

the history of Kephallonia during the long period 1500-1571, using a wide range of archival material from the Archivio di Stato di Venezia, the Bibliotheca Marciana, General State Archives, the Archives of the Prefecture of Kephallonia, the Historical Archive of Kerkyra etc., material which she combines with a bibliography that is rich in terms of her theme. This significant work, which demanded much time and effort and knowledge of both Italian palaeography and the typical Greek records of this period, will in future constitute a valuable tool for historians of Kephallonia and of the Ionian Islands generally.

University of Thessaloniki

ATHANASSIOS E. KARATHANASSIS

Andrew Borowiec, *Cyprus: A Troubled Island* (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger Publishers, 2000), pp. XVI plus 193.

"Semper aliquid novi Africam afferre", Pliny the Elder, Natural History, viii. 17
To paraphrase Pliny the Elder, *"There is always something new out of Cyprus"*.

The most eastern of the Mediterranean islands, Cyprus, has been a very popular holiday and retirement destination for the Europeans, and in particular, the British, for many years. The bigger islands of the Mediterranean have rather cruel histories. Sicily, Corsica, Rhodes, Sardinia, Cyprus and Crete, all of them have been invaded and liberated, and invaded again. Cyprus has had numerous rulers over the centuries —Phoenicians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, Venetians, Ottoman Turks and British— and they all have left their mark on the culture and architecture of the island. Cyprus emerged from British colonial rule to become an independent state, the Republic of Cyprus, on the 16th of August 1960. In December 1963, the constitutional order of the Republic was shaken by intercommunal conflicts between the Greek and Turkish communities of the island. In 1974 Turkey invaded Cyprus. On the 15th of November 1983, Mr. Rauf Denktash, leader of the Turkish Cypriot community proclaimed the unilateral independence of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus", recognized only by Turkey. Since Turkey invaded Cyprus in the summer of 1974, 37% of the island —in the northern part— has been under Turkish occupation with more than 35.000 troops from mainland Turkey stationed there in violation of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions. In fact, most of the Turks now living in the occupied areas of Cyprus are not Turkish Cypriots but are Turkish settlers from mainland Turkey. Cyprus is a treasure island for historians and archaeologists with many sites being discovered. The majority of the artifacts are removed to local museums.

The politics and culture of Cyprus reflect its extraordinarily mixed heritage. Cyprus is an island of contrasts. Here, in this culturally rich land, the *muezzin*'s voice broadcasting from the minaret may well awaken you with summons to prayer, just as the bells of the Christians' churches are commanding you to do the same.

Stroll along the streets of the ancient city of Nicosia, and you stop short at a roadblock manned by Greek-Cypriot conscripts. A sign proclaims: "Nicosia—the last divided city in Europe". Few steps further and you meet the Turkish-Cypriot soldiers manning the other half of Ledra Street. Between the two patrols you notice the checkpoint on the United Nations patrolled Green line that has separated the two communities since 1974. The divide was triggered by a coup staged by the Greek Junta, which ruled Greece for seven years (1967-1974). The Athens triggered coup against Archbishop Makarios, President of the Republic of Cyprus, was followed by a Turkish invasion ordered by the Turkish Prime Minister Mr. Bulent Ecevit. The Turkish invasion increased tensions not only between the island's two ethnic communities, but also between Greece and Turkey. According to a recent study, the American Secretary of State, Mr. Henry Kissinger, played a role by working behind the scenes with Greece's military junta to successfully oust Archbishop Makarios, President of the Republic of Cyprus, as Cypriot President. (See: Brendan O'Malley and Ian Craig, *The Cyprus Conspiracy: America, Espionage and the Turkish Invasion*, London: I. B. Tauris Publishers, 1999, and Farhid Mirbagheri, *Cyprus and International Peacemaking*, London: Hurst Publisher 1998). For the United States, what was at stake was not "the well-being" of Cypriots, Greek and Turkish, but the future of military hardware, including sophisticated and crucial to the US Cold War monitoring (spying) bases. British Prime Minister Harold Wilson had threatened to pull out of the British sovereign bases and electronic intelligence sites. To Henry Kissinger, Turkey was, and remains, "a strategically indispensable ally and host to twenty-six surveillance installations from which the United States was monitoring Soviet missile and nuclear testing". (Henry Kissinger, *Years of Renewal*, Simon and Schuster, 1999, p. 192). The geopolitical importance of Turkey to the United States and its regional strategic interests remain the same.

