

## Book Reviews

Doros Alastos, *Cyprus in History: A Survey of 5000 years*, London, Zeno Publishers, 1976, pp. xvi+426.

*Cyprus in History*, is the story of the island of Cyprus. It ranges from the Neolithic times to the present (late 1950's). Over five thousand years in time, condensed into four hundred pages in the book. So it is evident that it is at best a generalized picture rather than a detailed study. In this reissue of the book out of print since the late 1960's the text appears in its original form, with the addition of a short preface by the author. The book is divided into seven chapters with helpful descriptive maps and interesting photographs. The island of Cyprus, one of the world's smallest nations, because of her strategic location, throughout her history, was invaded by different maritime powers. As a German critic once observed, "he who would become and remain a great power in the East must hold Cyprus in his hand"; and in Cyprus the East met the West. The passage of different people through the island naturally left its mark on the Cypriot people and culture, but from the earliest Greek settlements on the island, Cyprus retained a strong Greek character and the Cypriots maintained strong cultural contacts with mainland Greece from ancient times to the present. The long episodic and at times melancholy history of Cyprus and the Cypriots is told in one volume by Mr. Alastos in a scholarly and comprehensive way, incorporating different phases of Cypriot history and culture with special emphasis on the Church and social aspects. This is a useful, thoughtful and very readable survey of the historically rich and very charming island of Cyprus. A book warmly recommended to all who are interested in Cypriot culture and civilization.

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JOHN T. A. KOUMOULIDES

John T. A. Koumoulides, *Cyprus and the War of Greek Independence, 1821-1829*. Foreword by Douglas Dakin. Revised and enlarged edition. London, Zeno Booksellers & Publishers, 1974, pp. xiii+117.

With the continuing tragedy of Cyprus playing such a major role in current world tensions, there is understandably a greater interest in the island's long neglected early modern history, and thus the new edition of this excellent study by Professor Koumoulides is especially welcome. First published in Athens in 1971, the book has now been both revised and expanded, forming part of the growing *Bibliotheca Historica Cyprica*. In this edition it should receive the wider attention it so clearly merits. As Professor Dakin observes in his foreword, the author "has done for Cyprus what others have done for Crete, Chios, Epiros, Thessaly and Macedonia" (p. ix), explaining the Cypriots' role in Greece's national struggle.

The title of the work is almost too modest since the study actually begins with a carefully documented but readable short history of the island since ancient times. From the beginning of the nineteenth century the narrative moves more slowly. Chapter II discusses local Greco-Turkish relations during 1800-1820. It was a critical era. "In the years 1785 to 1820 the powers of the archbishop, the bishops, and the dragoman of the serai of Cyprus