

Historical Development of Turkish Cadastre: Cadastral works during Ottoman Empire, Legislative Regulations and Reflections to Republic of Turkey

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Key words: Cadastre; History; Ottoman Empire

SUMMARY

Cadastral works in the Ottoman Empire could be addressed by dividing into two periods, having regard to methods of practice, technical conditions and needs, and sense of ownership. Descriptive (written) cadastral works, which typically gave priority to financial objectives, of the period that the private ownership concept is applied to a very limited extent and ownership of lands substantially belongs to the state or government in charge started to gradually give its place after 1850s to modern cadastral works in today's context which also observe purposes of law and is based on geometric determination of boundaries and areas of lands.

The first cadastral works carried out on the basis of geometric documentation was commenced in 1270s H. (1853/54 G.) in Istanbul and Hudavendigar; and proving that the state would benefit from these works, the first cadastral statute was issued in 1277 H. (1860/61 G.) as a result of the efforts of Suphi Pasha. Especially after 1870s, within the framework of this statute, regional cadastral works were accelerated in different regions of the Ottoman lands from the Balkans to the Middle East. These initial modern cadastral works performed on a regional basis were also benefited in the first years of the Republic since they were deemed reliable in scientific terms as well as having a historical value. In the following periods, as the importance of cadastre was profoundly understood and as a result of the efforts of Mahmud Esad Efendi, Minister of Land Registry and Cadastre, the first Scientific Committee was established; and afterwards, the first modern Cadastral Law, namely *Emvâl-i Gayr-i Menkûle Tahdîd ve Tahrîr Kanunu*, was prepared, considering its precedents in Europe.

In this report; when the first modern cadastral works actually started in the Ottoman Empire; the role of Mahmud Esad Efendi, the alleged founder of cadastre; and the first legal arrangements and their influence on today's legislation will be addressed on the basis of archive documents and

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Istanbul, Turkey, May 6–11, 2018

sources of the period. In addition, map sheet and sketch examples from the Ottoman Period will be visually presented. Thus, information on the historical development of cadastre in our country could be clarified.

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