started to be seen, and it quickly became the predominant religion on the island. With the division of the Roman Empire (395 AD), Cyprus was claimed by Byzantium. In the 7th century, a fight between the Caliphate and Byzantium started and eventually made the island a joint dominion between the nations. Until the 9th century, the status of the island remained the same before the Byzantine proclamation of the island. Meanwhile, Byzantium arts and culture grew in the area and made countless artworks. In the 12th century, there was a disagreement



between Byzantium and the forces of the Crusader King Richard. As a result, the island was occupied by the Crusader forces and became the subject of the Lusignan kingdom. With the fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem, crusader lords retreated to Cyprus and used it as a military base against the Muslims for two hundred years. In this period, the island gained a reputation in Europe for attracting merchants and the ports it contained, which made the island more valuable. Under power rivalries in the Mediterranean Sea, Genoese forces occupied the island and governed it for a century. In 1426, with the help of the Egyptian forces, Genoese forces got kicked out of the island, and Lusignan rule was established again. After the establishment of the new rule, the Lusignan king married a Venetian noblewoman. This increased the Venetian influence on the island, and eventually, the island became a subject under it. For 82 years, the island remained under the Venetians. In 1570, a Turkish invading force conquered the island from the Venetians and established a new government. The Ottomans have empowered the Orthodox Church over the Latin Church on the island. Archbishops were made responsible for the collection of taxes. Following the conquest, thousands of Muslim settlers started to settle down on the island. As time passes, unrest on the island has started to take place between the locals and Turkish residents. Cypriot archbishops were suspected of sympathizing with Greek rebels against the Ottoman Empire. The situation brought several uprisings in the 18th and 19th centuries. Until 1878, Cyprus remained under Ottoman rule. In 1878, a convention between Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire commenced. Cyprus remained under Turkish sovereignty and was administered by the British government.

British occupation on the island:

After the Cyprus Convention between the Ottomans and Great Britain, Cyprus became a forward military base for the British forces regarding further operations in the regions of Caucasus and Mesopotamia. With the Great War starting, the Ottoman Empire and Great Britain became rivals and fought each other. After the declaration



of war, British forces annexed the island. In 1923, the Treaty of Lausanne was signed between the Republic of Türkiye and Great Britain which made Türkiye recognize the British occupation. After two years, Cyprus was declared as a "Crown Colony". Under British governance, there was no significant opposition initially. Greek residents of the island expected that the island would be subjected to Greece. However, with time passed, their expectancy evolved into a demand for "enosis". This was mainly opposed by the Turkish residents of the island which increased the tensions in the island. In 1931, riots started to commence for enosis in the city of Nicosia. In the years of the Second World War, the island did not take any major damage besides minor air raids. In 1947, the governor of the island proposed proposals for better "self-governance". Despite that, they were rejected under the slogan of "Enosis and only Enosis". In 1955 to obtain the goal of enosis, a para-military group named "National Organization of Cypriot Struggle" (EOKA) was formed under Lieutenant Colonel Georgias Grivas. The organization commenced bombings of public buildings, shootings, and assassinations which increased public disorder. As a total number, 204 armed attacks took apart under EOKA. Members of the EOKA were hiding in the mountainous regions of the island and endorsing guerilla warfare. British government replaced the governor in 1956 and created new plans for dealing with the enosis movement. The local police force in Cyprus had five thousand members normally and the number of policemen was proportional to the demography of the ethnicities. However, after the EOKA movements, the number of Turkish Cypriots dramatically increased with a 4 to 1 proportion compared to the Greek Cypriots. The British government decided to use Turkish-originated Cypriots in the first line against the EOKA movement which increased the rivalry of the two communities. In this era, the British government expelled individuals who were linked with EOKA and its operations. One of them is the ethnarch Makarios who is a vital public figure for the Greek Cypriots. With these efforts, the EOKA attacks were lowered for a short amount of time. However, the movement remained still.

