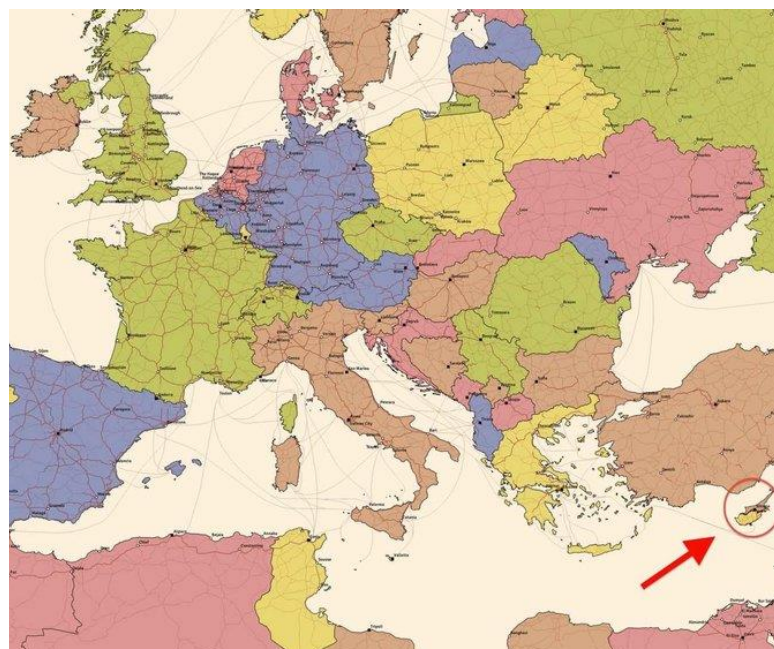
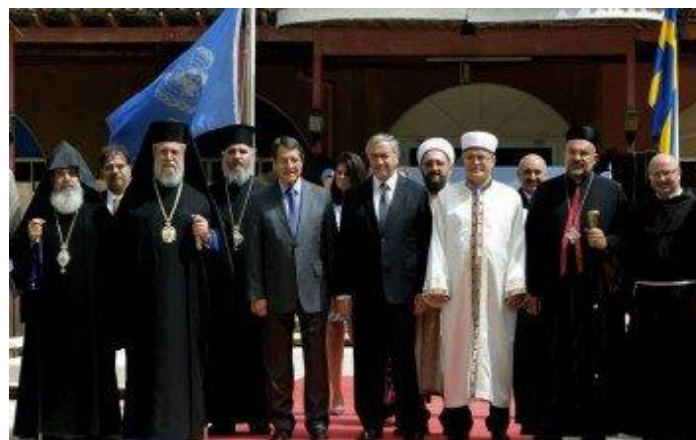




STUDY MATERIAL





I. GENERAL PART

GEOGRAPHY

Cyprus is an island in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin. It is the third largest island in the Mediterranean (after the Italian islands of Sicily and Sardinia), with an area of 9,551 km (3,572 square miles) and a coastline of 648 km (402,6 miles), making it the 81st largest island by region. It is located south of Asia Minor, the eastern peninsula of mainland Asia (or Eurasia), part of Turkey, so it can be included in West Asia or the Middle East. Cyprus is located near Southern Europe and North Africa. The modern Republic of Cyprus was established as an independent state in the 1960s and is internationally recognized as a member state of the UN and the EU, with territory all over the island of Cyprus.



1.2 STATE AND TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Republic of Cyprus is divided into 6 regions named from the major cities of each region: Nicosia, Famagusta, Limassol, Larnaca, Paphos and Kyrenia. In addition, the United Kingdom controls two large bases in Akrotiri (south of Limassol) and in Dhekelia (southeast), which are considered to be SBAs and cover together 254 km² or 2.8% of the island but belong to the Republic from the point of view of public life (language, currency, transport, schools, etc.).

The official language is Greek and Turkish.



Short national emblem



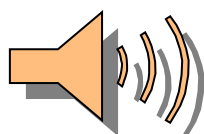
Extensive national emblem



National flag



House of
Representatives
emblem



National anthem <<Hymn to Liberty>>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6VSRMQwaBw>



In the past, Archbishop Makarios III was the first President of the Republic of Cyprus since the liberation until 1977. The first President of the Republic of Cyprus since the 1974 war was Spyros Kyprianou and today President of the Republic is Nikos Anastasiadis.



