



Urban Regeneration: Should Urban Conflict be an Outcome? Kuştepe: A non-Transformed Culture of Urban

Zeynep Deniz YAMAN, PhD Student
Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
yamanzedede@gmail.com,

Yılma KARATUNA, PhD Student
Istanbul Technical University, Turkey
ykaratuna@gmail.com

The connection between change and conflict is observed strongly in the literature, as Mitchell (2005) claims in his article "Conflict, Social Change and Conflict Resolution. An Enquiry.". A recent search of one university's library exposes that almost 420 studies in which the words "change" and "conflict" are combined in their title.

The twenty-first century -which is a pivot period of urban areas and urban living- entailed the new use of land especially based on the effects of globalization, several economic, social, cultural, political and ecological changes. The fast alterative life of today -that is mainly caused by globalization- brings some conflicts in undeveloped or developing countries since they do not have economic stability and independence, cultural flexibility, social integration, and efficient spatial visions as seen in Turkey example.

Istanbul is one of the oldest metropolises of the world and the largest metropolitan city of Turkey that lift the country and its region up in economic, cultural and international levels. Migration flows in the years 1945-1950s directed different spatial, social, economic and cultural effects in various regions of this city. Since she was not ready to welcome the huge amount of emigrants, one of the inevitable questions; where all those people should have to live come out. As a solution, a political trend of the period let the new-comers settle in an unrestrained way that led to the emergence of squatter areas.

Kuştepe is one of the squatter areas in Istanbul with a high amount of Gypsy population. In order to follow the contemporary transformation and regenerate the area, a private university has been established in Kuştepe. However, the university brought about some unexpected results. While Kuştepe was having the effects of migration on social and spatial pattern in 1945-1995, as a consequence of these changes, it had a cultural transformation in 1995-2005. The reason of the change in culture was the establishment of the private Bilgi University. Actually, the aim of the establishers of Bilgi University was not to make a big social and spatial transformation in Kuştepe, where they caused to start today's renovation process. It is aimed to put forward the result that brought out the conflict of cultural regeneration based urban transformation project in Kuştepe with the building of Bilgi University with respect to spate in this paper. In general aspect, our study emphasizes the unsuccessful policy design for the transformation of Kuştepe which is considered as urban conflict.

KEY WORDS: Urban transformation, cultural regeneration, urban conflict, Kuştepe