

## **Contrasting colonies? Malta, Cyprus, and the end of empire in the Mediterranean**

This paper will concentrate on a comparison between Malta and Cyprus at the end of empire drawing on under-utilized sources, especially from the so-called ‘migrated’ files held at the National Archives (Kew Gardens) in the FCO 141 series. While the historiography tends to make contrasts between the two Mediterranean island colonies in the process of imperial demission with turbulence and insurgency in Cyprus being juxtaposed with the more measured constitutional change in Malta, this paper will argue that the experiences of the two territories actually had more in common than would appear at first sight to be the case. Indeed, the end of empire in Malta, while notably less violent than in Cyprus, was much more turbulent than the existing literature suggests, especially following the demise of the plan to integrate Malta into the UK in the mid-1950s and the declaration of ‘emergency’ rule in 1958. A comparison between the ‘emergencies’ in Cyprus and Malta will rest at the heart of the analysis.