Establishment and organization of the Republic:



In the late 1950s tensions between the communities of Turkish and Greek Cypriots were enhanced because of the enosis movement and with each day passing the situation on the island was getting complex. The matter has brought Türkiye and Greece as rivals and increased the tensions. For the Turkish Cypriots, subjection to Greece was not acceptable at all and for the Greek side enosis was the only way. After 6 years of EOKA activities, the Turkish side decided to establish the Turkish Resistance Organization (TMT). Because of the political controversy, both organizations fought against each other. In 1957, Turkish Cypriots demanded either partition or retrocession to Türkiye against the enosis threat. UN mediation attempts were commenced, however they were unsuccessful. Despite this in 1959; a convention in Zürich took place. Türkiye and Greece reached an agreement about the status of the island. Later in the same month, the UK hosted a Londra conference inviting Turkish and Greek communities in Cyprus. Thanks to these efforts a treaty was ready to be signed between the parties. With the Treaty of Nicosia Cyprus became an independent state while having the UK, Türkiye, and Greece as guarantors. The 2 military bases of Akroriti and Dhekalia remained under British governance and sovereignty. A "joint good office" was established in Nicosia between the nations of the UK, Greece, and Türkiye. Türkiye and Greece were granted the right to present a "peacekeeper force" on the island. A constitution for Cyprus was made which allocated %70 percent of the seats to the Greek Cypriots and %30 to the Turkish ones. The regime in the republic was a republican system, which gave veto powers to the president and the vice president. Makarios became the republic's first president with Küçük becoming the vice president. The Council of Ministers was divided into 7 Greek Cypriots and 3 Turkish Cypriots. In the House of Representatives, Turkish candidates were elated separately from the others. The House could not modify the basic articles of the constitution and any change in the laws required a third of the representatives which made it impossible for an ethnic group to pass a bill on their own. The supreme judicial organs of the nation were equally divided between Turkish and Greek-originated judges. However, the origins



of the judges did not matter in any case regarding the previous regime and the republican regime. Separate Turkish and Greek Communal Chambers were allocated regarding the matters of religion, education, culture, sports, charities, and credit societies, personal status with having administrative and legislative authority. Following this, separate municipalities for both communities were envisaged in the five major cities of the island. At the time, the Turkish Cypriot population was one-fifth of the island. Collaboration between the two communities was improved by creating a joint military force, police force, and civil services. Turkish held %40 population of the police forces and army; and %30 for posts in civil services. Division of the governmental bodies was efficient in creating a collaborative atmosphere between both communities. However, it was expensive for some topics. In towns that had a minor population, the separation of the services did not work efficiently and had troubles. This inter-communal system continued for three years without having any major challenges.



A picture of President Makarios and Vice President Fazıl Küçük

Disagreements between the communities:

In 1963, there was a vital disagreement between both communities which increased



the tensions. The 13 Amendments, proposed by President Makarios were strongly rejected by the Turkish Cypriots as they were against a minority-majority status in the island. With tensions being high, clashes between the communities started in late 1963. Turkish peacekeeping forces on the island left their post and took positions in Northern Nicosia where disturbances had been taking place. On the following day, the Cyprus government charged Türkiye for flying their warplanes at tree level over Cyprus. On the same day, there were reports about naval movements across the Türkiye's southern coasts. Despite these actions, the United Kingdom, Greece, and Türkiye offered help in order to establish peace in the region. The government of Cyprus accepted this offer and a joint peacekeeping force was established between Türkiye, Greece, and the UK. These actions had been already justified according to the Treaty of Nicosia which proves there were no actions against international law. This joint force was under the British Command and consisted of soldiers who were already on the island. Peace in the region was established 4 days later. Between the parties, the establishment of a neutral zone along the ceasefire was decided. This zone was called as "green line" between the areas occupied by both parties. British forces were tasked with guarding this line and establishing order within. Later on, a conference was decided to partake with the attendance of both communities and the protecting states (UK, Greece, Türkiye). These actions were also reported to the UNSC by the UK's permanent member of the Council. An observer for the peacekeeping operation on the island would be appointed by the Secretary-General requested by the parties. After this request, the Secretary-General appointed a personal representative for the observation. The UK hosted a conference with both representatives of the communities on the island, however, there couldn't be any agreement on the situation. Meanwhile, the intercommunal fight was enhanced and there were a significant amount of reports consisting: of hostages, shootings, assassinations, kidnappings, and casualties. President Makarios was also involved in the Enosis campaign. These events affected the government's functions and the communities separated more. There were also fears of a military intervention from Greece and Türkiye. Many innocent people



suffered and were displaced because of the fights. Underground organizations increased their influence on the island and they were backed by

The path to the military intervention:

In 1967, both Greece and Türkiye brought officers to the island to train the local militia for the intercommunal fights. In the same year, the most severe attack on the Turkish community took place leaving 27 deaths and villages that were raided. This resulted in an ultimatum sent to Greece by the Republic of Türkiye, consisting of a military intervention. The Greek Junta complied with the ultimatum by withdrawing their military personnel from the island. A temporary peace was established, however there were no talks between the communities. The political atmosphere on the island was severe since Makarios was involved in the Enosis campaign and Fazıl Küçük's support for the Taksim movement. In 1968 and 1971, Makarios won the general elections with an overwhelming majority. Attendance of the Turkish Cypriots was questionable at the elections. However, Makarios continued his presidency. During his presidency, he supported the independence of Cyprus more than a state that was influenced by external parties. Juntaists (ruling Greece at that time) and nationalists were not in favor of President Makarios's actions. There were two unsuccessful assassination attempts against the president. General Grivas, who was well sponsored by the Greek Junta, returned to Cyprus secretly and led operations of EOKA.

Military intervention on the island:

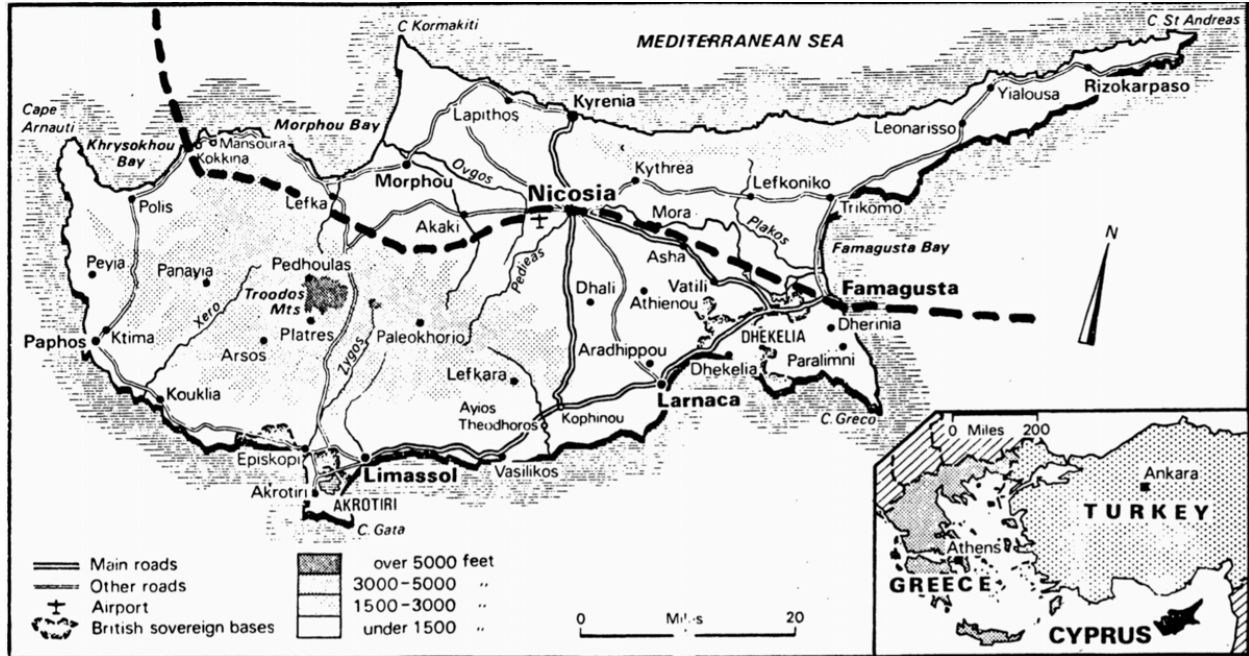
In 1974, there were five plans to overthrow the government in Cyprus had been prepared by the Greek Junta. Cypriot National Guard led by Greek Officers marched to the Presidential Palace in Nicosia. President Makarios escaped this attack narrowly and met with the British personnel on the island. He flew to London under the protection of the British Air Force. The government was replaced with far-right, Junta-supported politicians. Nikos Sampson became the new president after the



