

***The United Party/‘Eniaion’ (Ενιαίον Κόμμα  
Εθνικόφρονος Παρατάξεως. Στα σπάργανα της  
σύγχρονης κυπριακής πολιτικής ζωής)***

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This monograph by Michalis Stavri, a junior researcher, details the history of the Eniaion (loosely defined in an English translation as the ‘United Party’) is an excellent contribution, which covers a vacuum in the scientific study of the development of political life in the Republic of Cyprus.

As is well-known, other than AKEL, the communist party, there was a lack of political parties in the Greek-Cypriot community, following the 1960 Independence. The great majority of the representatives in the House of Representatives had been elected under the wider coalition of “Patriotic Front”, which, however, did not exist as a political party, but simply comprised of the various political forces that supported the first President of the Republic, Archbishop Makarios. The Patriotic Front comprised was heterogeneous, comprising EOKA fighters, right-wing, centrist or even leftist politicians, from the subsequent historical founder of the right-wing DISY (Democratic Rally) Glafcos Clerides to the subsequent historical founder of EDEK (Movement for Social Democracy) Vassos Lyssarides.

Whereas a number of well-researched academic studies have been undertaken for AKEL (see more recently Y. Katsourides, *The History of the Communist Party in Cyprus*, London: IB Tauris, 2014), this has not been the case for other political parties that defined the modern history of Cyprus. Other than the helpful general book by Soula Zavou, *Τα Πολιτικά Κόμματα της Κύπρου στον 20ο Αιώνα*, Λευκωσία: Επιφανίου, 2002), there has been a dearth of secondary sources assessing the contribution and ideology of the major political parties of the island. Indeed, there had been so far no specialized contribution regarding Eniaion and it is fortunate that Stavri’s book is both comprehensive and meticulously researched.

The author correctly notes that the study of the political history of a country cannot be completed without a proper examination of the activities of the political par-

ties. The Eniaion was founded by three of the leading personalities of the modern history of Cyprus: Glafcos Clerides, the historical leader of DISY (1976-1993) who served two terms as President of the Republic (1993-2003) and was the longest serving President of the House of Representatives (1960-1976); Tassos Papadopoulos, who was also President of the Republic (2003-2008), and President of the House of Representatives in 1976, as well as the second President of the centrist DIKO (Democratic Party) between 2000-2006; and Polycapros Georkadjis, the powerful first Minister of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus (1960-1968), who for four years was also the Minister of Defence (1968), before he was forced to resign because of the assistance he had offered to Alekos Panagoulis in his attempted assassination of dictator Georgios Papadopoulos of the Greek junta.

The monograph by Stavri is therefore detailing not only the history of one of the most historically significant political parties of Cyprus, but also of the political activity of three leading politicians of the island during between 1969-1976. The Eniaion was formed in 1969 and participated in the 1970 parliamentary elections securing a 15 out of the 35 Greek Cypriot seats in the House of Representatives. It had received more seats than any other political party in the 1970 parliamentary elections, because of the majoritarian electoral system that was in force, despite the fact that AKEL had received a largest share of the votes. It self-dissolved in 1976, when Clerides decided to form DISY and Tassos Papadopoulos eventually opted to not join the new political party and to remain independent.

Eniaion was unlike modern political parties. It mainly acted within the House of Representatives, without the wider political and social action normally associated with political parties of our era. I had partly assessed the role of Eniaion and its leading personalities within the House of Representatives in my book *Πορεία προς την Καταστροφή. Κοινοβουλευτική Ιστορία 1970-1976*, Αιγαίον, 2007. However, Stavri's book has a much wider framework of research, effectively assessing the totality of the history, ideology, work and acts of Eniaion. To achieve this he has relied not only on a comprehensive list of secondary sources, but also to sources such as archives, oral interviews and newspaper articles of the era. The material has been critically evaluated so as to assess the opposing interpretations, where such exist, in an objective manner, but also to enable the reader to appreciate the ideological underpinnings of a debate and to have an opportunity to form his/her own views. The book is not a narrative, but a well-researched historical analysis.

The book is split into five main parts, adopting a chronological analysis. The first

part serves as a historical introduction to the study by briefly analyzing the political participation during the British rule of Cyprus. The second part details the founding process of the Eniaion, including its founding conference, whereas the third assesses the ideological identity and political activity of the party, including the 1970 parliamentary elections. The fourth part elaborates on the parliamentary work of the Eniaion following the 1970 elections, and refers to specific important instances of parliamentary debates. The first part details the final years of the Eniaion, the coup d' etat and the Turkish invasion of 1974, and its aftermath that led to the gradual decision for self-dissolution of the party. The book includes an assessment of the relations of Eniaion with Makarios and with other political parties, the assassination of Georkadjis and the internal conflicts within the party and especially the relationship between Clerides and Papadopoulos. The book is highly recommended to all scholars of Cypriot history.

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