



Fighting EOKA: The British Counter-Insurgency Campaign on Cyprus, 1955-1959

By David French



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Drawing upon a wide range of unpublished sources, including files from the recently-released Foreign and Commonwealth Office 'migrated archive', *Fighting EOKA* is the first full account of the operations of the British security forces on Cyprus in the second half of the 1950s. It shows how between 1955 and 1959 these forces tried to defeat the Greek Cypriot paramilitary organisation, EOKA, which was fighting to bring about enosis, that is the union between Cyprus and Greece.

By tracing the evolving pattern of EOKA violence and the responses of the police, the British army, the civil administration on the island, and the minority Turkish Cypriot community, David French explains why the British could contain the military threat posed by EOKA, but could not eliminate it. The result was that by the spring of 1959 a political stalemate had descended upon Cyprus, and none of the contending parties had achieved their full objectives. Greek Cypriots had to be content with independence rather than enosis. Turkish Cypriots, who had hoped to see the island partitioned on ethnic lines, were given only a share of power in the government of the new Republic, and the British, who had hoped to retain sovereignty over the whole of the island, were left in control of just two military enclaves.

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Editorial Review

Review

exceptional ... It is no easy task for anyone to write about the Cyprus emergency because it can excite passions from the various sides involved, but French succeeds because he tells it how it is. His account is impressive ... and logically structured. The argument is based on a thorough analysis of the archival material, including the recently released FCO files ... as a historian I am thankful that he has done such a thorough job. Dr Andrekos Varnava, *Reviews in History* [this book] will surely endure as the authoritative account of the Cyprus 'Emergency' ... a gripping investigation of a fast-moving but ultimately exasperating conflict. An 'investigation' for two reasons: one is that the book's findings rest substantially on recent releases from the FCO 'migrated archive' of security-related colonial files; the other is that French, a scrupulous empiricist, applies the skills of the forensic analysis, cross-referencing accounts and weighing conflicting evidence to reach his conclusions. Martin Thomas, *Intelligence and National Security* this is an authoritative and exhaustive resource for anyone who needs to understand the Cyprus emergency in its domestic and international aspects or is interested in issues surrounding the control of force and reactions to excessive force and losses of control. Karl Hack, *British Journal for Military History*

About the Author

David French, *Professor Emeritus, University College London*

David French was born in Essex in 1954 and educated at the University of York and the War Studies Department at King's College London. After briefly holding teaching posts at North London Polytechnic, the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Heriot-Watt University, he spent 27 years at University College London, before taking early retirement to become a full-time writer. The author of eight previous books, he has been the recipient of the Arthur Goodzeit Prize of the New York Military Affairs Symposium, and is a three-times winner of the Templer Medal awarded by the Society for Army Historical Research. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Historical Society and the Historical Association.

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