Archbishop Makarios III
1960-1977



Spyros Kyprianou
1977-1988



Giorgos Vasileiou
1988-1993



Glafkos Klerides
1993-2003



Tasos Papadopoulos
2003-2008



Demetris Christofias
2008-2013

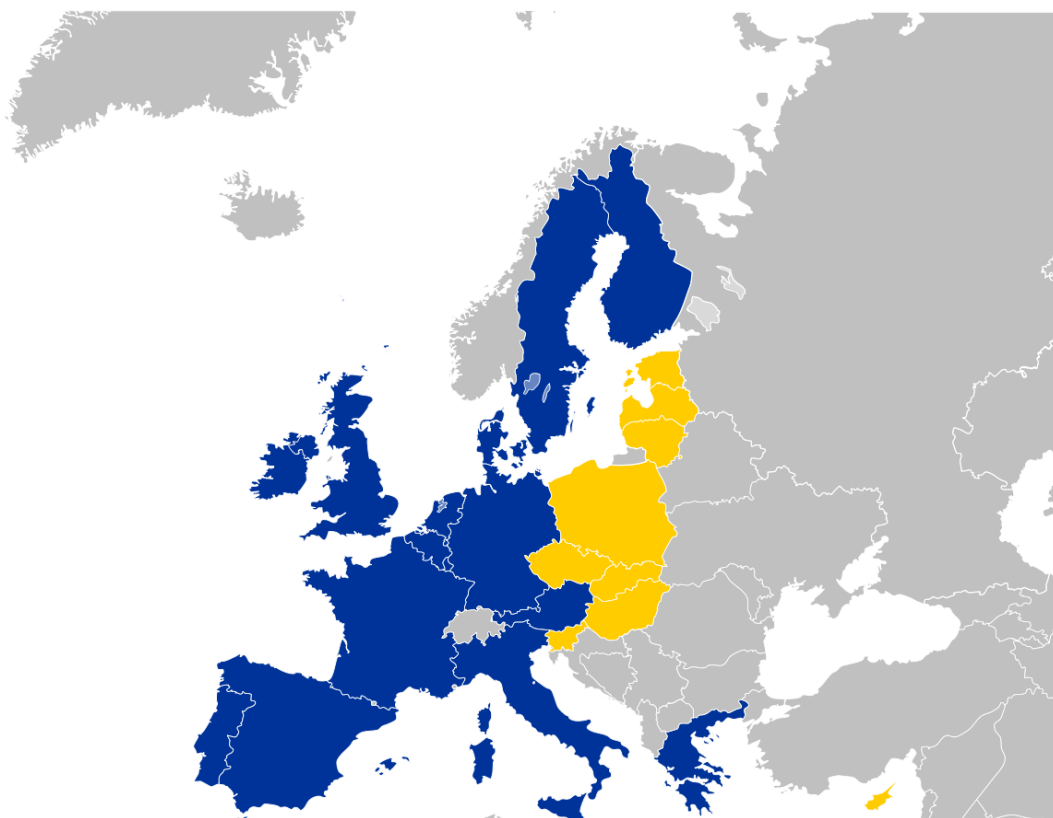


Nikos Anastasiadis
2013-



2. HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY

Cyprus has been inhabited at least since the Paleolithic era, with the human presence being confirmed from 10,000 BC. and after. During this long period, most of the population's development focuses on coastal areas. However, during periods of increased piracy and external threats, it became necessary to develop important settlements in the hinterland, one of which eventually evolved to become the capital of the country in the post-Roman era (Ledra / Nicosia). After many foreign conquests, Cyprus became an independent state only in 1960. Since 2004, Cyprus has been a member of the European Union.



Map of the 10 states (yellow color) that joined the EU (blue color) in 2004, including Cyprus (Source: Wikipedia)



3. COUNTRY POLICY

3.1 POLITICAL SITUATION

The Republic of Cyprus is a parliamentary democracy with a system of presidential democracy. Legislative power is implemented through elected representatives in Parliament, which has 80 deputies, 56 Greek Cypriots and 24 Turkish Cypriots (since 1974 the Turkish Cypriots are not involved in the work), while the Maronites, Latins and Armenians are also represented. The executive power in the Republic of Cyprus is divided between the president and the government. The President is elected for a term of five years. The range of political parties in the Republic of Cyprus consists of left and right ideology. The nature of left-thinking can be defined in ideas or movements such as socialism, communism, and ecology. Representatives are AKEL (Communist Party), EDEK (Socialist Party) and the Ecologists Movement. The feature of the right is based on liberal ideology. Representatives are DISY (Democratic Rally) and ELAM. DIKO (Democratic Party), Solidarity and Alliance are moving around the center.



