



## **Transformation of Land Use within Urbanization in the City of Muğla, Turkey**

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Urban expansion coming with increasing competition, technological developments, and specialization has many aspects of transformation on the landscapes. The traditional rural settlements are becoming the development areas of urban agglomerations. The distinction between rural and urban is disappearing and land use conflicts are increasing.

In Muğla, many transformations on the urban and rural landscapes happened since 13th century but the main transformations that have been the basis to urban sprawl are occurred in the last 60 years. The city first settled at the skirts of the Hisar Mountain in the 13th century. While residential areas located in the foothills, the agricultural production was conducted on the plains of Muğla, Dugerek and Karabaglar, which are located at the south and below parts of the city. The form of the settlement was created by the system of property distributions. In the following centuries, the city spread through the south direction.

Till 19th century, the small changes happened and the urban form of the city has been stable for years. In 1950s, development plans defined the new residential development areas and the lands used for agricultural production once turned into the new residential neighborhood. The term between 1980 and 2000 has witnessed a permanent, gradual dispersion of the population, brought about by improved transportation, telecommunications, and other technological innovations. In 1980s, city started to grow through the east side where two rural settlements (Dugerek and Karabaglar) are located. Additionally, an industrial area is constructed at the east part of the city by subdividing the agricultural plots of Karabaglar. In 1990s, after the foundation of Muğla University, Muğla had spread through the southeastern direction. In 2000s, increasing population and the new demands for housing necessitated new residential development areas. Construction of new cooperative houses at new residential development areas in Akçaova and Köteklı have been attractions for the populations. Today, Muğla town is growing in the south, east and west directions and the villages or rural settlements of the city are transforming into the new residential development areas and the land use conflicts are seen as the future problematic issues of the city.

This paper approaches to the transformation of urban and rural landscapes of Muğla settlement based on structure, historical process and origins. The aim is to search the major physical transformations of land use linked to demographic changes, technological progress and the urban sprawl process, which is the consequence of economical, political and socio-spatial changes in a time span refers to 20th century.

**KEY WORDS:** Land use conflict, urban sprawl, transformation