

**Committee:** General Assembly 4

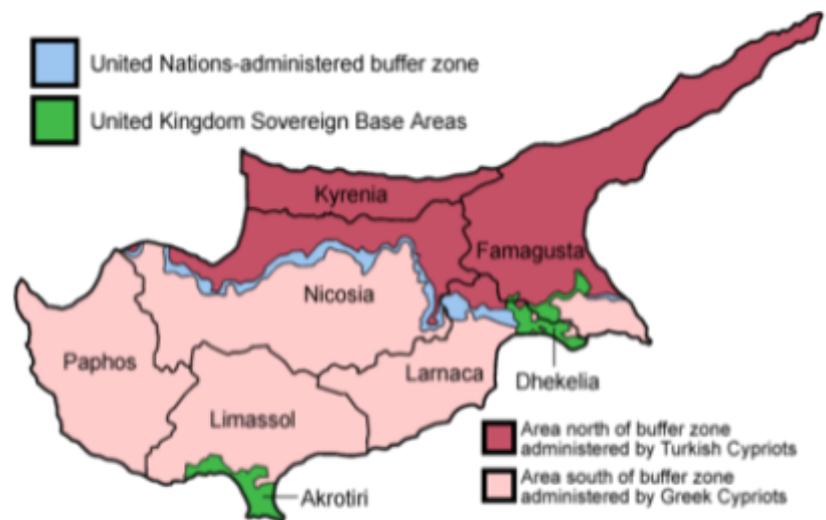
**Issue:** The Question of Cyprus

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## Introduction

The invasion of Turkey in Cyprus occurring in 1974 is indisputably the most devastating event within the island's history. Currently the island of Cyprus is horizontally divided into two regions; the north region is occupied by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the south region is recognized as the Republic of Cyprus.



**Caption #1: The Map of Cyprus (with division)**

Despite the fact that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is not officially recognized by any member state or by the United Nations, many countries still host ambassadors of Northern Cyprus. Simultaneously, there have been efforts to reunify Cyprus with one of the most eminent being the Annan Plan, a plan by the then United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in order to create a unified Cyprus utilising a power sharing agreement. In 2004 after 5 years, a peace deal that had been re-evaluated several times was rejected by the Cypriot side proving the plan unsuccessful. Following this event, any further efforts towards the idea of reunification have not exceeded the stage of dialogue.

Northern Cyprus has advanced into foreign affairs allowing the state to gain negotiation power as well as unsubstantiated acknowledgement by economically powerful member nations such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In 2004, Southern Cyprus became a member of the European Union to receive assistance. However, the efforts of reunification have been very scarce due to Cyprus' collapse in power after its economic crisis. If an agreement were to be reached today, it would be much less favorable to the south of Cyprus than it would have been before 2004.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Power Sharing Agreement

An agreement in which two previously separated countries unite into one and the new country's institutions are shared between the two regions. Any further regulations, laws or decisions will be made and voted upon by both parties of the new country.

### Peace Treaty

An agreement made between two or more parties (countries or governments) currently engaged in hostile activities in order to formally end the state of war between these parties.

### Buffer Zone

A neutral area which serves to separate hostile forces or nations currently engaged in hostile war activities.

### Coup d'état

A sudden and decisive action in politics which may result in the change of a government either by illegal means or by force, such as an overthrow.

### Enosis

The political union of Cyprus and Greece.

### Independence

Free from outside control while not depending on another's authority or depending for livelihood or subsistence.

## Background Information

### Historical background

Until 1974, Cyprus had remained a primarily Greek island despite consecutive invasions and occupations by the Ottoman Empire in 1571 as well as its partial Turkish colonization. From the commencement of British control, the Greek Cypriot community demanded enosis of Cyprus with Greece. Regardless, the United Kingdom declared that Cyprus would be subjected to claims by Turkey which is when the independence struggle then developed. Turkey demanded for claim of 38% of the

island, eventually then claiming this demand. However, the Turkish Army finally halted its invasion in August 1974 where it is deployed today. Even after several Zurich Agreements, Turkey proceeded with arranging shipments of arms to be provided to Turkish forces currently stationed within Cyprus. The rigid constitution of 1960 did not only deny a large fraction of the Greek Cypriots the right to sovereignty in the form of a union with Greece, but additionally denied a great number of people an efficient solution of self-rule and internal democracy. The political disputes of both Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities encouraged the following barbaric atrocities.

## **The Turkish invasion**

In July 1974, Greece's ruling faction organised a coup d'etat against President Makarios which claimed to provide Turkey with the right of an independent military intervention. With this claim, 5 days later Turkey had invaded Cyprus. However, instead of reconstructing the state of affairs and protecting the human rights of the Cyprus population, on 14 August 1974 Turkey extended the invasion to occupy 36.4% of Cyprus as well as driving out over 170,000 Greek Cypriot refugees. Although the coup had fallen-through and Greece rebuilt their democratic government, Turkey continued to move their armed forces to the "Attila" line.

