

# Cyprus

## *Ethnicity in Cyprus*

### *Group selection*

The entire population at independence (1960) is estimated at 570,000, out of which approximately 442,000 are Greek Cypriots (**Greeks**) and about 104,000 Turkish Cypriots (**Turks**). Smaller religious groups like the Maronites enjoyed religious prerogatives but had to decide to join one of the two ethno-linguistic electorates. While Greek Cypriots are usually noted as making up 77% of the population at independence, 3% of these minorities were added to the Greek Cypriots since all of them decided to join the Greek Cypriot electorate. In the early 1988 the Greek part of the island was estimated at 560,000 and no Turkish Cypriots were living in the Republic of Cyprus.

### *Power relations*

#### *1960-1963*

The constitution from 1960 prescribes a Greek Cypriot President and Greek Turkish Vice President (<sup>1313</sup>), as well as veto powers for both, a 7-3 cabinet member ratio, a 7-3 parliament member ratio, a 7-3 bureaucracy ratio, a 6-4 military forces ratio which was never implemented, and separate bodies for matters of "religion, culture and education" (<sup>1314</sup>). Despite these majorities assigned to the Greeks, the proportions allocated by the constitution did not, at least not according to the 1960 census, represent the true proportion in the population which would have been 8-2. Moreover, the powers of the vice-president were almost "co-equal to that of the President" (<sup>1315</sup>, 159), and almost all policies needed double majorities from both group representatives. This is why a double "senior partner" coding is appropriate despite the seemingly greater power of the Greeks.

<sup>1313</sup> [Freedom House, 2010]

<sup>1314</sup> [Solsten, 1991]

<sup>1315</sup> [Lijphart, 1977]

*1964-1967*

In 1963, the Greek Cypriot President presented a 13 point plan to change the constitution in response to the perceived government ineffectiveness which resulted from an overuse of the Turkish Cypriot veto and more generally the lack of motivation of both sides to work together (<sup>1316</sup>, 160). The proposal envisioned less rights for the Turkish minority and the de-ethnicization of the entire political system (<sup>1317</sup>). Communal violence and civil war broke out, which made the Turkish politicians leave the government.

<sup>1316</sup> [Lijphart, 1977]

<sup>1317</sup> [Solsten, 1991]

'By the spring of 1964, the legislature was effectively a Greek Cypriot body', as Solsten (<sup>1318</sup>) reports. While some Turkish Cypriots argued that their absence was involuntary, the nomination of Turkish Cypriot judges into high positions of the now united judicial system in 1964 sheds doubt on this account. The tenure of these judges was, however, short-lived and they resigned in 1966.

<sup>1318</sup> [Solsten, 1991]

During this period, Greeks have a monopoly on power (as in all following periods), and Turks are "powerless".

*1968-2017* In 1967, Greek and Turkey stopped just short of open war and in the last days of 1967 the Turkish Cypriots on Cyprus announced a "transitional administration" which consisted of the politicians that had filled the Turkish Cypriot communal political bodies from the 1960s constitution. The Greek-Cypriot leadership refused to recognize the "transitional administration" but at the same time leaders of both side engaged in negotiations over a new constitution (<sup>1319</sup>).

<sup>1319</sup> [Solsten, 1991]

In 1974 Turkish forces responded to a coup d'etat in Cyprus that brought hardline Greek Cypriots to power by invading and occupying the northern part of the island, emphasizing the need to guarantee the 1960 peace agreement. During the upheaval, almost complete ethnic separation took place with the Cypriot Turks moving to the occupied part of the island. The northern part declared independence in 1983, but it was only recognized by Turkey. Formally, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has its own political system and administration. Meanwhile, the southern part of the Republic of Cyprus is inhabited by a 100% Greek-Cypriot population. As long as both sides do not reach an agreement and a reintegration of the political system takes place, the Turks of Cyprus are here regarded as being self-excluded. The Greeks are still considered to be in a monopoly position. This is also in accordance to the Gleditsch & Ward list (1999) who regard the island of Cyprus as one national territory.

Although negotiations aiming at reunifying the island and making peace between the two groups have been taking place, no agreement could be found (<sup>1320</sup>; <sup>1321</sup>).

<sup>1320</sup> [The Guardian, 2017]

<sup>1321</sup> [Spiegel Online, 2017]

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## Political status of ethnic groups in Cyprus

*From 1960 until 1963*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Greeks	0.8	SENIOR PARTNER
Turks	0.18	SENIOR PARTNER

*From 1964 until 1967*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Greeks	0.8	MONOPOLY
Turks	0.18	POWERLESS

*From 1968 until 2017*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Greeks	0.8	MONOPOLY
Turks	0.18	SELF-EXCLUSION



Figure 249: Political status of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1960-1963.



Figure 250: Political status of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1964-1967.



Figure 251: Political status of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1968-2017.

## Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Cyprus

*From 1960 until 1974*

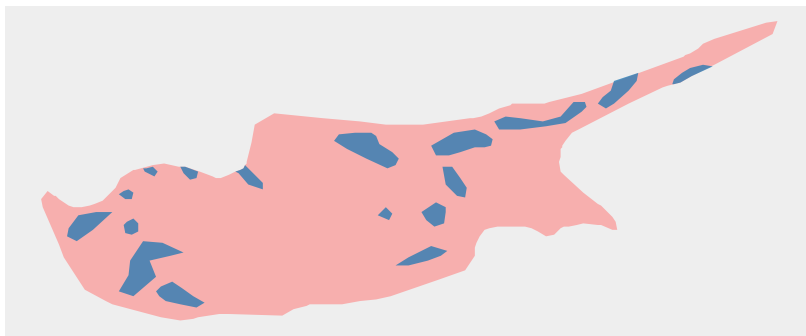


Figure 252: Map of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1960-1974.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■ Greeks	9129	Statewide
■ Turks	962	Regionally based

Table 78: List of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1960-1974.

*From 1975 until 2017*

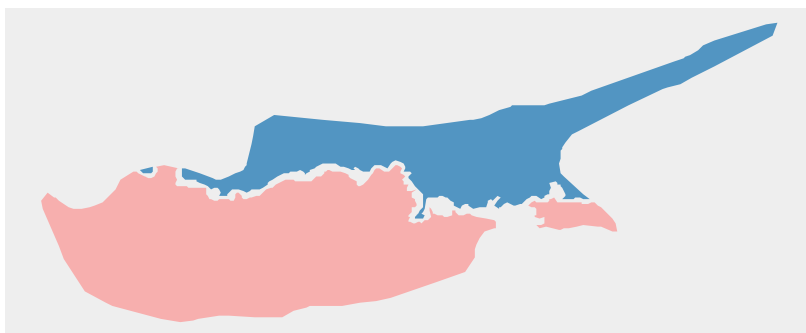


Figure 253: Map of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1975-2017.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■ Greeks	5537	Regionally based
■ Turks	3043	Regionally based

Table 79: List of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1975-2017.

## *Conflicts in Cyprus*

*Starting on 1955-06-01*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of United Kingdom	EOKA		1955-06-01			

*Starting on 1974-06-19*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Cyprus	Government of Turkey		1974-06-19			