

## **Volume 23:2 Fall 2011**

BRITISH COLONIAL CYPRUS  
(GUEST EDITED BY REBECCA BRYANT)

### **Rebecca Bryant**

Introduction 15 – 17

### **Articles:**

#### **Roger Heacock**

The Framing of Empire:  
Cyprus and Cypriots through British Eyes, 1878-1960 21 – 37

*Perceptions of people and events in Cyprus on the part of some of the formal and informal agents of the metropolis during the eighty-two years of British rule are the object of this paper, based on a close reading of a mix of historical records, official documents, newspaper reporting, literary accounts and autobiographies. A composite image of the country and its various linguistic groups emerges, as drawn by the scions of empire during their stay. Through the texts of officials and authors like Ronald Storrs and Lawrence Durrell, as well as articles in the Times of London and the framing and interpretation of census data, by way of examples, it will be seen to what degree a racialised discourse was present (as in the cases of colonial Algeria or mandatory Palestine), the ways in which it distinguished between Greeks and Turks, and how it evolved and declined over time, most notably with the approach of the island's independence. A historicised colonial-discursive model is proposed.*

**Keywords:** Colonialism, imperial discourse, racialism, Cyprus, decolonisation

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#### **Eleni Bouleti**

The Muslim Community on Cyprus and British Colonial Policy,  
1878-1915: The Significance of the Cyprus Evkaf in the  
Colonisation Process 39 – 56

*Certain key factors interacted for the forming of the early years of British administration in Cyprus. A significant element that affected the new regime was the form that the Cyprus Convention assumed, mainly due to the conditions under which it was signed. As far as the Muslim community was concerned, the Ottoman government made an effort through special articles in the Convention to safeguard its position in the new regime and maintain its role as the ruling community of the island. However that effort was made by the Ottoman government in haste, thus the British administration was given the opportunity to actually intervene more easily in the community's affairs and to gradually control and 'colonialise' it, from within. The community's reaction, although not unanimous, was manifested early, initially by the Cypriot Muslim elite of the Ottoman administration. The initial anti-colonial sentiments of the Muslim community were triggered by the infiltration of the British into its social, economic and religious core. In that general context, an effort is made to follow and depict that process in its initial steps until the outbreak of World War One.*

**Keywords:** Cyprus, Great Britain, Muslim Community, Evkaf, Vakıf, Colonialism, Cypriot Muslims, Islam

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**Alexis Rappas**

The Uncharted World of Cypriot Colonial Servants  
and the Ideological Foundations of British Rule

57 – 76

*As historical and anthropological studies show, British colonial rule contributed decisively to the institutionalisation, politicisation and deterioration of intercommunal differences in Cyprus. However at the same time as British colonial authorities implemented divisive policies, they created one institution necessitating the smooth cooperation between Greek and Turkish Cypriots: the colonial bureaucracy, the structure and function of which remains understudied. Based on the cases of three Cypriots appealing against their dismissal from the colonial civil service, this paper argues that exploring the uncharted world of ‘native’ employees provides important insights into the inconsistencies underpinning British rule. Indeed, the debates prompted by the dismissal procedures shows that notions such as ‘nationality’, ‘loyalty’, ‘legality’ and ‘civilisation’ constituting the ideological foundations of colonial rule are rather indeterminate. The article makes a case for the study of subaltern Cypriots as a vantage point to explore the points of articulation and cross-fertilisation between colonial morality and local self-representations.*

**Keywords:** colonialism, interethnic conflict, subaltern studies, microhistory

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**Altay Nevzat**

Ronald Storrs and Mısırlızade Necati:  
The Governor’s Encounter with the ‘Thirteenth Greek’