coup. A few days later, Makarios gave a speech for the Security Council in London. Stating that Cyprus was being invaded by Greece. Turkish and Greek villages were raided in this period under "searches for contrabands". As a response to these events, Türkiye decided to launch a military operation stating that the coup and the new regime were against the 1960 treaty. Turkish forces landed on the island and proceeded to advance. Brutal fights between the parties partook. Turkish forces succeed in linking the Turkish sector in Nicosia to their lines. 3 days after the Turkish intervention, the Greek Junta fell down on the mainland and a new democratic government was formed. Sampson was replaced with Clerides, who was the head of representatives, according to the absence of the president. Three guarantor states gathered in Geneva for discussions without reaching an agreement. However, the Turkish forces proceeded until mid-August. Because of the fights 150.000 Greek Cypriots (one-third of the total population) and 60.000 Turkish Cypriots were displaced and many of them were wounded. The effects of the conflict were severe and many of the roads, and logistic structures were damaged. After the events, Makarios returned to the island and continued his presidency. However, Turkish Cypriots and Türkiye lost their hope in the regime and divided the island. They claimed a Turkish Federated State with Rauf Denktash being the president. Since



that time boundaries between the parties have been known by the Atilla Line.



The Atilla Line

Proclamation and status of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC):

In 1983, all intercommunal talks were halted and a new state of TRNC was proclaimed by Denktash. The republic was only recognized by Türkiye since the military intervention was seen as a breach of international law by most of the countries. Following this, a constitution that strengthened parliamentary democracy was made for the new republic. Türkiye faced embargos of the western states after the intervention and they lasted for years. TRNC is still not recognized by any international body, with the southern region being recognized, and remains under the influence of Türkiye. United Nations Peacekeeping Forces still operate in the "Green Line". Alongside this; Türkiye has a military presence in the TRNC. Turkish Lira is the main currency of the republic. Topographically Northern Cyprus lacks clean water resources which makes the country buy external resources. Türkiye has changed this situation by connecting pipelines from their natural resources to the



island. Yearly 75 million meter cube of water gets transported from Türkiye to the region.

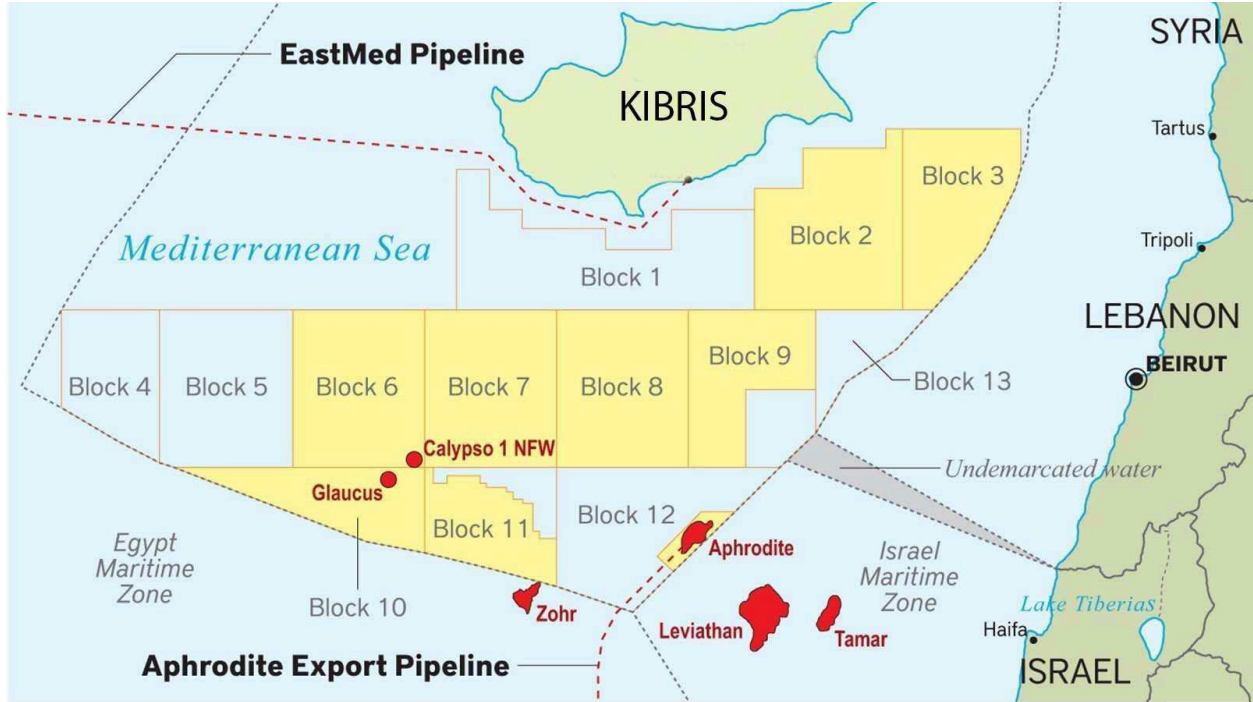


Map of the TRNC

Natural resources of Cyprus:

