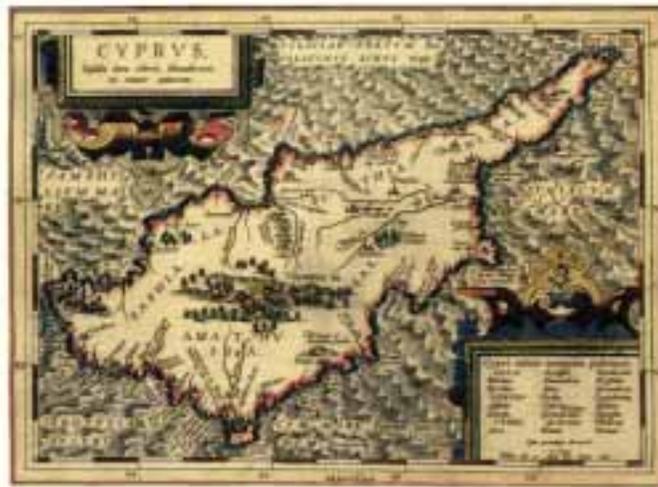


Minnesota Mediterranean and East European
Monographs

BRITAIN AND THE INTERNATIONAL
STATUS OF CYPRUS, 1955-59



Evanthis Hatzivassiliou

Britain and the International Status of Cyprus deals with British policy on the issue of the future status of Cyprus during the 1955–59 revolt. The author argues that the main priority of the British was the preservation of their influence in the Middle East which presupposed full sovereignty in Cyprus. They also took exceptional care not to displease Turkey over the fate of the island, for they viewed Ankara as their major ally in the Middle East. British policy-makers, therefore, resisted the aspiration of the Greek Cypriots (80 percent of the island's population) for Enosis (union with Greece). In 1956, in their efforts to satisfy Turkey, they went as far as to indicate that, if they were to leave, they would favor partition of the island between Greece and Turkey. Subsequently, Britain realized that partition was not a practical solution and reluctantly abandoned the idea, in spite of increasing Turkish demands for immediate partition. In discussing the shaping of British policy in one of the most interesting international questions of the postwar era, the author also deals with U.S., Greek, and Turkish policy. This well-researched study, timely and informative, provides the background necessary for understanding why the Cyprus question remains unresolved.

Evanthis Hatzivassiliou was born in 1966 in Doxato, Drama region, Greece. He now resides in Athens. In 1987 he graduated from the Law School of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and in 1992 received his Ph.D. from the University of London (London School of Economics). He received the 1994 Memory of Eleftherios Venizelos Award from the Greek Parliament for his study on the 1930 Greek-Turkish rapprochement. Several of his articles on the Cyprus issue and on Greek foreign policy have appeared in international scholarly publications. He has also taught at the National School of Public Administration in Athens. Hatzivassiliou is a member of the board of editors of *Ekdotike Athenon*. In this capacity, he has, among other things, coordinated the twelve-volume publication of the Constantinos Karamanlis archive.

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