



Teacher Notes: Cyprus Timeline

Pre-Neolithic: 12,000 – 7,000BCE: hunter gatherer communities

Neolithic (I, II) 7,000 - 4,000BCE: farming communities and pottery

Chalcolithic (I, II) = Copper Age 4,000 – 2,600BCE: metal objects made of copper.

Early Bronze Age (I – III) 2,600 – 2,000BCE: bronze used to make tools/ornaments

Middle Bronze Age 2,000 – 1,600 BCE: many villages were settled

Late Bronze Age (I, II) 1,600 – 1,050BCE: trade with Egypt and Near East.

Iron Age (Cypro-Geometric Age) 1,050 – 750BCE: influenced by Greece, Phoenicians

Iron Age (Cypro-Archaic Age) 750 – 500BCE: ruled by Assyrians 709 BCE; Egyptians 570BCE; Persians 545BCE

Iron Age (Cypro-Classical Age) 500 – 325BCE: Persians ruled until Alex the Great

Hellenistic 325 – 30BCE: Set free by Alexander, then Egypt annexed Cyprus in 294BCE

Roman 30BCE – 395CE: Cyprus senatorial province of Imperial Rome in 30 BCE

Byzantine 395 – 1191CE: part of the Eastern Roman Empire, Byzantium

Lusignan (Frankish) 1191 – 1498 CE: Richard I of England conquered; Guy de Lusignan (former “King of Jerusalem”) purchased Cyprus in 1192

Venetian 1489 – 1571CE: Italian city-state of Venice ruled through military governors.

Ottoman (Turkish) 1571 – 1878CE: until ceded to Britain in 1878

Modern 1878CE - : Britain annexed the island in 1914; became a Crown Colony in 1925. Cyprus got limited self rule after WW II and full independence achieved in 1960.



Teacher Notes: The Cyprus Problem

While Cyprus still contains remnants of various ethnicities, the majority of the population is split between Greek Cypriots (GCs) and Turkish Cypriots (TCs) and they have lived separately for the past thirty-three years. Even though since 2003 they have had the opportunity to mix, the GCs and TCs rarely interact. This is the reality that the people of Cyprus face every day in their partitioned nation.

Although dates are widely debated as to when the hate and violence in Cyprus began, ranging from 1571-1974, TCs and GCs used to live harmoniously. Severe brutality against TCs forced them into enclaves for safety in the 1950s and 60s. In 1974, an attempted coup supported by the military junta of Greece forced an invasion by Turkey to protect the TCs. A buffer zone was enforced as a result and is now the border which has been occupied by UN forces for the longest time in UN history.

While the entire island of Cyprus is legally recognized as Cyprus, the Green Line inadvertently helped create the internationally unrecognized, yet very real country called “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” (TRNC) where the majority of TCs reside. The only nation that recognizes TRNC is Turkey. Daily living on every level, from government to society, is difficult as no other countries will support TRNC in any way.

Animosity lingers. Although the generation that experienced the atrocities in the 1950’s and 70’s is ready to forgive, the younger generations on both sides speak about “the others” as being evil. Insidiously, these resentments have been reinforced by the Greek Orthodox Church and the public education system. How can people contradict the church and education system? Despite the hopelessness of the situation, there are people on both sides, who, hand in hand, are striving for a solution.