From the early stages of history, Cyprus was known for its copper resources. However, natural gas reserves have been the main point in recent times. Tensions are high between the East Mediterranean countries because of the reserves. According to international laws, it is specified how much sea border each country has. However, these laws could not solve the issue in the region because of the Aegen Islands and their unfunctional boundaries. The explored amount of gas is approximately 2 billion barrels, and according to the reports, there is potential for 5 billion barrels more to be discovered. Israel and Egypt were known as having major natural gas reserves. However, there are also new competitors in the region. In 2018, the Republic of Cyprus gave authorization to an Italian ship to commence a search of natural gas reserves. However, in block 3, there is a disagreement between the TRNC and the RoC about the boundaries. The Turkish Navy has been involved in the situation and has blocked the Italian ships from their operations.





Map of blocks that have natural gas in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Kingdom:

As mentioned in the background information part of the report. The United Kingdom is one of the major parties involved in the situation. They ruled the island from the end of the 19th century to the mid-20th century. During their occupation, the island was used for strategic military purposes. British officials created a local government as a Crown Colony, which consisted of both Turkish and Greek Cypriots. Even though there are disagreements about their neutrality between both communities, it can be said that there were no major events under their occupation. After the Treaty of Nicosia, the UK stayed on the island as a guarantor of power and worked to establish peace between the communities. Their presence at the Peacekeeping force before the UN Mandate, and their efforts in hosting conventions between the parties can be



examples of their peacebuilding efforts.

Republic of Cyprus:

Being the only internationally recognized state on the island, the Republic of Cyprus has a significant role. After its establishment in the '60s, RoC aimed to create a bi-zonal federation between the Turkish and Greek Cypriots. The first constitution of the republic was a great contribution to this cause and was welcomed by both communities for some time. As time passed, the external influence on the island got stronger alongside nationalism. The government had strong relationships with Greece and the Enosis campaign gained support from the Greek Community.. Attacks on the Turkish population occurred under the name of "incidents" and this resulted in the Turkish Community losing its trust in the government. In these times, the government's functionality and efforts to reduce the hatred between the communities are questionable. Eventually division of the island was not a surprise to both communities. Talks between TRNC and RoC were halted until the early 2000s. From the 2000s there were conferences between the two sides. However, their efficiency has not been proven. It is commonly said that RoC is in favor of a bi-zonal federation. However, in 2004 the Greek Cypriots rejected the Annan Plan for unifying the island. The politics of the country has changed according to new leaderships such as in recent years they have shown their support for creating a federative republic once again. The TRNC and RoC are having disagreements, especially on the topic of maritime boundaries and the use of natural sources. In recent years, the embargo, regarding the military equipment, on the island has been lifted by the USA. This act has once more increased the tensions in the region. RoC has cooperated with the UN in the peace talks and wishes to unify the island.

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus:

After the attacks against the Turkish Community and the proposal of the 13



Amendments Turkish Cypriots lost their trust in a unified island and supported the Taksim movement. TRNC had strong ties with Türkiye as their ethnicity was a bond-maker between the states. At the establishment of the TMT against EOKA movements, Turkish Cypriots were sponsored by Türkiye. After the Turkish intervention on the island, Turkish Cypriots established a de facto state with the help of Turkish officials. However, Türkiye was the only recognizer of the country. They did not hold any diplomatic talks with the RoC until the early 2000s. Different leaders partook in the country by changing the external politics of the government. From that time, both of the states agreed to commence talks but a solid solution is far to be reached. From the establishment of the republic to the modern times, the government has been under a Turkish influence. With having Turkish Lira as the currency of the republic this bond has been strengthened. TRNC approves the military presence of Türkiye on the island for protection measures. The government had significant economic, military, infrastructure, and logistic aid from Türkiye. Their support for the two-state solution is questionable because of the Turkish influence on the island, it is unsure that Turkish Cypriots can endorse the policies that they want. It can be seen in the voting of the "Annan Plan" in 2004 with having %65 of the Turkish Cypriots accepting the unification. However, in the recent time it can be seen that TRNC government is once more in support of a two-state solution. The government had disagreements with the RoC regarding maritime boundaries and the usage of natural resources. Another problem that the government faces is the major embargo put on itself by the international. The government faced trade bans which consisted of importation and exportation, and flight bans. This made the state vulnerable in the financials and dependent on Türkiye's aid. These issues have not ceased even in recent times and blocked further unification talks.

