

Abstracts

Hubert Faustmann

The History of Cyprus 1878 – 1979: Colonial Times, Independence and Partition

This article recounts over 100 years of modern Cypriot history, spanning from the onset of the British Colonial Period (1878–1960) to the forceful division of the island in 1974 and its immediate aftermath. It explores the perception among Greek Cypriots that London employed a “divide and rule” policy to navigate conflicting nationalisms during British colonial rule. The author posits that the intensity of this policy varied in response to challenges to British rule and should not be viewed as a meticulously planned long-term strategy, requiring a nuanced understanding of its implementation. The second part delves into the post-independence era, examining the breakdown of the constitutional order within three years. This led to a violent conflict involving Cypriot communities and their respective “mother countries,” with subsequent focus on why the Greek Cypriot side rejected the 1960 solution for an independent Cyprus and the failure to reach an agreement between 1963 and 1974. The narrative also delves into the events leading to the Greek Coup and the subsequent Turkish invasion of 1974.

Carolina Rehrmann

Eternal Past – Collective Memory of the Cyprus Conflict

The paper examines the complex web and role of memory in the context of Cyprus. It focuses on the mutually exclusive narratives and memory politics of the two communities in the public sphere and education and thus shows how generations of Cypriots are being socialised into different grand stories of the past. More specifically, it delves into the discursive practices of both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots and reveals how these practices, into which entire generations are being socialised, contribute to the perpetuation of ethnic division, while producing and reproducing entrenched ingroup narratives of victimhood and heroism that hinder prospects for rapprochement and reconciliation.

Mehmet Bardakçı

Türkiye’s Policy towards the Cyprus Issue – Return to the Traditional Pattern

This article argues that the efforts to resolve the Cyprus dispute on a federal model slowed down after the Annan Plan was accepted by the Turkish Cypriots but rejected by the Greek

Cypriots in the simultaneous referenda on 24 April 2004. In its aftermath, Türkiye leaned towards supporting the independence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Further, the collapse of re-unification talks on a federal basis in Crans-Montana in 2017 became a milestone for Türkiye to advocate for the international recognition of the TRNC more vocally. This article will shed light on the developments and causes leading up to the paradigmatic change in Türkiye's policy, aiming for the independence of the TRNC.

Charalampos Babis Karpouchtsis / Olaf Leiß

20 Years of Cyprus' EU Membership – Between Conflict and Integration

This article discusses the political dimensions of Cyprus' EU membership as a unique case due to its division. The authors explore the EU's challenges in balancing national interests, reconciling international relations, and managing border disputes while providing an overview of the time between EU accession to now. The EU's strategy of cooperation without formally recognizing territorial divides reflects its approach to complex geopolitical issues. Moreover, the role of Cyprus for EU-Turkey relations is discussed, underscoring the importance of dialogue and efforts towards resolving conflicts. Cyprus serves as a lens through which the broader challenges of EU integration and the significance of stability and cooperation are viewed, critical for both regional security and the EU's strategic objectives.

Heinz-Jürgen Axt

Cyprus' Economic Model – Economic Rise, Russian Investors and Financial Collapse

When Cyprus joined the European Union in 2004, hardly anyone could have imagined that nine years later the island would be forced to ask its euro partners and the International Monetary Fund for financial assistance due to an impending financial collapse. The invasion of Cyprus by Turkish troops in 1974 led to the division of the island, which continues to this day. However, because many Cypriots from the Turkish-occupied north moved to the south, there was a positive economic development as the potential labour force was increased. When Cyprus applied for membership of the European Union, economic development had progressed to such an extent that the island was able to fulfil the accession criteria without any major problems. However, Cyprus ignored the warnings, which brought with it the risk of financial collapse. Cyprus was only stabilised with the help of financial assistance from its euro partners and the International Monetary Fund.

Charalampos Babis Karpouchtsis

“Cyprus is an Anchor of Peace and Stability in the Eastern Mediterranean” – Interview with Maria Papakyriakou, Ambassador to Berlin – Republic of Cyprus

Babis C. Karpouchtsis visited the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus Maria Papakyriakou in Berlin for an interview on 21 March 2024. The interview deals with a variety of issues, in-

cluding the Republic of Cyprus' role in the region, its geostrategic position and its initiative to propose and launch the Amalthea Corridor for providing humanitarian aid to the civilians in Gaza. The interview touches upon the continuing occupation and de-facto division of the island since the Turkish invasion of 1974, and shows the current developments regarding the Cyprus issue. Furthermore, the discussion touches upon Cyprus' 20 years of EU-Membership and the relations between Cyprus and Germany. This piece provides a glimpse into the perception of the Republic of Cyprus as a pillar of stability in a region in crisis.

Levi Schlegtehdal

The Insolubility of the Cyprus Problem

Despite numerous attempts through referenda, UN-mediated negotiations, and military interventions, a solution to the Cyprus conflict remains elusive. The conflict can be analysed as a two-level game, involving intra-Cypriot perspectives and multiple international positions complicating the resolution process. Intra-Cypriot efforts have stumbled due to the lack of opportune time frames, except during a period in 2017 when key actors on both the Turkish and Greek sides supported reunification. However, the reached agreement was vetoed by Turkey. In an earlier instance in 2004, when the security powers Greece and Turkey, as well as Turkish Cypriots agreed on the proposed solution to the Cyprus problem within the Annan plan, it was the Greek Cypriots that rejected a resolution to the conflict. This highlights the necessity of reaching an agreement on both the domestic and international level simultaneously. The current obstacle lies on the latter, as the Turkish government lacks incentives to relinquish its bargaining power by utilising Northern Cyprus in its relations with the West.

Christian Voß

Female Migration in the Albanian Prism – Fiction by Elvira Dones and Ornela Vorpsi

Ornela Vorpsi and Elvira Dones are two quite different Albanian authors. Although both of them left the Balkans in 1988 and 1991 and share the fate of being transnational writers in the West, having shifted their writing language to Italian and French, respectively, they have developed different styles of writing: Vorpsi reckons with her childhood trauma of sexual harassment and abuse by writing autobiographical novels on female protagonists. Dones, on her part, combines her migration experience with investigative journalism and chooses political topics such as the Kosovo War in 1998–1999 or human trafficking of the Albanian mafia in Italy in the 1990s.

What Vorpsi and Dones have in common is their female perspective on emancipation and empowerment processes. Both write about female liberation from constraints and male oppression in the old homeland.

It would be desirable to have both authors translated into Albanian in order to trigger a re-canonisation of Albanian literature which until today is prevented by the strong elite continuity in Albania. The pace of these female authors leaving behind their marginal position in society and in a male literary canon is remarkable.