Parliament consists of
80 deputies



House of
Representatives



4. ECONOMY

4.1 CURRENCY

Cyprus's economy has traditionally been among the most developed in Europe. Gross domestic product reaches the developed countries of the world. Despite the financial crisis of 2013, which has led to trade restrictions, a sharp drop in wages, rising unemployment and the closure of the second largest bank with a bail in, the economy has already recovered and unemployment has fallen to lower levels from the pre-crisis period (8%). The currency used in the Republic of Cyprus is the euro (a member of the euro area) that replaced the old national currency of the Cyprus pound.



The old banknotes issued of the Cyprus pound issued by the Central Bank in Greek, English and Turkish language



The national side of the Cyprus euro currency

4.2 WAGES AND SALARIES

In the Republic of Cyprus tax-free income is set at 19000 euros per year. The minimum guaranteed income is 480 euros per month, plus 226 euros in case of disability and 154 for rent subsidy. The average salary reaches 1058 euros a month, exceeding the average of the



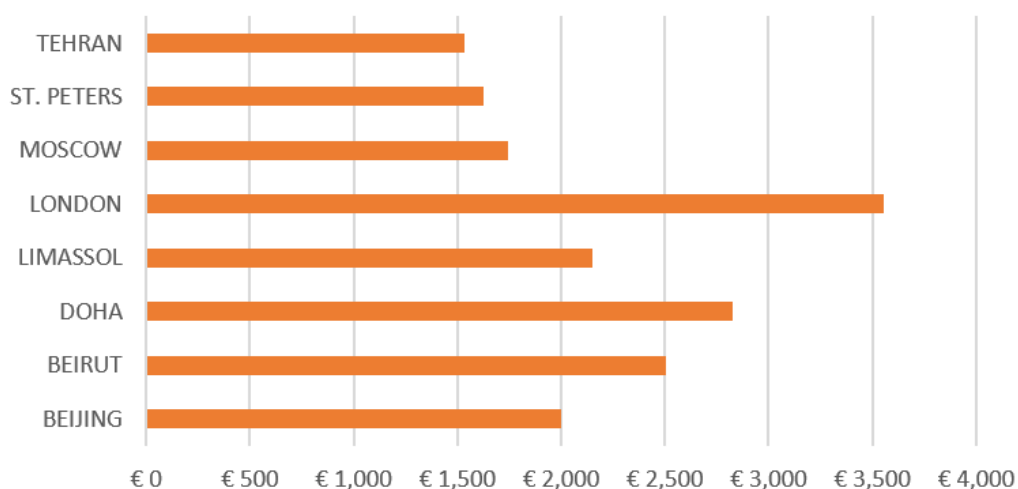
4.3 SOCIAL SOLIDARITY AND RETIREMENT

The Republic of Cyprus distinguishes between four types of pensions: institutionalized / old-age, disability, social and widow's. The basic requirement for an old-age pension is 65 years old and 33 years of work, ie a contribution to the social security fund. If these conditions are not met, the calculation of the amount of the pension is reduced accordingly.

4.4 MEDIUM RATES IN COUNTRY

The prices of most products in Cyprus are higher than the average of the European Union and the Eurozone. An average rental price for a 2-bedroom apartment is 450 euros a month, while the price for 1 liter of gasoline is about 1.28 euros (June 2018). Unfortunately, public transport is very limited, so car use is required for most daily journeys. It is also expensive to buy clothes and footwear, since most are imported from abroad, while food and drugs are generally cheaper.

COST OF LIVING PER MONTH
For a family of 4, excluding rent





4.5 STANDARD PRODUCTS OF CYPRUS

The most famous products of the Republic of Cyprus include a number of special foods, such as Haloumi and Anari cheese, Commandaria wine, Rose petal essence, Carob Honey and Lountza, Koupepia and Honey Balls, Loukoumia and Sousoukos.



Cyprus is also a regional producer of alcoholic beverages, including traditional zivani (80% alcohol content) and some locally produced beer. The regional brand KEO is famous for its particular flavor, while Cyprus is also the first country to be officially approved for the production of Carlsberg beer outside the country of Denmark.



