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Abstract: The article is devoted to the consideration of the problem of territorial conflict between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots in relation to the island of Cyprus. At present, the island is split into 2 independent parts: the Greek South Cyprus and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is not recognized as the state by any of the UN member countries except Turkey. This problem remains unresolved till present day, being one of the most complex event in the system of global affairs. The conflict has lasted for more than 40 years, during which several negotiations took place in favor of reunification. However, despite the attempts of settlement, the international community still does not find ways to solve the presented problem, which can go from temporary to permanent.

Keywords: strategic target, territorial conflict, armed conflicts, the Republic of Cyprus, the Northern Turkish Republic of Cyprus.

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КИПРСКИЙ КОНФЛИКТ

Аннотация: Статья посвящена рассмотрению проблемы территориального конфликта между греками-киприотами и турками-киприотами по отношению к острову Кипр. В настоящее время остров расколот на 2 независимые части: Греческий Южный Кипр и Турецкая Республика Северного Кипра, которую не признаёт

государством ни одна из стран-членов ООН за исключением Турции. Данная проблема и по сей день остаётся нерешённой, являясь одним из наиболее сложных явлений в системе международных отношений. Конфликт длится уже более 40 лет, в течение которых прошли несколько переговоров в пользу воссоединения. Однако, несмотря на попытки урегулирования, международное сообщество по-прежнему не находит путей разрешения представленной проблемы, которая может перейти из временной в постоянную.

Ключевые слова: стратегическая цель, территориальный конфликт, вооружённые конфликты, Республика Кипр, Турецкая Республика Северного Кипра.

Cyprus is located on the crossroads of the sea routes of three large continents. The island has always been the object of attention and a strategic target for Europe, Asia and Africa. The conquerors of the island dashing replaced each other. Cypriots were under the leadership of Assyrians, Turks, Romans, Greeks, Persians, Egyptians and British. Cyprus was a part of Byzantium, Venice and Ottoman Empire. Since 1879 the island belonged to the possessions of Great Britain.

Cyprus was the last English colony (1925-1960). The modern republic has preserved many things since the time of British colonization: left-hand traffic, legislation, the English language.

In 1959 the country gained sovereignty. This decision was made at the negotiations of three countries: Turkey, Great Britain and Greece. In 1960 the island adopted the Constitution and became a presidential republic. The 1960 Constitution states that Cyprus is a state with a guaranteed observance of the principle of equality of the power of two Cypriot national communities (Greek and Turkish). The representative of Cypriot Greeks is obliged to become the president of the republic, and the Turkish Cypriots - the vice-president. Deputies also had to be elected from two national groups. But since 1963 the Turks have dropped to take part in the Legislative Assembly.

According to the legend, Cyprus is an island of happiness. It was here that the goddess of tenderness and love Aphrodite appeared to people from the sea foam. But, unfortunately, the modern Cypriot history is far from perfect. Irreconcilable enmity between two national clans reign here.

Armed conflicts led to the bringing of the UN troops on the island in 1964. Ten years later, the extremists Cypriot Greeks with the support of the Athenian government plotted the insurrection. The legally elected president Makarios was overthrown, and Cyprus reunited with Greece. In these years the country was under the influence of the junta. A week later Turkish authorities brought troops to the island. As a result of armed clashes, over 7,000 people died, and about 300,000 fled from the island with refugee status. Soon the Turkish community occupied almost half of the territory. Turks destroyed ancient monuments, plundered Byzantine temples. At this time Cyprus lost many valuable relics.

Soon the world community announced the creation of the Cyprus Federal State of Turkey. On November 1, 1983, the world learned about the origin of the Northern Turkish Republic of Cyprus. TRNC was recognized only by Turkey.

Now the island is split into 2 independent parts: Turkish (located in the North) and Greek (located in the South) ethnic communities.

Table 1 – Comparative characteristics of 2 parts of Cyprus

Factors	Greek South Cyprus	Turkish Northern Cyprus
<i>Capital</i>	Nicosia	North Nicosia
<i>Official languages</i>	Greek, Turkish	Turkish
<i>Demonym</i>	Cypriot	Turkish Cypriot
<i>Government</i>	Unitary presidential constitutional republic	Unitary semi-presidential republic
<i>Legislature</i>	House of Representatives	Assembly of the Republic
<i>Area, sq km</i>	5619	3355
<i>Population</i>	845,000	326,000
<i>Currency</i>	Euro	Turkish lira
<i>Religion</i>	Orthodox Christian	Christianity, Islam

Greek Cypriots constitute about 77% of the island population. The South has the status of an independent state. The South of the island was accepted into the European Union in May 2004. Cypriot Southerners call the northern regions an occupied territory.

Officially, the Northern part is called The Northern Turkish Republic of Cyprus. Both parts are safe and open to tourists.

The island is officially divided into two parts. There is an artificially created buffer zone between them. It is also called the Green Line.

The country has a small area (about 3% of the territory) owned by the UK.

The question about connecting two communities worries Cypriots to this day. The indigenous people of the island (Greek and Turkish) are waiting and hoping for a merger of the territories.

In 2004, a referendum for reunification was held in the country. As a result, almost all Cypriot Turks voted for to the reunion while Greek Cypriots were against. The union according to the Annan Plan assumed the creation of a confederate republic. All state structures of Cyprus were financed by the Greek Side, but the rights of Greeks to property in the Northern Side were limited.

Now Cyprus is an independent state recognized by the whole world. Legally, The Republic of Cyprus has sovereignty on the whole territory of the island (with the exception of 3% owned by England) and the adjacent sea waters. The president of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiadis lived with the fact that the situation between two parts of island can turn from temporary to permanent and lead to the irrevocable partition of Cyprus. But the president believes that there are all the prerequisites for achieving a mutually acceptable arrangement if only the Turkish Cypriot Side and Turkey agree to understand this.

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