

VILLAGES CONSTRUCTED FOR THE EXCHANGED REFUGEES IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERNIZATION PROCESS OF THE RURAL AREAS IN TURKEY

Zeynep Eres

During the Tanzimat Reform Era” (1839) of the Ottoman Empire renovating urban areas has been one of the prime concerns of the modernization process, taking steps to provide institutional and legal basis on this line. Transforming the traditional organic structure of urban areas to organized quarters designed according to certain modalities have been practiced in areas that have been devastated by violent fires. During this process streets parallel to each other designed according to a grid system was installed. On the other hand, designing modern villages dates to the second half of 19. Century, initially for the refugees emigrating from the lost territories of the Ottoman Empire. Villages designed during this period are planned with parcels of equal-area set according to a grid scheme. However, rehabilitating problems related to hygiene in villages came into agenda as late as the 2. Constitutional Monarchy Era (2. Meşrutiyet Dönemi) during the Party of Union and Progress (İttihat ve Terakki Fırkası) period. The Union looked into the village rehabilitation problem as a social and economic issue and looked at village models abroad so as to devise optimal solutions; legal adjustments that were necessary to implement a new model were also made.

However, it was not possible to implement such regulations under the prevailing conditions of the First World War; nevertheless what had already been done constituted the basis for similar concerns of the post war Republican Era. Modernization of villages was one of the prime tasks of the Early Republican Era; the state made further legal arrangements that would help to ameliorate hygienic conditions in the villages. The arrival of masses of refugees following the Lausanne treaty necessitated concern on villages, polices already devised were implemented for the first time to the villages of the so-called “Lausanne exchanged refugees”. In fact deserted villages of the Greek emigrants were reserved for these refugees; however, buildings left over by the emigrants were in ruins, housing conditions almost in unusable state thus, the state had to construct new villages for some of the

immigrant groups. With this paper constructional details and process of such villages at Samsun, Adana, Bursa, Manisa will be presented. Refugee-villages present an exceptional possibility to understand both administrative and economical undertakings of the young Republic and also to trace what was considered as a modern village at that time.