WORLD CHRISTIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

A comparative survey of churches and religions in the modern world

SECOND EDITION

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Volume 1:
The world by countries:
religionists, churches, ministries

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
2001
| STATE | Official name: Kuzey Kibris Türk Cumhuriyeti (The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus).
|       | Short name: Northern Cyprus. Adjective of nationality: Northern Cypriot.
|       | Flag: White with a red crescent and star in the center, lined by two red horizontal stripes, on top and at the bottom.
|       | Area: 3,335 sq. km. (1,288 sq. mi.).
|       | Legislature: Legislative Assembly, 50 members.
|       | Official language: Turkish.
|       | Monetary unit: 1 Cyprus pound = 100 cents. US$1 = 1.20.
|       | Chief cities: LEEKOSE (Levkosia) – 2, Nicosia – 2)
|       | Political divisions: 1 province.
|       | Armed forces: 600.

## DEMOGRAPHY
- Population: 185,000.
- Population density: 55.4/sq. km. (143.6/sq. mi.).
- Under 15 years: 43,000.
- Growth rate p.a.: 0.79% (births 13.64, deaths 7.88).
- Mortality: Infant, per 1,000: 8.1; Maternal per 100,000: 40.0.
- Life expectancy: 78 (male 76, female 81).
- Household size: 3.0.
- Floor area per person, sq.m: 18.0.
- Major languages: Turkish, Greek.
- Urban dwellers: 96.77%.
- Urban growth rate p.a.: 1.00%.

## ETHNOLINGUISTIC PEOPLES
- 89.5% Turkish Cypriot; 8.0% Greek Cypriot; 0.5% Yoruk.

## ECONOMY
- National income p.a. per person: US$12,402; per family: US$37,207.

## EDUCATION
- Adult literacy: 85% (male 87%, female 83%).
- Schools: 80.
- Universities: 2.
- School enrolment: female/male: 90%/90%.

## HEALTH
- Access to health services: 70%.
- Access to safe water: 100%.
- Hospitals: 25 (15 beds per 10,000).
- Doctors: 250.
- Blind: 150.
- Deaf: 11,100.
- Murder rate: 20.
- Lepers: 500.

## LITERATURE
- New book titles p.a.: 19 (100 p.a. per million).
- Periodicals: 0.
- Newspapers: 0 dailies.

## COMMUNICATION
- Phones: 350 (25% mobile).
- Radios: 220.
- TV sets: 100.
- Computers: 50.

## HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY
- Adult literacy: 85% (male 87%, female 83%). Schools: 80.
- Universities: 2.
- School enrolment: female/male: 90%/90%.

Great Commission Instrument Panel: status of Northern Cyprus

**Country status.** Northern Cyprus is the northern 37% of the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea south of Turkey. Its principal exports are fruits and clothing.

**HUMAN LIFE AND LIBERTY**

Human rights and freedoms. The Republic of Northern Cyprus is a puppet state created by Turkey after the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974. The illegal state has not been recognized by any government other than Turkey. The republic has the distinction of being one of the most heinous violators of human rights in the world, committing all kinds of atrocities against the Greek Cypriots, including destruction of churches and cathedrals, and torture. The republic is run arbitrarily by Turks who also have looted the public treasury. Because no other nation in the world trades with this state, its economy is in ruins. The UN has been present since 1964 as a peace monitoring body. The presence has nearly disappeared.

**Human environment.** The Mesoria is a broad plain that runs east to west on the island and opens to the sea at either end. This was once rich with forests whose timber was the prize of ancient conquerors for sailing vessels. Centuries-long deforestation has damaged the islands drainage system and its year round water supply access. In the summer all of the island’s rivers are dry. Dams and waterways are being constructed to bring water to farming areas.

**NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS**

*Islam* is dominant. Virtually the entire Turkish population is Islamic, consisting of nearly 90% of the population of TRNC. Most of its adherents are Sunnis of the Hanafi sect. The few Shias belong for the most part to derelict orders, mainly the Tariq, Mevlevi, and Bektași. The office of the Evkaf serves the religious needs of the Muslims of the republic. Islam influence was birthed from the Ottoman Empire reign of the island from 1571-1878.

