**VISIONS IN CONFLICT Peacebuilding in Cyprus: A View from the Ground (Volume 2) Paperback**

by [A. Marco Turk](http://www.amazon.com/s/ref%3Dntt_athr_dp_sr_1?ie=UTF8&field-author=A.+Marco+Turk&search-alias=books&text=A.+Marco+Turk&sort=relevancerank) (Author)

Reviewed by Susan S. Raines

For those who have not been there, it should be noted that Cyprus is a gem of an island in the Mediterranean Sea and is now a member of the European Union. Cyprus has long been contested between Greece and Turkey, with various interludes with the Brits and Ottomans seeking control of this strategic and incomparably beautiful isle. Track 1 solutions have failed to sway the majority of Cypriots to put their contentious past behind them.

In this cogent analysis, Turk describes the power of inter-ethnic dialogues at the Track 3 and Track 2 levels to potentially find a lasting solution to the island's conflicts. Chapter one is written by guest author Joseph S. Joseph, from the University of Cyprus and the island’s former Ambassador to Greece. He provides a comprehensive, comprehensible history of what has come to be called ‘the Cyprus problem’ that is foundational reading for anyone trying to understand the past, present and possible futures of the island.

Dr. Turk then describes his approach to grassroots dialogues in Cyprus, which is in and of itself a rather new approach to facilitated public dialogues (See Barbara Tint, 2009 in Conflict Resolution Quarterly for more on inter-ethnic dialogues). The dialogue processes used with more than 600 Cypriots is described by Dr. Turk as a “democratized restorative justice approach….designed to transform the conflicted relationships, to manage and ultimately resolve the controversy, while addressing the disputed issues” (p.86). The first step involves parties sharing their personal experiences and stories related to the conflict while taking turns as “respectful listeners”. They are asked to step into each other’s shoes and imagine how members of the other group feel and to try on their perspectives. This goes a long way to building relationships and establishing trust. If forgiveness is discussed or granted, it is welcomed but not required and does not include exhortations to forget what has happened. Then discussions about potential solutions and collaborations can productively occur.

For anyone trying to understand the conflict in Cyprus and the most promising paths for peace, this book is indispensable reading. Clearly, Dr. Turk knows the island, its history, the key players, and some promising paths forward. His work as a practitioner and academic of conflict resolution shines through along with artful writing that is refreshing to read.

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