

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>1573</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>1574</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>1575</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>1573</sup> [Freedom House, 2010]

<sup>1574</sup> [Solsten, 1991]

<sup>1575</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>1576</sup>, 160). The proposal envisioned less rights for the Turkish minority and the de-ethnicization of the entire political

<sup>1576</sup> [Lijphart, 1977]

system (<sup>1577</sup>). Communal violence and civil war broke out, which made the Turkish politicians leave the government.

<sup>1577</sup> [Solsten, 1991]

‘By the spring of 1964, the legislature was effectively a Greek Cypriot body’, as Solsten (<sup>1578</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>1578</sup> [Solsten, 1991]

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

*1968-2021* 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>1579</sup>).

<sup>1579</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>1580</sup>; <sup>1581</sup>). In 2018, two new crossing points between the Republic of Cyprus and the area administered by Turkish Cypriots opened prior to the anticipated renewal of UN-sponsored reunification talks upon the appointment of the new adviser for Cyprus to the U.N. Secretary-General, Jane Holl Lute. However, the talks were not resumed due to the failure of reaching an agreement between the representatives of Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Consequently, a reunification remains elusive for the time being (<sup>1582</sup>). Hopes for a reunification have minimized upon the victory of the right wing nationalist Ersin Tatar in presidential elections in the northern Cyprus. Mr. Tatar who is pro-Turkey and supports the idea of two separate states, received 52% of the popular vote. His

<sup>1580</sup> [The Guardian, 2017]

<sup>1581</sup> [Spiegel Online, 2017]

<sup>1582</sup> [Congressional Research Service, 2019]

opponent Mustafa Akinci claimed reunification with the other part of the island. Mr. Tatar had the strong supports of the Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan <sup>(1583)</sup>. Mr. Erdogan also called for a “two state solution” while attending a picnic in northern Cyprus for the 37th anniversary of the unilateral declaration of northern Cyprus, which was deemed a provocation by the Republic of Cyprus <sup>(1584)</sup>.

<sup>1583</sup> [BBC,2020]

<sup>1584</sup> [Deutsche Welle, 2020]

In both the Republic of Cyprus and the area administered by Turkish Cypriots several crimes including violence towards national and ethnic minorities were recorded. However, there have been improvements regarding the participation of minorities in the election process in the Republic of Cyprus. More specifically, in the Republic of Cyprus more than 5600 Turkish Cypriots voted for the European Parliament elections in 2019 as compared to only 1869 in 2014. This enabled Turkish Cypriots to elect one out of six representatives of the Republic of Cyprus in the European Parliament for the first time since 1964 <sup>(1585)</sup>. Nevertheless, Turkish Cypriot authorities did not allow Greek Cypriots and Maronites residing in the north to participate in elections they administered.

<sup>1585</sup> [U.S. Department of State, 2019]

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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



Figure 295: Political status of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1960-1963.

From 1964 until 1967

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



Figure 296: Political status of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1964-1967.

From 1968 until 2021

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



Figure 297: Political status of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1968-2021.

# Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Cyprus

From 1960 until 1960

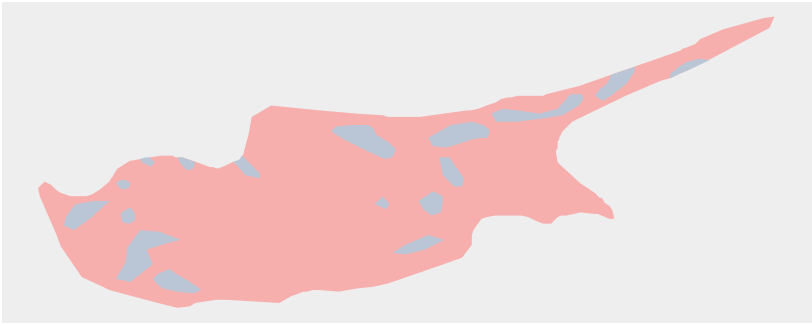


Figure 298: Map of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1960-1960.

Group name		Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Greeks	9128	Statewide
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Turks	962	Regionally based

Table 100: List of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1960-1960.

From 1961 until 1974

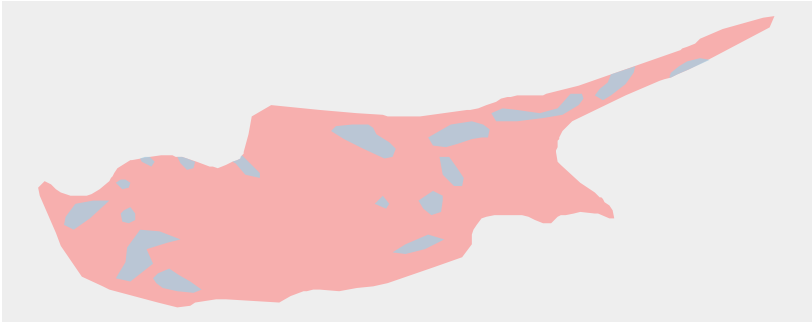


Figure 299: Map of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1961-1974.

Group name		Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Greeks	9128	Statewide
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Turks	962	Regionally based

Table 101: List of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1961-1974.



From 1975 until 2021

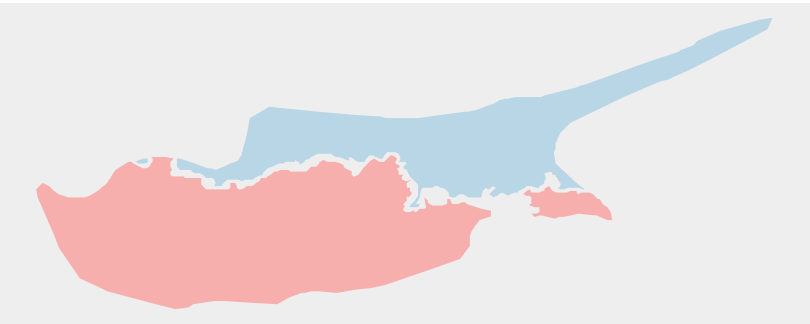


Figure 300: Map of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1975-2021.

Group name		Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■	Greeks	5536	Regionally based
■	Turks	3043	Regionally based

Table 102: List of ethnic groups in Cyprus during 1975-2021.

# 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			