

# Selected Studies on Social Sciences



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Edited by

Ahmet Kırkkılıç, Enes Emre Başar  
and Yusuf Söylemez

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## FOREWORD

The book is a collection of essays concerned with society and the relationships among individuals within the society. The essays are circumscribed to fields of business, economics, linguistic, literature, education, history and geography. The essays are grouped into four sections. The first, “Business Economics and Management”, discusses issues such as contemporary urban theories, multiculturalism and the informal economy. The second section, “Linguistics and Literature”, encompasses topics such as Russian-Chinese bilingualism and training of Russian phraseology by foreigners. The third, “Education” discusses issues such as language teaching and use of the learning cycle model and the Socratic Seminar Technique while the fourth, “History and Geography”, looks at history education, historical consciousness, and cultural geography. The book will appeal to educators, researchers, and students involved in social sciences.

Editors

## **CHAPTER ONE**

# **BUSINESS ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT**

# CONTEMPORARY URBAN THEORIES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF URBAN SPACE

HAYRIYE ŐENGÜN  
AND SEÇİL GÜL MEYDAN YILDIZ

## **Introduction**

Urban theories illuminate the formation of public spaces and the century when the theory was born. Indeed, sociologists have addressed the city in many ways. In line with the versatility of the city, the theorists have assessed the changes in the behaviours of individuals living in the city in the light of social problems or social movements where the class struggle emerged. Throughout the 19th century, the city was interpreted by considering urban lifestyle as the ideal lifestyle. The theorists, who reveal their ideas about urban science, develop functionalist or structuralist approaches about the urban space as a reflection of systemic criticism and the search for the ideal.

## **The development of the theoretical approaches about the space**

Functionalism is an approach that acknowledges that no element alone has a determinant feature, since the elements that make up society have a unique function, and these elements function in an interdependent relationship. It is defined as a situation in which every part of the same body is maintained as an organic ensemble, as each part of the same body can function as a whole and the body as a whole, and all parts of the whole ensure the continuation of each other. The interdependence of human communities and their differentiated lifestyle constitute the foundation of the urban space, according to the functionalist approach. In addition, functionalism is based on two basic assumptions, differentiation and integration.

The critique of functionalism, made by the Marxist point of view, focuses on ignoring the conflict between the units forming the whole, which is considered the reason for changing the system. It was a point of a

defence that the incidents related to urban spaces were more stable than those related to the function. Structural analysis has developed very rapidly in the last two decades and reinterpreted Marx's theory. The concepts of the social structure under the influence of Marxist perspective, moreover, the structure of capitalist society, have been updated.

The approach that Castells uses to describe the capitalist city and define the class of cities is another approach that emphasizes the importance of inter-constitutional relations. Structuralism is used in sociology to describe approaches that prioritize the social structure against the social action at the most general and flexible level. Structuralism is based on the idea implying that the basic structure underlying the generally fluctuating and changing appearances of the social reality may be observed. The social system is dominated by a determinant structure. While this structure describes an integrity, which may be explained in its own subjectivity, the space differs from the individuals and relations that form it. According to structuralism, the relations between the individuals are important, not the individual himself/herself. Despite the fact that Marx and Engels did not directly provide a regular theoretical approach about urban life, Engels' study on urban observations in England is considered the most comprehensive work of urban space in terms of political strategies. Urban space is both modernizing and far from rural influences and values. Theoretical explanations of the main concepts such as labour, private property, mode of production, social forms and stages of development, social classes and class struggle are redefined by the climate change in the 21st century, and after the processes of liberal transformation of capital and globalization.

The cities losing the rural characteristics after industrialization became important again in the 21st century, by the principles of conservation, equality and sustainability focused on the participation. Ebenezer Howard signifies the idealism created by the structuralist approach to urban theory by the idea of a socially fair city, as a response to the conditions of the urban community, the use of space, the physical structure and the structure of the industrial city in the early 1900s. Howard's Garden City model intends to integrate the positive features of the city with the positive features of the rural area, which will stop the differentiation between the rural and urban spaces of the industrial city and prevent people from becoming distant from nature (Meydan Yıldız, 2016).

The consideration of the city as a whole, the arrangement of housing according to appropriate health and climate conditions, the creation of recreational areas for leisure activities, the creation of green spaces, the construction of buildings for common use of the community, and the fact

