


Chapter 8

An Analysis on Turkey's Urbanization Process in the Context of Urban Development Paradigms

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ABSTRACT

The ideological, economic, and technological phenomena experienced in the history of the world have affected the social order surprisingly. These phenomena have transformed the social order with their political, economic, and socio-cultural dimensions and have been effective in their reshaping. Since the first quarter of the 20th century, this has led to the emergence of three new paradigms of urban development. The first paradigm includes the period from the Second World War to the end of the 1970s, and this paradigm is defined as the state-based urban development period. The period from the 1980s to the mid-1990s was named the market-centered urban development period. Lastly, the period that continued since the mid-1990s has been named the governance period or the third way.

INTRODUCTION

Important political, economic and socio-cultural phenomena in human history have affected the social development process surprisingly. These phenomena which have left their traces in the process of social development have transformed and

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reshaped the social structure as breaking points. These have led to the emergence of new paradigms / approaches. The effects of these paradigms on the urban space perception and urban development in the context of the political, economic and socio-cultural conditions of the period in which they were born contain significant differences that require attention. In each paradigm, the roles of urban actors and the field of action of these actors differ considerably. It is possible to mention three paradigms that have been consistently significant from the 1930s onwards. Historically, they emerged as the state-centered urban development period, market-centered urban development period, and governance-centered urban development period. These paradigms constitute the main axis of the study. These paradigms, which are relatively related to or cause of each other from the perspective of time have become apparent in the political and economic conjunctural conditions of the relevant period. They are also the perpetrators of the spatial, economic and socio-cultural processes in the cities of the period they are related to. For example; in the first period, the built environment in the urban area was perceived as a concrete living space where the value of use was relatively at the forefront. In the forthcoming period, these concrete living spaces have been attributed value over the market value (exchange value). In the urban development process, along with the significant efficiency of the state actor, it has been found that the actors became diversified by inclusion of the market and other urban actors in the process in time. In the temporal process, the logical context of this changing perception of cities becomes clear in the context of these changing paradigms. Political and urban practices of the state and other urban actors are also analyzed in the context of these changing paradigms. Political, economic, socio-cultural and spatial relation types are regenerated in the social-change process triggered by the paradigm change. This study periodically analyzes these three paradigms. These paradigms are discussed theoretically in the context of political and economic conjunctural conditions of the period in which they were effective. The perception of the city, and the direction and nature of the urban development in the relevant period has been shed in this context. In the study, firstly the conjunctural context of urban development has been clarified. Then, within the frame of the political and socio-economic conditions of the relevant period, the question of how each paradigm emerged has been examined. The distinctive features of these paradigms for urban development have been emphasized. Their diversified perceptions of urban space and urban development have been set forth. Finally, the urban development process of Turkey has been evaluated in the context of each paradigm.

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