Türkiye:

As the remnant of the Ottoman Empire, Türkiye was also involved in the island's interior and external affairs. With a vital Turkish population on the island, it is no



surprise that Türkiye was one of the significant parties on the topic. It can be said that their influence on the island was enhanced from the early 1950s under President Adnan Menderes. Türkiye always had relations with the Turkish Community on the island by making official and unofficial visits, and presence of their officers and intelligence agency on the island. After the Enosis campaigns on the island, Türkiye was the main sponsor of the Taksim movement. Their alliance and support with the TMT is obvious and documented in reports. In the following years, especially "incidents" towards the Turkish Community were raised and as a response, Türkiye took the responsibility of protecting the Turkish Community. After the Greek Junta's coup against Makarios, Türkiye commenced a military invasion of the island for the "protection of the peace". Their actions are questionable under the International Laws and bodies. With being the only recognizer of the TRNC, Türkiye's influence on the island can not be negligible. In modern times, Türkiye and TRNC have close relationships, especially in maritime boundaries and the island's protection. Türkiye has 30.000 active soldiers on the island under the protection of the island. Also having TRNC's currency as Turkish Lira the relations are at a different level between the states.

Greece:

With the biggest amount of population on the island, Greece was also one of the major parties on the island. Their connection with the Greek Cypriots can not be neglected. They share the same language, culture, ethnicity, heritage, and religion. From the early stages of the history, they were active on the island. After the Second World War, political instability affected Greece. Major disputes between Left and right-wing parties commenced. After the establishment of the RoC, Greece also tried to increase its influence on the island under the Enosis Campaigns. Greece was the main sponsor of the movement and also the "shadow leader" of the EOKA organization. Many Greek officers were positioned on the island for training militias. Greece was one of the guarantor powers on the island after the Treaty of Nicosia. Tensions between Greece and Türkiye were high around the 70s because of the



political rivalry. Greece wishes to extend its presence on the Aegen Islands and the East Mediterranean Sea while having also Türkiye for wishing the same. In 1967, a coup commenced in Atina by far-right-sided Greek Colonels. In the leadership of this Junta, tensions in Cyprus were enhanced. The Greek Junta appointed commanders for the leadership of EOKA and increased their activity and attacks on the island. After the Turkish intervention on the island, a major "indirect fight" between Türkiye and Greece partook. As a result of the Turkish victory in the conflict, the Junta could not resist any more political pressure and fell apart. After the "Junta regime" a more democratic state was formed. Greece continued its relationship with the RoC by doing trade agreements, and military presence on the island. Greece has been the primary trade partner with the RoC since 2019 and supports it in the disagreement about the boundaries.

United Nations:

Before 1964, the UK held the role of being a mediator on the island. However, after the proposal of the 13 Amendments and increasing intercommunal conflicts UNSC has adopted a resolution for the situation on the island. It consisted of the "Green Line" as a buffer zone separating the two sectors in order to establish peace. In other words, the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). After the Turkish intervention on the island, UNSC tried to negotiate between the parties. However, they were unsuccessful. UNSC has condemned this intervention. A few years later TRNC was self-claimed by the Turkish Cypriots and was only recognized by Türkiye. UNSC rejected the establishment of the TRNC on their resolution 541. In 2004, the Annan Plan was prepared for unifying the island. The Plan was sent to the TRNC and the RoC for a voting procedure. Turkish Cypriots have accepted the plan with having %65 percent being in favor. On the other hand, Greek Cypriots rejected this plan having %75 against it. United Nations held the Crans Montana summit in 2017 to open the negotiations between the sides once more. However, it has failed to reach a solid solution because of the disagreements between the guarantor powers



on the island. UN appointed a special envoy on the island in 2014 to search for a common ground between the parties. In 2021, an informal summit was hosted by the special envoy and no common ground could be reached. From 1964 to this day, UNFICYP is operational and the division of the two sectors is still present. In the summer of 2023, discordance in the mixed village of Pyla/Pile commenced. The situation has challenged the authority of the UN Peacekeepers in their policing duties since both sides did not recognize them and the guideline that was prepared for maintaining peace in the Buffer Zone. In 2024, UNSC has extended the service time of the UNFICYP by one year and also called sides to cooperate with the personal envoy. Following this, the UNSC has also reaffirmed that a bi-zonal, bi-communal federative state was the basis for settlement.

