

P&CS Journal Inaugural Conference, 2021

A theoretical treatise to the Cyprus Problem: Neoliberalism, Securitization, and Neoclassical Realism

Dr Nikos Lekakis

Political Science Department

University of Crete, GR-74100 nilekakis@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper places the Cyprus Problem in an international relations (IR) framework and covers the period following the invasion of Cyprus in 1974 by the Turkish army to-date. It searches for a “foreign policy outcome,” essentially a decision by the leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities to reunite them politically under the auspices of the UN. The paper provides a synthesis of securitization theory, and the neo-liberal and the neoclassical realist paradigms, aiming to better interpret the existing experience and shed light on a future solution of the problem. The strategic environment for the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) is permissive, because the message sent by the international system for reunification does not require the use of material means - hard power. The leaders of the two communities play a key role, given that strategic political culture in small states such as the TRNC is not developed and state-society relations are underdeveloped. However, domestic level actors such as political parties and civil society organizations can play a role in influencing the leaders' image regarding the reunification opportunity. The data comes from existing studies, the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot digital media sources and valuable relevant information from semi-structured interviews with experts from both sides. Preliminary evidence shows that there are political forces and NGOs pushing for a one federal state solution, with only one issue remaining, that is the presence of Turkish troops on an island EU-member state - a securitization issue.

Keywords: International Relations, Cyprus, Securitization, Neo-classical Realism, Peace Studies.

This research is co-financed by Greece and the European Union (European Social Fund- ESF) through the Operational Programme «Human Resources Development, Education and Lifelong Learning» in the context of the project “Reinforcement of Postdoctoral Researchers - 2nd Cycle” (MIS-5033021), implemented by the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY).



Operational Programme
Human Resources Development,
Education and Lifelong Learning
Co-financed by Greece and the European Union

