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CYPRIOT MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT

IN BRITAIN

by

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This D. Phil. thesis was prepared in the late 1960s, and submitted in 1971. Although some material was published subsequently, the thesis as a whole has only been accessible via the Bodleian Library at Oxford. As it remains the only detailed analysis of the migration and settlement of Cypriots in Britain up to that time, advantage has been taken of modern information technology to have it retyped onto disk, so that copies can be made available to interested individuals and to libraries.

The text of the thesis is unchanged, apart from the correction of a small number of errors in the original typescript. The original tables and diagrams have been scanned and inserted into the document as images. The temptation to revise and update the thesis has been resisted. As a result it reflects the perspective, style and terminology of its time, which are in some respects a little different from those of forty years on (e.g. the references to ‘coloured immigrants’).

Its value today lies in two features. The first is that it remains a unique source of detailed statistical information on the migration and settlement of Cypriots in Britain. It has been drawn on by some scholars subsequently, but for many it appears to be unknown. It also remains one of the few comprehensive analyses of the migration from a Commonwealth country to Britain during the post-World War II decades. It explores in detail the various underlying factors and their complex interplay, and *inter alia* shows that it was economic circumstances rather than the British Government’s immigration controls that led to the decline of the migration in the early 1960s.


Relatively little research has subsequently been conducted and published on the Cypriot community in Britain. There has not been any substantial further migration to Britain since the mid-1960s, except during the immediate aftermath of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, when up to 10,000 Cypriots fled to Britain, most of whom later returned. A further difficulty for the inquirer is that since the 1960s, UK Census data no longer distinguishes Cypriots in any way as a distinct category.

The reader seeking a more recent overview of the situation specifically of Greek-Cypriots in Britain is recommended to consult Maria Roussou, Greek Outside Greece: Cypriots in Britain, Diaspora Books, 2nd edn 1991, and Floya Anthias, Ethnicity, Class, Gender and Migration: Greek-Cypriots in Britain, Aldershot: Avebury, 1992.

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ABSTRACT

This is a social scientific study of the extent, character and causes of Cypriot migration and settlement in Britain between the years 1945 and 1966. It is based largely on published sources, mainly statistical. Some 75,000 Cypriots, mostly young adults, emigrated from Cyprus to Britain during the period - numbers increasing up to around 1960, and then declining sharply. A variety of circumstances affecting the movement are considered, the most important of which are found to be economic conditions in Britain and Cyprus. Cypriot settlement in Britain amounted in all to more than 100,000 persons in 1966, and was highly concentrated in London. The demographic and economic characteristics of London Cypriots are analysed in detail, and the settlers are found to have developed a thriving and remarkably self-sufficient economic base for community life as an ethnic minority in modern Britain. While their migration has been roughly coincident with that of recent 'coloured' immigrants to Britain from other Commonwealth countries, the character of Cypriot settlement has more in common with that of Jewish immigrants to Britain over half a century previously.
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ABBREVIATIONS


G.R.O. 1966  Special tabulations for Cypriot immigrants in the Greater London Conurbation derived from the 1966 Sample Census and made available by the General Register Office.