Cyprus is also a very important shipping force, with its commercial fleet ranging among the top three in the world. In addition, Cyprus is an important hub for insurance, auditing and banking services throughout the South Mediterranean / Middle East region. Another major industry is tourism, with millions of tourists coming every year to take advantage of the beautiful sun and enjoy the beaches of Paphos, Limassol or Ayia Napa / Protaras / Famagusta. In recent years, most tourists have arrived from Russia, the United Kingdom, Israel, other EU countries and Arab / Middle East countries.



5. RELIGIONS, NATIONALITIES AND MINORITIES

The constitutionally recognized religious groups in Cyprus are those of the Armenians, the Maronites and the Latins (English Act of the English Parliament of 29 July 1960, Part II - Appendix E: The British Government's Statement on the Rights of the Smaller Religious Groups. In a referendum held on November 14, 1960, the Latins, as a religious group (together with the Maronites and the Armenians), chose to belong to the Greek Community and since then they are considered members of the Hellenic Community. (The Religious Groups and Citizens (Way of Choice) Law of 1960 - Law 7/1960). Today, while Northern Cyprus is home to a large number of Turkish Cypriots, the majority of Turkish Cypriots live abroad. This dispersion began after the Ottoman Empire was conveyed to the British Empire, as several Turkish Cypriots migrated primarily to Turkey and the United Kingdom for political and economic reasons. This migration has escalated in the wake of the intercommunal turmoil of the 1960s, as Turkish Cypriots were forced to settle in enclaves in Cyprus and many to emigrate.





6. HOLIDAYS AND TRADITIONS OF CYPRUS

January 1st - New Year

January 6 - Feast of the Epiphany

March 25th - Greek National Day

1st April - National Anniversary

May 1st - Labor Day

15th of August - Assumption of the Virgin Mary

October 1st - Independence Day of Cyprus

28th October - Greek National Anniversary

December 24 - Christmas Eve *

December 25 - Christmas

December 26 - Second Day of Christmas

Clear Monday (50 days before Orthodox Easter)

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Pentecost – Cataclysm



7th of January – Theofaneia

Winter swimmers attempt to catch a cross thrown by the priest in commemoration of the baptism of Jesus in the river Jordan.



7. FAMILY

7.1 TRADITIONAL FAMILY, STATE SUPPORT

Typical traditional households consisted of a father, a mother and their unmarried children. At the wedding, parents gave their children a piece of land, if any, along with money and household items. Traditionally, the bridegroom gave home and the bride's family the furniture and bedding. This was the dowry, the distribution of an equal share of the parents' property to the children, men or women, at the time of marriage, and not after the death of the parents. After the Second World War, the bride was obliged to provide the house. Owning a house, given the land's inadequacy (especially after the 1974 invasion) and the considerable costs of building, became a great asset for a woman who wanted to marry. For this reason, a large part of the wages of a working woman went to the construction of a home because the "good marriage" was just as important in the early 1990s as it used to be in the past.

7.2 WEDDING, DIVORCE, CIVIL UNION

Urbanization and modernization have changed the attitude towards marriage. Expansion of the school system meant that boys and girls meet from an early age and are exposed to modern ideas on social and sexual relations. The large increase in the number of women in their workforce has also been released from strict parental control. Today it is now possible to marry a religious or political marriage or to legally live with a civil union statement.

7.3 ADOPTION

According to the relevant legislation, Social Welfare Services aim to ensure the best interests and rights of children before and after adoption. The basic responsibilities of the Social Welfare Service during the adoption process are:

- Investigate if a person or family is eligible to become adopted parents.
- Ensure the best interest of children as soon as the application for adoption is submitted to the Court.
- Submit to the Court a report indicating whether adoption is in the interest of a child.
- To provide post-adoption counseling.

8. LIFESTYLE IN CYPRUS

8.1 GENERALLY

A relaxed lifestyle in a Mediterranean atmosphere has established Cyprus as not only a popular tourist destination, but as one of Europe's top spots for expats, business professionals and retirees. Cypriots are highly educated and multilingual. The official languages of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish, however English is widely spoken and written and is the language of international business. German, French and Russian are also widely spoken in commerce, due both to the number of Cypriot graduates from overseas universities and the island's commercial ties with the global business community. More than a place just for lounging in the sun, there are lots of things happening in Cyprus all year round. From music concerts and cultural performances, sports events, religious festivals, to informative conferences where you can meet like minds. The Cyprus Rally has been held every year since 1970 and forms part of the World Rally Championship and the FIA Middle East Rally Championship, and attracts hordes of car enthusiasts, while the annual Historic Cyprus Rally draws crowds of vintage car enthusiasts. Cultural events such as the Pharos Chamber Music Festival, the Kypria International Festival, which comprises music, dance and performance arts, and the Thalassa International Festival, which includes photographic exhibitions, movie screenings and music performances, ensure there's something to interest everyone on the annual calendar of events.

