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Book Review

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Social Transformation in Turkey

by Kemal H. Karpat

Turkey, 2003

371 pages

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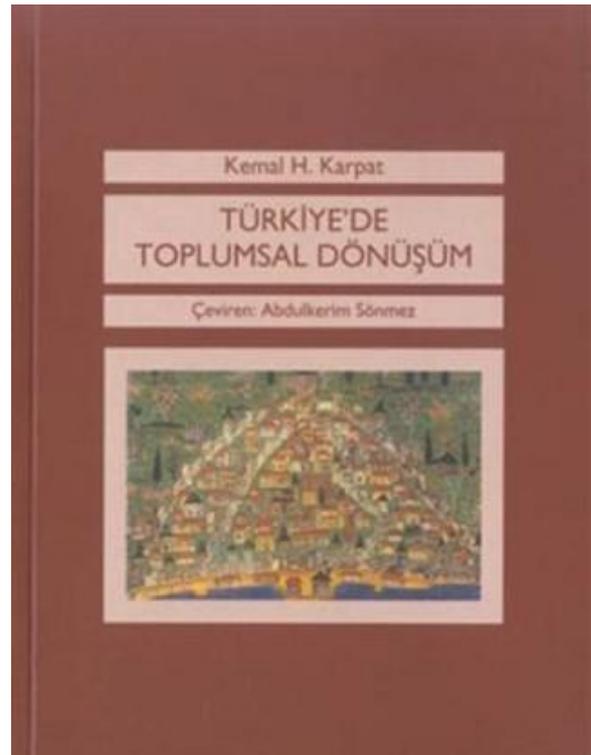
Kemal Karpat was born in Babadag town of Dobruca, Romania and started his academical studies in New York and Washington states of America in 1950. After his duty in United Nations Social Research ended, he worked as a lecturer and executive at numerous universities both in United States and Turkey. The academician-author, awarded with independence medal and University of Bucharest Dimitri Cantemir medal through his studies in Romania, was also honored with Russian Kazan Academy of Science Honorary Membership, University of Wisconsin Hilldale Award and Turkish Academy of Sciences. In 2009, the author who has sixteen books and above a hundred of articles, published in different countries, was given the Honorary prize by Turkey Grand National Assembly (TBMM), Assembly, Culture, Art and Broadcasting Board.

The name of the work of the academician-author, introduced his brief life story above, is Türkiye'de Toplumsal Dönüşüm (Social Transformation in Turkey). Above mentioned book is composed of 8 chapters after Preface and Introduction and ends with Conclusion and References.

In the subtitles of his work's first part, "Karşılaştırmalı Bakış Açısından Gecekondu (The Squatter from Comparative Perspective)", the author firstly describes the certain features of squatter settlement, the dispersion of it around the world, its being named after disparately and the ratios of these in existing city population, by means of charts. Then he shows the reasons of migration by giving examples from different regions of the world. He semtinizes the historical background of it. He states that financial conditions like capital formation and industrialization are one of the important factors that increases the migration from country to the city. He also gives information about the establishment of squatter settlement by mentioning the similarities and differences

of squatter and slum. At the end of this part, the author touches upon the transformation and stages of the country-side immigrants that they experiences while they are getting used to city.

The title of second chapter is "Türkiye'de Göçün ve Gecekonduunun Tarihsel Kökleri (Historical Roots of Immigration and Squatter in Turkey)". In this chapter, the author gives information about the alteration in the movement of immigration and squatting from past to present. He focuses on the reasons of immigration and squatting, the working groups of immigrants after they settled in the city in recent history. Besides, the number



of squatter in Turkey, squatter centers and squatter population in thirteen city is represented by charts. The reaction of the families who live in city against the immigrants who migrated to city from country side, the approach of the politicians to the squatters and people here are the other standing out topics. Subsequent to these information, the author centers upon the three squatter settlement located in Istanbul. The origins of people in these settlement units, and the reason why they migrated from country side to the city is semitized.