Cyprus today is a state split in two since 1974, with a Berlin wall-style corridor "The Green Line", patrolled by U.N. troops keeping the two sides (Greek-Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots) apart. Of the approximately 780,000 people currently living on Cyprus, there are about 65,000 to 80,000 Turkish Cypriots and about 100,000 Turks who have illegally moved to the Turkish occupied sector of Cyprus from Anatolia, Turkey. About 200,000 Greek-

Cypriots, expelled from their homes during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, are still prevented from returning.

Mr Andrew Borowiec's *Cyprus: A Troubled Island* is a good book. The author is a veteran foreign correspondent who has written about the Middle East, Africa and Europe and has knowledge of the complexities of the problem of Cyprus. "Foreign intervention culminating in the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974 and the continuing occupation of 40 per cent of the island", Mr Borowiec notes, remains today as central to American, European, and of course, United Nations efforts to find a just and lasting solution to the chronic problem of Cyprus. However, the key to change lies with the leverage of the European Union and the United States.

If the thorny problem of Northern Ireland can be solved, what must it take to crack the Cyprus problem? For Mr Borowiec, "nothing can be done without a series of gestures and effort on both sides ... It would require a massive and thorough program of re-education to make the Cypriots consider themselves as Cypriots and not Greeks and Turks". The pre-1974 situation of Cyprus is now historical. A *de facto* partition of the island is extremely dangerous. In Cyprus constitutional and structural changes are the way to peace and justice. Not ignoring problems since independence (1960), and taking into consideration developments since 1974, perhaps it is possible to maintain the unity, territorial integrity and independence on a different arrangement; an arrangement that would include a bi-communal, bizonal constitution with a loose central government responsible for the conduct of foreign policy, defence, economic affairs and even higher education; an arrangement to serve the interests of all Cypriots. An atmosphere of trust, confidence, freedom of movement, and justice must be established on the island, an atmosphere where the two ethnic communities of Cyprus, Greeks and Turks, could live, work, and study together with respect for each other's cultural and religious rights. The leaders of the island's two communities have a great opportunity to, with wisdom and statesmanship, bridge their differences, come to agreeable compromises and reach a just and a lasting solution to the problems which for so long have divided their people. The island of Cyprus should be a place where reason, peace and prosperity prevail. Cicero's charge to the Romans should serve as a reminder to the leaders of Cyprus: "Nostra autem respublica non unius esset ingenio, sed multorum, nec una hominis vita, sed aliquot constituta saeculis et aetatibus - Our commonwealth was based upon the genius, not of one man, but of many; it was founded, not in one generation, but in a long period of several centuries and many ages of men".

Cyprus: A Troubled Island by Andrew Borowiec is an important con-

tribution to our understanding of the complexities of the problem of Cyprus. The volume should be read by all students of the extraordinary history of Cyprus. The author should be commended for his important addition to the bibliography of the recent history of Cyprus.

JOHN A. KOUMOULIDES*

Το Κόσσοβο και οι αλβανικοί πληθυσμοί της Χερσονήσου του Αίμου (Kosovo and the Albanian Populations on the Balkan Peninsula), Thessaloniki 2000.

The Institute for Balkan Studies in Thessaloniki, whose publications are known for their penetrating analyses of Balkan relations, has recently published a collective work, which seeks to present a clear picture of the situation in Kosovo, the presence of the Albanian element on the Balkan Peninsula, and the future prospects for the region as a whole.

The book in question was written by Veniamin Karakostanoglou, Lecturer in International Relations in the Faculty of Law, Thessaloniki University, Kyriakos D. Kentrotis, Assistant Professor in the Ionian University, Eleftheria Manta, research associate in the Balkan Institute, and Spyridon Sfetas, Lecturer in Balkan History in the Faculty of Philosophy, Thessaloniki University. It was edited by Professor Basil Kondis, President of the Balkan Institute, and Eleftheria Manta.

Naturally enough, the book begins with a foreword (pp. 11-13), by Professor Kondis, who notes:

"The period of twelve months and more between the point when the Kosovo crisis came to a head and the start of the efforts towards reconstruction enabled the contributors to this volume to make a holistic appraisal both of the decisive role which the Albanians' presence may play in the future stabilisation (or destabilisation) of the Peninsula and of the prospects opening up both for Greece and for the rest of the Balkan countries out of the successful implementation of the terms of the Stability Pact".

The first chapter is titled "Kosovo: Beginning and End of the Yugoslav Crisis" (pp. 17-55), and is written by Spyridon Sfetas. On the basis of a substantial body of literature, he describes the controversy between the Slav

* John A. Koumoulides has written and edited numerous books on Greece and Cyprus, his latest being *Cyprus: The Legacy - Historic Landmarks that Influenced the Art of Cyprus Late Bronze Age to A.D. 1600* (University Press of Maryland, 1999).