Timeline of Events

4 June 1878	The Ottoman Empire gave access to the British forces to present on the island.
5 November 1914	British forces annexed the island.
6 August 1924	The Republic of Türkiye has accepted the British occupation of the island.



10 March 1925	Cyprus became a Crown Colony.
21 October 1931	Demand for Enosis led to riots against British governance.
28 April 1955	Establishment of EOKA.
9 March 1956	Exile of Makarios to Seychelles.
16 February 1957	Start of the Taksim movements.
14 March 1959	Return of Makarios to the island.
16 August 1960	Treaty of Nicosia being signed.
30 November 1963	Proposal of the 13 Amendments which worried the Turkish Cypriots.
17 January 1964	The Greene Line was established by the UN.
21 April 1967	Greek Juntaists gained the regime in Greece.
15 July 1974	A coup against President Makarios commenced.



20 July 1974	Turkish forces landed on the island against the new government.
23 July 1974	Greek Junta fell apart on the mainland.
1 October 1975	Turkish Cypriots established an independent authority in their sector.
15 May 1983	Proclamation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.
December 8 1997	Peace talks between Clerides and Denktash failed
10 December 2002	The Annan Plan was proposed to both sides for unifying the island by the UN.
24 April 2004	The referendum for the Annan Plan passed in Northern Cyprus while the Southern side rejected it.
28 July 2017	Negotiations for the unification of the island commenced.
2 June 2021	A summit was hosted for commencing talks between the parties.



30 January 2024	UNSC extended the service time of UNFICYP by one year and reaffirmed the importance of a unified state on the island.
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Relevant UN Resolutions and Other Documents

- Treaty of Nicosia: Establishment of the RoC.

https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/CY_600816_Treaty_Nicosia.pdf

- UN Resolution 186: Establishment of the "Green Line" in Cyprus.

<https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NRO/211/44/PDF/NRO21144.pdf?OpenElement>

- UNSC Resolution 541: Rejection of the TRNC

<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/541>

- UNSC Resolution 2723: Extension of the UNFICYP's service and reaffirmation of a unified state.

<https://www.pio.gov.cy/assets/pdf/newsroom/2024/02/01022024-UNFICYP%20Renewal.pdf>

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue



Establishment of the Republic of Cyprus as a federative state:

With the efforts of the United Kingdom, Greece, and Türkiye a federative republic was established in the region. The first constitution that the republic had separated the administration and provided collaboration between the two communities. The system had mistakes but in a democratic way there were no any major errors. The functionality of the system was questionable because of the Turkish population differing throughout the region. The federative system brought an atmosphere to the island where each community could spread out their voice.

The two-state solution:

After the failure of the federative state, a two-state solution was implanted with the Turkish Cypriots separating themselves from the Greek side. It can not be said that the system was implanted fully because of the way of its implantation. After the Turkish intervention on the island, the solution was implemented. However, there were no international bodies or member states recognizing the TRNC. The solution cut off any connection between the communities and raised the tensions more. The solution made the island vulnerable to third-party interventions and suffered between the power rivalries. Besides this, the system made each community rule their people separately which prevented any more conflicts against each other. In other words, this solution is a temporary solution that needs a permanent solution afterward.

Negotiations about the unification of the island:

International organizations tried to commence peace talks between the communities several times to unify the island. However, many vital problems need to be solved before this unification. Political rivalry and tensions between the two sides



have not ceased. Because of this reason, talks had failed and not a solid step could be taken.

Possible Solutions

Reducing the third-party influence on the island:

The military presence of the third parties on the island is one of the reasons that permanent peace can not be reached. With each day passing, militarization of the island is becoming a more significant problem which increases tensions between the two communities. By changing this situation, an atmosphere for commencing peace talks could be reached.

Unifying the island:

A method that has been already tried at previous times but lost its functionality because of third-party influences. Throughout most of its history, Cyprus remained a single state even under the leadership of different religions. Like the 1960 constitution a bi-zonal, bi-communal, and democratic federation, which would cease worries of both communities, could be established. This solution is a long-term solution that would cease the tensions in the region. Formation of the governmental bodies and constitution should be taken attentively and be detailed enough to become implantable. Remember, a permanent solution that consists of collaboration and friendship is always advised besides a temporary one.

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