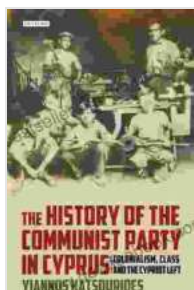


The History of the Communist Party in Cyprus: A Journey Through Decades of Ideological Struggle and Political Influence

The Communist Party in Cyprus, known as the Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL), has played a significant role in shaping the political landscape of the island nation for over a century. Founded amidst the turmoil of World War II and inspired by Marxist-Leninist ideology, AKEL has navigated a complex political terrain, advocating for social justice, workers' rights, and a unified Cyprus.



The History of the Communist Party in Cyprus: Colonialism, Class and the Cypriot Left

by Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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This article delves into the rich history of the Communist Party in Cyprus, exploring its origins, ideological foundations, political strategies, and enduring impact on Cypriot society. Through a detailed examination of key events and 人物, we will uncover the party's contributions to the island's political evolution and its ongoing relevance in contemporary Cyprus.

Origins and Foundation (1920s-1940s)

The roots of the Communist Party in Cyprus can be traced back to the early 20th century, amidst the rise of communist and socialist movements in Europe. In 1924, the Cyprus Communist Party was established as a branch of the Communist Party of Greece. However, the party's activities were initially limited due to British colonial rule and restrictions on political organizing.

During World War II, the Cypriot communist movement gained momentum. Led by figures such as Ezekias Papaioannou and Antonis Papakyriakou, the party mobilized workers and peasants in support of the Allied cause against fascism. In 1941, the Cyprus Communist Party was re-established as the Progressive Party of the Working People (AKEL), distancing itself from the Greek Communist Party and adopting a more independent political line.

Ideological Foundations: Marxism-Leninism and Cypriot Context

AKEL's ideology was rooted in Marxist-Leninist principles, emphasizing class struggle, proletarian revolution, and the establishment of a socialist society. However, the party adapted its ideology to the specific context of Cyprus, incorporating elements of Cypriot nationalism and advocating for the island's independence from British colonial rule.

AKEL's commitment to social justice and workers' rights resonated with many Cypriots, particularly those from the working class and rural areas. The party played a leading role in organizing labor unions, advocating for better working conditions, and promoting social welfare programs.

Political Trajectory and Independence Struggle (1950s-1960s)

During the 1950s, AKEL emerged as a major political force in Cyprus, actively participating in the island's struggle for independence from British rule. The party supported the creation of a united and independent Cyprus, free from both British colonialism and Greek or Turkish domination.

AKEL's leadership played a pivotal role in the negotiations leading to the 1960 independence agreement. The party's commitment to a non-aligned Cyprus and its opposition to partition appealed to many Cypriots who desired a unified and independent nation.

Post-Independence Challenges and Division of Cyprus

Following independence, AKEL faced significant challenges. The party's support for a non-aligned Cyprus and its opposition to NATO membership put it at odds with the government led by Archbishop Makarios III, who favored close ties with the West.

In 1974, Cyprus was divided after a Turkish invasion triggered by a Greek-backed coup. AKEL played a key role in organizing resistance against the invasion and in supporting the thousands of Cypriots displaced by the conflict.

Reunification Efforts and Contemporary Role (1970s-Present)

Since the division of Cyprus, AKEL has remained committed to the goal of reunification. The party has supported numerous peace initiatives and has advocated for a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation as the best solution to the Cyprus problem.

In recent years, AKEL has continued to play a significant role in Cypriot politics. The party has been a member of various coalition governments

and has consistently advocated for social justice, economic equality, and the reunification of Cyprus.

Legacy and Impact of the Communist Party in Cyprus

The Communist Party in Cyprus has left a lasting impact on Cypriot society and politics. Despite facing periods of repression and setbacks, AKEL has remained a resilient and influential force, shaping the island's political landscape and contributing to its social and economic development.

AKEL's commitment to social justice, workers' rights, and a unified Cyprus has resonated with generations of Cypriots. The party's legacy includes the establishment of a strong labor movement, the promotion of social welfare programs, and the unwavering pursuit of peace and reunification.

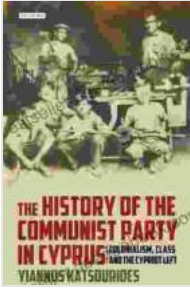
The history of the Communist Party in Cyprus is a testament to the enduring power of ideology and political struggle. From its humble beginnings as a clandestine organization to its role as a major political force, AKEL has navigated the complexities of Cypriot politics with steadfast determination.

As Cyprus continues to grapple with the challenges of division and the search for reunification, AKEL's commitment to social justice, workers' rights, and a unified nation remains as relevant as ever. The party's legacy is one of resilience, ideological conviction, and unwavering dedication to the betterment of Cypriot society.

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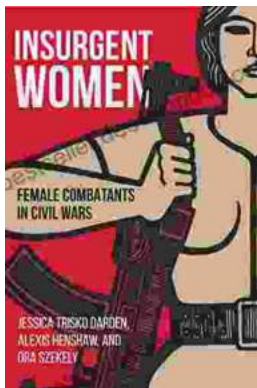


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