The third chapter is named after "Gecekonduunun Kuruluşu ve Gelişimi (The Establishment and Development of Squatter). In this chapter, the author gives historical information about the establishment and settlement of the three squatter area in Istanbul, mentioned above. Then, the general structure and development of these areas are explained. The migration patterns of immigrants who migrated from country side to the city in these three squatter area are described and the charts about the migration if it is directly or indirectly, the age group of married men are shown. Thereafter, the information about the reason why the immigrants came to Istanbul, the time they live in squatter, the reason why they preferred Istanbul, the places they live after they come to Istanbul and the time that they look for a job, by means of whom they find a job is given under the settlement pattern in the city. The features of the housing they live in is the last subtitle of this chapter. The reader is informed about the quality of the housing which is lived in.

In the fourth chapter, titled "Gecekonduunun Toplumsal ve İktisadi Yapısı (The Social and Economic Structure of Squatter), firstly, the author presents data about individual's marital status, their average marriage age, literacy level, employment situations, occupational groups of working immigrants, their feelings towards the city, their expectations and targets. The effect of immigrants to the national economy is another topic that the author mentions. The job preferences of immigrants, people they trust in country side and city life are the other eye opener information mentioned in the work.

The fifth chapter titled "Üç Gecekonduada Dernekleşme ve Liderlik (Founding an Association and The Leadership in Three Squatter). Again the author focuses on the similarities and differences in social union in three squatter settlement in Istanbul and adaptability to the city. Each of three squatting settlement, dependency to the country side values and culture is detected. Again, the author mentions the topics of religion, communalisation and leadership in three squatter. And also, the position of woman in squatter life especially in family and decision making mechanism is stated. The institutions and the public opinions are the other mentioned topics. Especially under this title, the author gives information about the functions of the work of a mukhtar*, the association of squatter embellishing and mutual assistance, industrial unions.

Sixth Chapter is titled "Gecekonduunun Kentleşmesi (Urbanization of Squatter). It is identified that first of all the immigrants change their dressing habits, then indigenise the service and opportunities of city, and thirdly get in contact with urbanite people to adapt to the city and lastly it seems that the immigrant feels himself/herself completely belonging the city. The immigrants' life in the city is defined according to their satisfaction degrees. The main reasons why the satisfied immigrants (female, male, single) are pleased and why the dissatisfied ones are displeased are detected and explained. The extent to which the immigrants adopts city habits and apply these to their life is another mentioned topic. The communication is one of the main means for immigrants to be integrated in city. The author attracts notice to the communication of people live in squatter to the urbanite people, upholds that it plays an important role for immigrants to be urbanized. In the chapter of changes in family concept, the key notes of immigrants about whom they are going to get married with and their primary thoughts on marriage is explained. In the ideas of squatters about themselves and their desires part, their expectations from future, goals and expectations about the future of their children is come into prominence.

The Seventh Chapter is titled "Gecekondu-Köy İlişkileri ve Kırsal Değişmeler (The Relations of Squatter-Country Side and Country Side Changes). The author mentions two problems under this title. First of these is the connections and relations of the immigrants to the country side which is a part of adaptation to the city and the other is the urban effects on their country sides' economical and social conditions. In addition, the effects of the migration on the count is discussed by classification of country sides which immigrates to the three squatter settlement in economic and demographic terms and also these three squatter settlement is the subject of investigation field.

In the eighth chapter titled "Gecekonduada Siyaset ve Parti Taraftarlığı (Politics and Party Supporting in Squatter)", the author draws attention to the importance of political action in processes of integration to city for immigrants who migrated from country side to the city and live in their squatter. He states that political action is the last stage of urban integration which arises from the marginality of squatter and is always raised. States the traditional background of political culture of a squatter. Additionally, their general view to the party line, their perception way, what factors affect their political preferences are stated.

The Türkiye'de Toplumsal Dönüşüm (Social Transformation in Turkey) work of H. Karpaz, whom we tried to identify under the major topics, mentions the domestic migrations and internal reasons of migrations. Nevertheless he reveals squatting fact experiencing by migrant and harmony processes of migrants to the city, citizen perception, connections still continuing with country side, the change experienced by the result of migration with a broad perspective aspect. While revealing this fact, he takes care to reveal squatting not only in Turkey but also the reflections from settlements around the world. The author, as he stated with his words, not only makes the social and cultural alteration clear in Turkey, but also mentioned the effects of historical Ottoman immigrations by his selection of three squatter district in Istanbul.