that they are easily accessible from the residences of the people are included in the discipline of urban planning and became official with the Athens Charter. The reduction of the distance between the working area and housing, the placement of the industrial areas outside the city, the separation of the industrial area from the city with the green belt and the protection of historical sites have become the protection policies which are applied in 21st-century urban planning. As it is comprehended by these principles, urban space is defined as an area that should be addressed in a relational structure. It is because an appropriate and healthy social life may be provided by the alteration of the urban space. Le Corbusier, a prominent contributor to the preparation of the Athens Charter and the writer of the preface of the Charter, like Howard, strove to create an ideal city for the resolution of the problems that industrialization caused in cities. Le Corbusier, who is not an ideologist, has idealized his work under the influence of modernization and rationalization. He wants to show that his beloved city incorporates the social ideals, in addition to being a rational and beautiful space. For Le Corbusier, industrialization meant “great cities where large bureaucracies could coordinate production.” In place of the old buildings that we can entitle the vertical structure, he dreamed about geometrically arrayed skyscrapers of glass and steel that would rise out of parks, gardens, and superhighways, since the cities were not intense at the beginning of the 20th century. Le Corbusier planned to demolish and rebuild urban centres and planned to place technocratic elites consisting of planners, engineers, intellectuals in the city centres while placing their subordinates into satellite cities. Le Corbusier called his plan “the Radiant City” 20th century technology is the utmost prominent tool that situates at the centre of Le Corbusier’s work as well as Howard’s. In this era, when the search for an ideal way of life was the pioneering idea to solve every problem through planning, it was widely accepted that if cities changed physically and technologically, urban life would also change. It is stated that space involves social struggle and that every social group that aims to protect or change the relations of power creates a certain level of control over the space.

### **Theoretical perspective of 20th century urban life: The Chicago School**

Industrialization has produced similar results in Europe as well as in the United States. At the beginning of the 20th century, immigration from industrial cities, from Europe and South America, and from rural areas, caused the emergence of significant social problems. Regarding these

issues, Robert E. Park, a young, journalist-social scientist of the period, started working with Ernest W. Burgess and Louis Wirth in the years 1915-1925 following World War I. These studies, which are called the Chicago School because they are conducted in the surroundings of the University of Chicago, can be considered the first systematic urban studies in the modern sense. These studies had a considerable impact on urban studies from the early 20th century until today. This approach, called the Ecological Approach, argues that the people living in the city should be in contact with each other, cooperating with each other or maintaining a struggle with each other in order to maintain their lives and to determine the structure of the city to a great extent (Güllüpinar, 2013). The natural space incorporates a certain part of the population; it is possible to observe different areas of a city that have different traditions, different patterns of behaviour, and different levels of life, different ages and genders. The Chicago School called the “ecological school” is also called the “culturalist school” since it is interested in the diversities of the sources. Another research subject of the Chicago School was urban life. In Louis Wirth’s article “Urbanism as a Way of Life,” the city is interpreted as a place not only offering more jobs and housing to people, but also a centre, attracting people from far away, organizing the regions, people and activities in a certain order, as a pioneer and auditor of the economic, political and cultural life. According to Wirth, another function of the city is the historical melting pot function, which melts the races, people, and cultures in the same pot, thus creating a development area for new biological and cultural combinations. Population size, population density, and heterogeneity in urban areas were investigated in a planned way by researchers of the Chicago School for the first time as characteristics specific to urban life. According to this school’s perspective, a) cities have a unique way of life unlike rural communities; b) cities consist of natural regions with special functions in the economy, as they exist in rural communities; c) these regions have their own personality, institutions, and groups. The studies of the Chicago School on urban life have focused on two issues in particular. These are as follows: 1) the effect of spatial arrangements of cities on social relations and 2) the cultural life of urban people and their traditions.

The first studies, which signify the foundation of an ecological approach, argue that not only the natural environment but also the environment created by the humans in the local community should be examined. It seems that the Chicago School adopts a functionalist approach in its studies. Each of the elements that form the city has its own unique function. Consequently, the relationship between the structures is

not enough to determine the whole according to the theoretical point of view of the Chicago School. In the strict sense, according to the functionalist perspective, the choice of the independent variable to explain the problem is entirely subjective. Researchers at the Chicago School have perceived the city as a laboratory and have benefited from the diversity that the city of Chicago offers as a “laboratory” to conduct empirical research on various structures (Pınarcıoğlu et al., 2013).

The article “Urbanism as a Way of Life,” written by Luis Wirth and published in 1938 in the “American Journal of Sociology”, which is considered a classic treatise on urban studies, describes the effects of rural and urban life on human life, the definition of the city in terms of sociology, the distinction between urbanization and living in the city, the urban lifestyle, the impact of city size on individual behaviour, the relationship between urbanization theory and urbanization as a social organization as well as urban personality. Wirth has addressed urban problems as a problem of personality and understanding. Urbanization is related to a change in the way of life, according to Wirth, and this change occurs in various forms. Wirth classifies these changes according to the three elements used while describing the city, which are size or number of population, density, and degree of heterogeneity. Wirth strove to demonstrate individually the changes of these three elements on the lifestyle and personality. By taking the city as the object to review, Wirth considers urbanization an equivalent of modernity. Wirth’s definition of urbanization is still valid for today’s developing cities.

