

Cyprus: Legal and Political Reflections: Republic of Cyprus 60 Years On

KYPROS CHRYSOSTOMIDES

Nicosia: Alfa Dimiourgiki Ltd, 2021

pp. xiii + 443

ISBN: 978-9925-580-28-6

Dr Kypros Chrisostomides is a notable personality of modern Cyprus, with unique characteristics and identities: a multilingual scientist, an ethical jurist, a creative international lawyer of and for peace and human dignity, an active citizen, a politician with a noteworthy social and political contribution in society, a parliamentarian, member of the Government and representative of his country before different Institutions. With a constant interrelation of politics in his legal analyses, he has treated all aspects of the Cyprus Question and the international status of the Republic of Cyprus since its emergence in the international legal order in 1960. All of his approaches adopted a perspective which respects international Law and international justice.

Dr Chrysostomides has a substantial legal background and knowledge of International and European Law with experience in International Bodies and Institutions –such as the Council of Europe– and with a particular familiarity with international practice. He is an active jurist and a practicing lawyer in Cyprus with level-headed arguments, which are always scientifically based on the values and principles of International Law and the European legal culture. He was at the forefront of the very first cases-applications that came before international judicial organs (European Commission and European Court of Human Rights), as well as those handled in the framework of the European Convention of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and before the Court of Justice of the European Union in Luxembourg, as well.

In fact, for more than 35 years, he has written and published a considerable number of books, essays, studies, articles, and comments that form a rich basis for the bibliography on Cyprus and its intertemporal international stance as a State and an active member of the international community. His book *The Republic of*

Cyprus: A Study in International Law is without doubt an excellent and valuable instrument of legal analysis of Cyprus and all aspects of the Republic since its creation and after the Turkish intervention in 1974 and the later occupation of the island. It is a truly unique monograph of legal theory and practice.

It is not a coincidence but his personal choice to concentrate on the scientific and academic research of the applications of international law in Cyprus, since the island is an authentic laboratory for issues concerning the implementation of international law, and rules and principles that the Republic of Cyprus duly uses. His last contribution with Cyprus: Legal and Political Reflections: Republic of Cyprus 60 Years On, which is his most recent publication on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus, reflects his passion in his public/scientific journey that comes together with his rich source of action for Cyprus. This extensive collection of various papers covers all developments, particularly in the last 3 years, 2018-2020 (Part I, pp. 11-135). In this context, the author not only offers a simple description of the situation under international law, but also interesting –or even ‘audacious’– proposals, such as to bring the case of Varosha or the acts of aggression by Turkey in Cyprus’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) before the International Criminal Court (ICC). But also the important issue of settlers, established in occupied Cyprus, considered as an international crime.

It is interesting to note that the Part IV of the book (pp. 281 et seq.) includes interesting reflections concerning EU Cyprus relations and connections with international law. As he is a person with strong convictions and commitment, Dr Chrysostomides persists in promoting ideas and policies in conformity with international law, values, and principles in all his approaches, even when Turkey does not act in the same way. At the same time, he does not hesitate to propose alternatives that are sometimes challenging and deemed ‘difficult’ to implement.

One could say that this book is, in reality, a corpus of legal and political reflections of the author’s own life, following the historical itinerary of the Republic of Cyprus and its contemporary stance, in the midst of various challenges. All in all, it is an interesting source of information and arguments that serve as a basis for a global reflection on Cyprus and its future as a sovereign, independent, and undivided Republic.

Stelios Perrakis