**CHRISTIANITY**

ORTHODOX CHURCH. The apostles Paul and Barnabas visited Salamis, Barnabas’ birthplace, in AD 46, and Barnabas later became the first bishop of Cyprus. In 441 the third ecumenical council of Ephesus discussed the creation of the Church of Cyprus from the Church of Antioch, and during the reign of the eastern emperor Zeno (474-491) the Cyriot church received autocephalous status along with the patriarchates of Antioch, Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Constantinople. From the 8th to the 10th centuries, Cyprus was subjected to a series of Arab raids, after which a considerable number of monasteries were built. In 1054, the schism between the Eastern and Western churches became a reality. At the invitation of the Latin King Guis de Lusignan, the initial immigration of Maronites from Lebanon to Cyprus occurred during the Crusades at the end of the 12th century. Their number ultimately reached 80,000 divided into 60 villages. The Maronite archbishopric of Cyprus was founded in 1352. From the 12th to the 15th centuries Cyprus was ruled by followers of the Latin Catholic, Franciscans, and Genoese, who placed a Latin hierarchy over both the Latin and Orthodox churches. When Venice gained control of Cyprus in 1499, it relented many of the former restrictions on the Eastern church, but antagonism between the 2 churches continued. Many Orthodox churches and cathedrals were built during this period of domination by the Latin church. When the Turks invaded the island in 1572, they restored the Orthodox church to its former position in recognition of its help in the war against Venice. The Latin church was banished. The Maronites were also persecuted because of their alliances with the Lusignan dynasty and later the Venetians. Some returned to Lebanon, including the Maronite bishop, while others converted to the Orthodox church or Islam. Only a small minority of Maronites remained in Cyprus. Franciscans, who had first come to Cyprus in 1226 during the lifetime of Francis of Assisi, were later given permission to re-establish the Latin rite at Nicosia and Larнака. Through the Muslim policy of using the religious leader of a conquered people as their political leader, the archbishop (ethnarch) of the Orthodox church increased in power, being given responsibility for collecting taxes and maintaining law and order. By the beginning of the 19th century both Greeks and Turks were restive under this growing domination, and in 1821 following the Greek war of independence the ethnarch and several of his closest collaborators were executed. In 1878 Cyprus came under British influence, formal annexation following in 1914. Agitation for union with Greece (enosis) gradually increased among the Greeks under British rule, with church leaders playing an active part; and in 1956 the ethnarch, archbishop Makarios, was banished from the island. He was later allowed to return and was elected president in 1959. Formal independence was declared in August 1960.

OTHER CHURCHES. Four Christian groups are present in the TRNC serving the community. They are the Anglican church of St Andrew in Kyrenia, the Roman Catholic Church also in Kyrenia, the Maronite Church of Ayios Georgios in Korucam, and the Greek Orthodox Church at Dipkarpaz.

The Holy See has no diplomatic relations with Northern Cyprus in AD 2000. The Cypriot Orthodox Church at Dipkarpaz is independent of the Holy See. Though the See has no diplomatic relations with Northern Cyprus, there are indigenous missions. Though today predominating in the TRNC, Northern Cyprus has a long and significant history of missionary sending. Missionaries were sent out of Northern Cyprus, in many centuries, in uninterrupted by the Turkish invasion in 1572. Though the Orthodox church sent some missionaries after this time, relatively few have been sent out in the 20th century, virtually stopping completely with declared independence in 1974.

**CHURCH AND STATE**

Article 23 of the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus states in section one that all have the right to conscience, religious faith, and opinion. This guarantees everyone in TRNC the right of religious freedom without interference from the State. Section 4 states that religious education and teaching is to be carried out by the supervision and control of the State. Islam is the recognized religion of the TRNC and Turkish Cypriots have joined the Islamic Conference Organization. With the exception of religion as stated, no open Christian activity is permitted.
BROADCASTING AND MEDIA
Turkish Cypriot media is free and the publishing and airing of any views and ideas is permitted without restriction. Christian radio is broadcast over Greek Cyprus radio and TV station BRT has daily broadcast in Greek, English, and Turkish. News, music, current affairs, movies, and docu-dramas make up the program content.

FUTURE TRENDS AND PROSPECTS
Christianity is expected to grow slowly but remain below 10% of the population through AD 2025. Christianity is not expected to grow beyond 15% of the population in the foreseeable future. Islam will likely dominate throughout the 21st century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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<tr>
<th>PEOPLES</th>
<th>CITIES</th>
<th>CIVIL_DIVISIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>World</td>
<td>Num Pop 2000 C% Christians E% Un evangelized</td>
<td>Num Pop 2000 C% Christians E% Un evangelized</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>1 925 0.00 0 45 55 609</td>
<td>0 0 0.00 0 0 0 0</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>2 169,316 1.82 3,079 52 48 80,848</td>
<td>1 42,085 11.00 4,629 68 42 17,541</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>1 14,924 68.00 13,028 100 0 18</td>
<td>0 0 0.00 0 0 0 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4 185,045 8.70 16,107 56 44 81,375</td>
<td>1 42,085 11.00 4,629 68 42 17,541</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Country Table 2. Organized churches and denominations in Northern Cyprus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official name (bold type = church with over 10% of all affiliated)</th>
<th>Begun Type</th>
<th>Counc</th>
<th>Congs</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Affiliated 1970</th>
<th>Affiliated 1995</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Names, notes, and other statistics (see Codebook, Part 3)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greek Orthodox Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent home meetings</td>
<td>c1960</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>4.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isolated radio churches</td>
<td>c1960</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>108</td>
<td>1,030</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>9,65</td>
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Churches, members, growth, 1900-2025 (mid-1900)                     | Congs | Adults | Affiliated | % | Total denominations | Megablocks: | O | R | A | P | J | m |
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<tr>
<td>Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1900)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>6.21</td>
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<td>Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1970)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6,106</td>
<td>10,210</td>
<td>6.21</td>
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<td>Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-1990)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>9,800</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>1.84</td>
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<td>10,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-2000)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>10,700</td>
<td>16,106</td>
<td>0.69</td>
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<td>Total churches, members, and denominations (mid-2025)</td>
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