

***From *KOSMASSOS to NIKOKREON:
the polity-organisation of ancient Cyprus from the Late Bronze Age
to the end of the Cypro-Classical period***

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The aim of the thesis was to examine the political organization of ancient Cyprus, from the beginning of the Late Cypriote (1700 BC) to the end of the Cypro-Classical period (310 BC). The archaeological data, inscriptions and literary sources were investigated in order to approach the subject. In order to fully appreciate the dynamic character of this era, time was divided in three phases. The first includes Late Cypriot I-III A and constitutes the island's state formation horizon with the subsequent emergence of urbanism. The second includes Late Cypriot III B and the Cypro-Geometric period and it is the result of the restructuring of the Cypriote landscape, following a Mediterranean-wide economic and political crisis at the end of the second millennium BC. The third phase includes the Cypro-Achaic and Cypro-Classical periods, when, following the terminology used by the royal inscriptions, we are allowed to describe the Cypriot polities as city-kingdoms, πόλεις-βασίλεια. The main objective of the thesis was to identify the urban and administrative centres of each phase. Secondly, the thesis reconstructed the site networks that comprised the administrative regions of each centre. By this means, the ancient Cypriot polities emerged as full entities and they were not deprived of their constituent factor, their regions, that are frequently neglected by research.