THE CYPRUS QUESTION, 1878-1960

The Constitutional Aspect

Evanthis Hatzivassiliou
The Cyprus Question, 1878-1960: The Constitutional Aspect is an overview of Cypriot constitutional history during British rule. International considerations, such as British attempts to retain strategic and political control over the Middle East, formed the background for the Greek-Turkish negotiations which produced the outline of the 1960 Cyprus constitution. As a result, the constitution reflected an international balance of powers rather than the dynamics of internal Cypriot political, economic, and social forces, thus making it a rigid political instrument which contributed to the crisis of the mid-1960s.

Future Cypriot constitution-making, the author argues, must avoid similar mistakes. A new constitution should address the realities of Cypriot society, facilitating, among other things, its integration into Europe, rather than safeguard the interests of third parties.

Evanthis Hatzivassiliou is a lecturer on contemporary history at the University of Athens and the editor of the Modern and Contemporary History Series of Patakis Publications.