

Exiled for Freedom – EOKA Fighters in British Prisons and the Cypro-Irish Cooperation)
[Εξόριστοι για την Ελευθερία - Αγωνιστές της ΕΟΚΑ στις Βρετανικές Φυλακές και η Κυπρο-Ιρλανδική Συνεργασία]

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The book, authored by Lambros G. Kaoullas and Michalis Stavri, is consistent with the high standard of work the authors have produced so far -at least to the extent that I have read, whether jointly or individually.

With enthusiasm and a clear intention to contribute to the historical knowledge of a specific period in Cypriot history, the authors diligently analyse evidence and witness statements gathered from various sources, leading to reasonable and objective conclusions. More specifically, as they explain in the introduction, the book aims to shed light on the conditions of imprisonment and the daily lives of Greek Cypriots who were incarcerated in Irish prisons during the EOKA period. It further explores whether -and to what extent- their presence in Irish prisons and their interactions with Irish prisoners influenced the EOKA struggle and the broader English propaganda efforts. In my view, the authors' conclusions on this subject, as well as their examination of the impact of this unique relationship between Greek Cypriot and Irish prisoners, are particularly compelling. Not only does the book fill a gap in historical research that had not been previously addressed, but it also serves as a valuable tool for understanding the evolution of English propaganda, offering insightful conclusions based on meticulous research.

The book is structured into three main chapters, along with a brief yet significant analysis of the historical background of the Irish national movement. I consider the authors' decision to include this historical overview a wise choice, as it provides a natural and necessary context for the subject matter that follows. In the first chapter, they skillfully draw a parallel between the struggles of the IRA and EOKA, highlight-

ing similarities in their guerrilla warfare tactics, hunger strikes, and other forms of resistance.

The second chapter, which constitutes the core of the book, presents the findings of their extensive research. Here, the authors document the presence of Greek Cypriot prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs, Maidstone, Wakefield, and Perth prisons, supplementing their analysis with historical photographs, prisoner identification cards, personal records, and correspondence from key figures such as Republican Pat O'Donovan. One of the most fascinating aspects of this chapter, in my opinion, is the account of the encounters between Greek Cypriot and Irish prisoners at Wakefield prison, particularly their interactions with German scientist Klaus Fuchs and the close bond he developed with Renos Kyriakides and George Skotinos. The chapter also details the unsuccessful escape attempt from Perth Prison.

The third and final chapter concludes this historical examination by focusing on the return of the Greek Cypriot prisoners and the lasting impact of their experiences. It highlights the influence they had on their Irish fellow prisoners, the enduring relationships that were formed, and the continued support of the Irish people for the Greek Cypriot cause. This support is evidenced through various means, including articles in Irish newspapers during 1963-1964, with figures such as Seamus Murphy playing a key role.

Overall, I consider this book an outstanding effort to document and analyse this lesser-known historical intersection between two national movements. Once again, Lambros G. Kaoullas and Michalis Stavri have delivered a work of exceptional quality, one that I thoroughly enjoyed reading.

Anastasia Papamichael