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# Journal of Modern Hellenism

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Guest Editor

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The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the sponsoring institutions. It should be noted that wherever possible Greek names are written in their Greek form.

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**Note from the Guest Editor**

Christos P. Ioannides

This double issue of the *Journal of Modern Hellenism* is dedicated to Cyprus, or to be more precise, to contemporary Cyprus with focus on the period between the 1950s to the present. The main theme is the Cyprus dispute placed in a chronological context that covers the period of the EOKA anti-colonial campaign (1955-1959); Independence and the inter-communal conflict that followed (1960-1964); The role of the United Nations and the Greek junta years (1964-1974); The Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern part of Cyprus and its consequences (1974-2003); A major effort towards a settlement through the Annan Plan and the accession of Cyprus to the European Union (2004-present).

The latter development received special attention in this volume, as Cyprus' accession to the European Union holds the potential of becoming the transformative event that might create a new dynamic towards a resolution of the Cyprus problem that, along with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Indian-Pakistani dispute over Kashmir, constitute the longest running disputes in the world. A propos, the authors deal with the European dimension of the Cyprus dispute by advancing a basic argument: The *raison d'être* of the European Union is that it is a zone of permanent peace since war among European nations has been abolished forever,

while the use of force or the threat of military force are unacceptable. Based on this European axiom, the Turkish military occupation of a European territory, the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus, constitutes an apparent anomaly for Europe and any settlement should reflect the core EU values and practices that incorporate democracy and respect for human rights. Considering that Turkey itself is aspiring to become a full member of the European Union, a Cyprus settlement could facilitate Turkey's accession to the EU. Thus, one of the smallest members of the European Union, Cyprus, has become a test case of the EU's willingness or ability to remain faithful to its fundamental principles as well as to extend the permanent zone of peace, democracy and prosperity to the Eastern Mediterranean.

The contributors to this special issue include scholars who are experts in the field as well as younger academics who are on the onset of their careers. We wanted to encourage these younger scholars to pursue the systematic study of contemporary Cypriot domestic and external dynamics, especially following Cyprus' accession to the European Union in 2004.

In addition to the essays, we have also included a documentation article on the Annan Plan as it pertains to the reactions of the Greek American community to this plan. Finally, we augmented this volume with a bibliography. It is a selected bibliography that by no means represents the enormous number of books and treatises written about Cyprus over the last century. Rather, the bibliography included here covers the last part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, focusing on the Cyprus dispute and the latest chapter of the Cypriot saga, the island republic's accession to the European Union.

I wish to thank Dan Georgakas, Director of the Greek American Studies Project at the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, for his enormous contribution in preparing this issue. I am also most grateful to Dr. Anton

*Notes from the Guest Editor*

Vrame, Director of Religious Education of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, for his invaluable editorial assistance and for leading this project to fruition.