

# Cyprus – decades of division

The leaders of Cyprus are resuming UN-sponsored reunification talks in Geneva after hitting yet another impasse in November 2016

## CHRONOLOGY (abridged)

■ **1914:** Cyprus formally annexed by Britain after 300 years of Ottoman (Turkish) rule

■ **1955:** Greek Cypriots begin guerrilla war against British rule, seeking unification with Greece

■ **1960:** Cyprus gains independence after Greek and Turkish Cypriots agree constitution

■ **1963:** **President Makarios'** proposal to revoke power-sharing with Turkey leads to intercommunal violence

■ **1964:** UN peace-keeping force set up

■ **1974:** Invasion of north by Turkish troops enforces partition along UN's "**Green Line**" ceasefire line

■ **1975:** Turkish Cypriots establish independent administration, with **Rauf Denktash** as president

■ **1983:** Denktash proclaims **Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus** (TRNC) – only recognised by Turkey



Self-declared **Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus**  
Population: 313,626

UN buffer zone



Akrotiri (UK)

**Republic of Cyprus**  
Population: 871,501



■ **1998:** Greek Cypriot President **Glafcos Clerides** threatens to install Russian anti-aircraft missiles. Turkey threatens military action. Clerides backs down

■ **Jun 2001:** UN renews 36-year mission – 2,400 peacekeepers patrol buffer zone

■ **Jan 2002:** Clerides and Denktash begin UN-sponsored negotiations, focussing on **European Union** membership

■ **Apr 2003:** Greek and Turkish Cypriots cross Green Line for first time in 30 years after Turkish Cypriot leaders ease border restrictions



■ **Apr 2004:** Turkish Cypriots vote to back UN reunification plan to gain EU entry – Greek Cypriots reject it

■ **May 2004:** Cyprus joins EU, but island remains divided

■ **Jan 2017:** President **Nicos Anastasiades** (L) and Turkish Cypriot leader **Mustafa Akinci** resume talks ahead of multilateral conference on future of Cyprus