8.2 EDUCATION

Education is compulsory in Cyprus for ages 6-15 and includes primary school (6 years) and junior high school (3 years) operated both by state and private schools. Almost all children also attend preschool education, available from 5 months of age onwards. Children 15-18 years old can attend general or vocational high schools or start work. Colleges and universities, both state and private, offer diplomas, degrees and postgraduate titles (masters and doctorates) in Greek and English language for people ageing 18 years or more via both traditional / face to face or distance education or a blending of both.



8.3 LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION

The relaxed way of life in a Mediterranean atmosphere has established Cyprus not only as a popular tourist destination but as one of Europe's top spots for expatriates, businessmen and retirees. Cypriots are very educated and multilingual. The official languages of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish, but English is widely spoken and written and is the language of international business. German, French and Russian are also widely spoken, due to the number of Cypriot graduates from overseas universities and the island's business ties.

8.4 SPECIAL ISSUES OF COMMUNICATION - PROTOCOL

In this widely patriarchal society, men hold positions of authority and are considered to be the heads of their respective family units. Unlike many countries in North America and other European countries, Cypriots remain official and respected with their seniors, and there is an unwritten rule that if you are a senior, you deserve the rightful respect of the youth / mass. For example, the elders are typically addressed as Lord or Lady, followed by their first name.

8.5 MENTALITY

Cypriots are in island times, which means things may be a little bit behind what you used to do at home. It is not uncommon for meetings and appointments to be delayed for 30-45 minutes, with almost one hour delay for social commitment of any kind. So relax and chase the clock on your holiday. The people of Cyprus are proud of their hospitality. This means that if you are offered a drink or a piece of food, it is rude to deny it. In most cases, even if you do not want it, you should always accept a small sample that looks polite and not rude to your host. Between close friends (men-women and women-women, but not men-men), you will see the Cypriots greeting each other by kissing a very European greeting style. Men and acquaintances tend to greet with a simple handshake. . If you are invited to a Cypriot home during your vacation, it is considered courteous to bring with you a gift of guests or hosts to show your thanks.

8.6 FOOD

Cypriot cuisine is the cuisine of Cyprus and is closely linked to Greek and Turkish cuisine. It has also been influenced by Byzantine, French, Italian, Catalan, Ottoman and Middle Eastern cuisines. Meats cooked over charcoal are known as spit, the name comes from the souvlaki they are prepared for. Most commonly, it is a pork or chicken souvlaki sauce, but roasted halloumi, mushrooms and sausage are also served. They are usually wrapped in pie or a thin bread, along with a salad of cabbage, parsley, and raw onions, tomatoes and cucumber in slices.

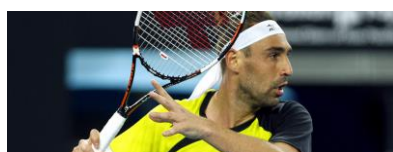


Traditional Cypriot dishes – seftalies, souvlakia, koupes, moussaka, afelia, kolokasi, koupepia, flaouna and halloumi cheese.

8.7 SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The combination of sun, water and sports is what many consider the absolute activity of holidays - and there are many around it, especially during the summer months.

The diverse landscape of the island offers a selection of activities such as hiking, mountain biking, safari tours or bird watching. The most popular and most extreme sports include parachuting, parasailing, scuba diving, water skiing, sailing, canoeing, pedaling, paragliding and sailing. The most popular team sport in Cyprus is football, with thousands of fans, mostly men, supporting the big teams of the country: APOEL, Omonia, Anorthosis, AEK, Apollo. At the same time, important Cypriot athletes have been distinguished in recent sports such as tennis (Marcos Baghdatis), sailing (Pavlos Kontidis) and shooting (George Achilleos).



Marcos Baghdatis



Pavlos Kontidis



Georgios Achilleos



THE MOST FAMOUS

CYPRIOT:

ARCHBISHOP

MAKARIOS III