### ***Turkey's genocide in Cyprus***

According to Article II of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Turkey has explicitly committed a series of acts of genocide upon the Greek Cypriot community by deliberately inflicting physical destruction and permanent displacement from the occupied region of Cyprus. Unfortunately there has not been any recognition by the International Court of Justice and thus has no international ruling upon the matter.

## **The invasion and its aftermath**

### ***Killings and torture***

Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights states "Everyone's right to life be protected by law. No one shall be deprived of his life intentionally." The violation of this article occurred when the Turkish Army began an unrelated course of mass murders of civilians including women, children in addition to conceding soldiers. Moreover there were countless reports of beatings, teeth plucking, rapes, etc.

### ***Displacement of persons***

The Turkish Army displaced well over a third of the population of Greek Cypriots (about 200,000) from their homes. This was done both by eviction and a methodical attack of fear which

caused individuals to flee from their homes. Any refugees or evicted persons were not granted the ability to return to their homes within the border of the Turkish occupation.

### Turkey's aim in Cyprus: an overview

The violations of human rights by Turkey in Cyprus suggested clear long-term goals. Such as securing a military hold within Cyprus by claiming at least 38% of the island and retain a large Turkish base in the area, driving out any remaining Greek Cypriots within the claimed area and incorporating the Turkish economy within the occupied area;

### Duties regarding human rights in Cyprus

The ultimate goal of reestablishing sovereignty in the Eastern Mediterranean and Aegean sea confirms that the Cyprus question is one for more than just Greek and Turkish Cypriots to negotiate in order to find a settlement. If the role Turkey played in forming and expanding the Cyprus matter are neglected, the power of past-time politics will prevail. This perspective disregards the international duty to ensure the protection of human rights amongst all individuals and thus member nations should feel an obligation to restore the human rights within Cyprus.

### Timeline of Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of event</b>
1914	Cyprus is seized by Britain
1925	Cyprus declared a crown colony
1955	Greek Cypriots begin a trench war against the British causing the formation of a paramilitary police force within Cyprus.
1959	Makarios rises to power in Cyprus as president.
1960	Cyprus gained independence after the agreement between both parties. A Treaty of Guarantee ensured Greece, Turkey and the UK with the ability to intervene meanwhile Britain keeps control of the military bases.
1963	Makarios undermines the agreement by suggesting a new constitution, this erupts violence between the two parties and the Turkish-Cypriots withdraw from the power sharing agreement.
1964	A United Nations Peacekeeping Force is set up in Cyprus

1974	The Greek's ruling faction organises a coup d'etat to overthrow Makarios which fails. Turkey captures 1/3 of the island where a border is set up along the Green Line. Glafcos Clerides is President until Makarios returns from his escape.
1975	Rauf Denktash becomes president of an independent Turkish administration which is set up
1977	After Makarios' death, Spyros Kyprianou rises to the position of power
1980-2002	The UN sponsored talks between the presidents of the North and South however, they resulted in failure.
2002-2004	The Annan Plan is presented when talks sponsored by the UN begin.
1st May 2004	Southern Cyprus joins the European Union
January 2008	Southern Cyprus officially uses the Euro as currency
2008 - Present Day	A peace deal is still not reached and the island remains divided.

## UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

The United Nations has made one considerable effort to solve the Cyprus problem. However due to the power struggle between two parties within negotiations, this led the situation being unresolved and continuing. The Crans Montana conference of June 2017 was held on the situation in Cyprus. Unfortunately due to the fact that the north presently holds more power, they are now in a position where they are able to demand more than what was proposed within the Annan plan.

There have also been many attempts by the United Nations Security Council to attempt to find a solution to the situation in Cyprus:

- United Nations Security Council welcomes the Republic of Cyprus: August 23 1960 (**S/RES/155**)
- United Nations Security Council requests Cyprus government to stop violence, calls all member states to refrain from action that would worsen the situation and establishes UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus: April 4 1964 (**S/RES/186**)
- United Nations Security Council extends, with consent from the Republic of Cyprus, the presence of the UN Peacekeeping Force: June 20 1964 (**S/RES/192**)
- United Nations Security Council urges Turkey's government to cease the use of military force against Cyprus and for Cyprus to ceasefire: September 25 1964 (**S/RES/193**)
- United Nations Security Council requests Turkey to withdraw military forces and ceasefire and for all states to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus: June 20 1974 (**S/RES/353**)

- United Nations Security Council condemns the decision declaring the north of the Republic of Cyprus as “Turkish Federal State”: March 12 1975 (**S/RES/367**)

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**Caption #1:** Wikipedia. "United Nations Buffer Zone In Cyprus." 2015, [https://www.google.com.vn/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiFhNbu0r3YAhVJuo8KHX6\\_Bj0QjRwlBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FUnited\\_Nations\\_Buffer\\_Zone\\_in\\_Cyprus&psig=AOvVaw0FXqdiywlROHAZj1d2It5z&ust=1515132584292010](https://www.google.com.vn/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwiFhNbu0r3YAhVJuo8KHX6_Bj0QjRwlBw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fen.wikipedia.org%2Fwiki%2FUnited_Nations_Buffer_Zone_in_Cyprus&psig=AOvVaw0FXqdiywlROHAZj1d2It5z&ust=1515132584292010)