

Minnesota Mediterranean and East European
Monographs



CYPRUS 1957-1963
FROM COLONIAL CONFLICT
TO CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

The Key Role of the Municipal Issue

Diana Weston Markides

Cyprus 1957-1963 examines the issue of separate municipalities, a microcosm of the Cyprus problem, during the process of decolonization. The practical difficulties of the prescribed arrangements and the pressures of intracommunal domestic politics, which were exacerbated by an injection of cold war priorities and misleading diplomatic initiatives, contributed to the failure to find a mutually acceptable formula. A series of attempts to do so exposed the more substantial differences regarding sovereignty and the limitations on the political power of the majority. The failure to resolve the municipal issue was, therefore, bound to contain the seeds of the unraveling of the Zurich and London Agreements by which Cyprus had gained its precarious independence.

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Cyprus 1957–1963, From Colonial Conflict to Constitutional Crisis: The Key Role of the Municipal Issue “stands out both for its innate interest and its continuing relevance to the problem of Cyprus today . . . bringing us an entirely fresh, clear, well-structured . . . view of the dynamics of the Cyprus issue. . . . It must be read immediately by all Cypriots interested either in their past or their future, as also by anyone outside Cyprus who aspires to make a contribution to the settlement of the Cyprus problem.”

Costas Carras

Diana Weston Markides has lived and worked in Cyprus for many years. She is now a Research Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London. She has published several articles on Cypriot history in scholarly journals and is currently collaborating with Robert Holland in a study of Hellenism, irredentism, and the British Empire.

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