1. Record Nr. UNINA9910255316303321

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Titolo Russia-Cyprus Relations : A Pragmatic Idealist Perspective / / by Costas

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Pubbl/distr/stampa London:,: Palgrave Macmillan UK:,: Imprint: Palgrave Macmillan,,

2016

ISBN 1-137-34715-5

Edizione [1st ed. 2016.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (X, 211 p.)

Disciplina 327.5693047

Soggetti Russia—Politics and government

International relations

Diplomacy

Political science

Comparative politics

Russian and Post-Soviet Politics

International Relations

Political Science

Comparative Politics

Cyprus Relations Russia (Federation) Russia (Federation) Relations Cyprus Cyprus History Cyprus Crisis, 1974-

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto

The "pragmatic-idealist" logic of the book -- The Cyprus problem,

international law, and the Annan Plan -- Revisiting pragmatic idealism -- Moscow's policies towards Cyprus during the Cold War: realpolitik versus latent pragmatic idealism -- Russia and Cyprus, 1991-2012: pragmatic idealism versus realpolitik -- Nicos Anastasiades' first two years in power -- The Russo-Turkish labyrinth and the Cyprus-Israel-

Egypt-Greece rapprochement -- The Russo-Cypriot prospects.

Sommario/riassunto This study assesses Moscow's special bilateral relations with Cyprus

since the mid-1950s, with particular emphasis on the post-Cold War years. Melakopides develops the theory of 'pragmatic idealism' when

describing the way in which Moscow's Cyprus policies were meant to satisfy not only mutual interests but also international legal and ethical principles and norms. The book recalls Cyprus's dramatic vicissitudes since the 1950s and revisits the controversial 'political realist' policies of Washington, Ankara and London against the interests and needs of the Greek-Cypriot majority. Melakopides then goes on to analyse the regional geopolitical context; Turkey's hegemonic ambitions and its ongoing aggressiveness against Cyprus; Nicosia's current efforts to pursue a multidimensional foreign policy that also engages Greece, Israel and Egypt; the strong Russian-Cypriot diplomatic and political relations as well as their relations in trade, banking, energy, tourism, culture, energy and defence; and the origins of Russia's historical, religious and 'spiritual' sentiments and bonds towards Hellenism and Cyprus.