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(Dis)Unity of ‘One Nation’ in the island: Durrell’s *Bitter Lemons*

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Abstract

This study endeavours to explore Lawrence Durrell’s travel book *Bitter Lemons of Cyprus* (1957), which is based on his three-year stay on the island, a sojourn which coincided with the *enosis* crisis along with value, personal and cultural conflicts. The book was meant to look like a travel account of idyllic Cyprus; however, it happened to depict the tension during the critical years of the *enosis* crisis. The troubled state of the colony comprises the background melody of the relaxing, soothing isle. *Bitter Lemons* is a political book that deals with, on the one hand, aspirations to unite the ethnicities under ‘one nation’ and, on the other hand, the partition of the island as a way out of the crisis. Durrell also sheds light onto the ethnic varieties, not differences, of the communities from the Western viewpoint. This paper, thus, attempts to depict the abundant images of tension clash and the struggles of establishing ‘one nation’—a forlorn hope—within the traditional reputation of the island as seen through both Western and orientalist perspectives.

Keywords: *images of Cypriots, partition, two communities, conflicts, values, ethnicities*