77 – 107

*Relations between British colonial administrators and the Turkish Cypriots are commonly portrayed purely through the rigid framework of subservience and collaboration. Furnishing evidence through a micro-historical study of the relationship which developed in the late 1920s between Governor Ronald Storrs and Turkish Cypriot political leader Mısırlızade Necati, the paper proposes that this familiar portrayal is misleading and overlooks significant cases of conflict between the British authorities and prevailing Turkish Cypriot political forces. The argument is supported by a wider analysis of the two men’s formative experiences and in particular of the ‘public school spirit’ inculcated in Storrs as invariably in other British administrators also. Based upon such analysis it is suggested that such dispute went beyond the solely personal and that the conflictual relationship that arose in this instance was largely a consequence of the colonial inability to adequately adapt to the novel force of Kemalist nationalism in Cyprus.*

**Keywords:** British imperialism, colonialism, Cyprus, education, Kemalism, nationalism, Turkish Cypriots

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**Demetris Assos**

Conspiracy Theories and the Decolonisation  
of Cyprus under the Weight of Historical Evidence, 1955 – 1959

109 – 125

*A commonly held Greek Cypriot opinion is that the EOKA struggle failed to achieve its objective of enosis because of some dark machination. According to this view, the ‘heroic’ struggle of EOKA was frustrated either because of the inept handling of the Cyprus problem by the Greek government and/or Makarios or because of some international intrigue which undermined the ‘fair’ demand for enosis resulting in the reluctant independence of 1960. This paper will assess these claims in light of the available historical evidence and demonstrate that they are fundamentally flawed. It will argue that no conspiracy took place in the 1950s against the Greek Cypriots and that independence was a consequence of the forces that were*

set in motion in 1955. Finally it will discuss both the reasons for the proliferation of such theories and whether there is a need for mainstream history to respond to such theories.

**Keywords:** Greek Cypriot attitude, conspiracy theories, EOKA struggle, criticism, historical evidence

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**Jan Asmussen**

Conspiracy Theories and Cypriot History:  
The Comfort of Commonly Perceived Enemies 127 – 145

*A distinct Cypriot history as opposed to a Greek and Turkish national narrative did not appear before the catastrophe of 1974. Even after that, no consensus on the main parameters of recent Cypriot history emerged. One unifying element, however, did exist to which most Cypriots from different communities and political factions adhere, and this is the widespread conviction that Cyprus has fallen victim to foreign powers. According to this school of thought no violence would have occurred if not for the poisonous influence of Anglo-American conspiracy. Far from being confined to popular discourse, this theory exists and repeats itself in academic circles and ‘scholarly’ research. It seems to provide a comfortable – yet dangerous – exit from considering each other’s responsibilities for various aspects of the ‘Cyprus problem’. In order to put major conspiracy theories to the test, some aspects of British colonial policy in Cyprus and British-American involvement in the Cyprus Crisis of 1974 will be examined here. The intention is to exemplify the thorny passage to a future scholarship-based rewriting of a common Cypriot history.*

**Keywords:** Conspiracy theories, diplomatic history, British colonial administration, American diplomacy, 1974 crisis in Cyprus

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**Book Reviews:**

- Sweet and Bitter Island:  
A History of the British in Cyprus*  
By Tabitha Morgan  
(I.B. Tauris: London, 2010), 320 pp., 22 illustrations, 1 map.  
(Andrekos Varnava) 149 – 154
- Colonial Cyprus 1878-1960 - Selected Readings*  
Edited by Emiliou Solomou and Hubert Faustmann  
(University of Nicosia Press: Nicosia, 2010), 375 pp.  
(Diana Markides) 155 – 158
- Independent Cyprus 1960-2010 - Selected Readings*  
Edited by Hubert Faustmann and Emiliou Solomou  
(University of Nicosia Press: Nicosia, 2011), 448 pp.  
(Michalis Attalides) 159 – 165
- A Concise History of Modern Cyprus, 1878-2009*  
By Heinz Richter  
(Verlag Franz Philipp Rutzen: Ruppolding, 2010), 232 pp.  
(Andreas Constandinos) 167 – 169