Another researcher at the Chicago School, Burgess, based on a study of the city of Chicago, has argued that the city has expanded in circles from the common centre to the periphery. According to Burgess, these circles represent both the expansion of the city over the space and its development in time. The inner circle consists of trade and industry centres. The second circle, called the transition zone, signifies the expansion area for business and small industry. The third circle consists of working class residential homes while the fourth circle signifies middle-class homes (self-employed, small business owners and civil servants) and the outer circle indicates the commuter’s zone (satellite towns). Burgess suggests that these circles are divided into economically and culturally segregated spaces within themselves and that all divisions gave the city a certain shape. McKenzie, who defines concentration, centralization, segregation and invasion as the main processes that guide the development in the city, emphasizes in his urban studies that these are the essential ecological processes, but that intermediate processes take place within the essential processes.



The Chicago School was largely criticized in terms of empirical studies and theoretical approaches. The researchers defending that the cities do not develop in regular lines and emphasizing the oversimplifying features of the theory criticize the approach. Since the consequences of the results of studies conducted for the city of Chicago have lost their validity in a short period, the critics were amplified even among the researchers of the School. The influence of positivism is evident in the theoretical framework of the Chicago School. Therefore, critics are predominantly focused on positivism. Here are the essential assumptions of positivism as a scientific perspective: distinction between subject and object, the ability to know the world by using appropriate methods, the selection of society as an examination object in nature, the implementation of observation and experiment which dominate the natural sciences, from society and achievement to the generally accepted rules. In this context, the Chicago School has been criticized by explaining the society by natural processes in a competitive environment of the city, according to which the strong will survive while the weak will be destroyed, within the framework of "Social Darwinism." It is stated that the outside world does not operate regularly as positivism predicts. On the other hand, positivism is criticized for concentrating on the existing structure while striving to explain what is scientific and prioritizing the information over ideology, doctrine or philosophy. Particularly, positivism has a strong relationship between the social-political organizations; it is accepted that positivism legitimizes the current order in this way.

### **Urban approach of contemporary urban theorists**

Contemporary urban theorists have concentrated on finding the effects of state involvement on the market mechanism. They are separated from the traditional approach of not assessing the location of the cities as data and have strived to establish a link between the theory and real life since these effects are reflected in the structure of urban space. While the city has been established, the concept of a desire line has established an approach that takes account of the relationship between the housing and workplaces.

After World War II, the new political winds in the world have led to the development of different urban life approaches and different efforts of urban perspective. The perspectives on direct analysis of urban issues in terms of space, production, and consumption have emerged. These approaches, based on the economic and political meaning of social movements and focused on working life, are now exploring the city differently. The city, which is considered the centre of production, surplus

value, and the reproduction of labour, has become the essential point for the relationship between production and social reproduction. Henri Lefebvre explains that spatial features are shaped based on the changing and varying social systems. Lefebvre, who classifies space as the perceived, designed, and experienced space, defines the space providing profit by investment activities as the abstract space and space which reflects the daily life as the concrete space. Henri Lefebvre explains that spatial features have changed according to changing and diversifying social systems. Lefebvre emphasizes the results of production analysis, which reveal the significant differences of Marxists' view of urban space and the transition from the production of the commodities in space for the production of the space itself. The use of space in capitalism here signifies the use of an abstract space. Since capitalism is concerned with exchange value, not concrete value, thus is the use of the space. The historical production and use of place and the social values that it represents become meaningful if they contribute to the exchange value of the space. For Lefebvre, space is a social subject that depends on social values and meanings (Güllüpinar, 2013). Lefebvre eliminates the rural-urban contradiction in this context, revealing a new social space, the urban revolution, dependent on the city but away from what is traditional.

In Lefebvre's analysis, space occupies an essential place. In the face of an understanding of space prioritizing the abstract space and the exchange value imposed by the capitalism (capital and state), he advocates a sense of space emphasizing the concrete place and use value of daily life. Lefebvre argues that space is not objective and passive, but that it becomes meaningful by being reproduced with various practices. These practices are first concretized in a form of artificial environment, and then become meaningful by the mobility of property and capital (Meydan, 2012: p.628).

Manuel Castells, as an urban theorist and a structuralist Marxist, argues that the approach to the urban problem is based on the reproduction of the labour and class differences and struggles. The basic approach of space is structural, according to Castells. In his observations, which are considered structuralist in approach, Castell stated that to consider the space as an expression of social structure would signify examining the structure of the space by the influence of the economic and political elements as well as the social practices that derive from these elements. Castells refers to the function of "consumption" in defining urban space because it is organized at higher levels of production. It considers the consumption function to be specific to the city level. In his book "City Class and Power" he emphasizes that urban problems become increasingly a political problem, caused by the combination of the consumption means with the

socialization of the production means. Thus, urban problems play a strategic role in the course of everyday life. Castells (1997) based this on the two main reasons for the development of urban contradictions in the developed capitalist societies and their placement at the very centre of the social and political sphere. The first is the essential role played by the consumption process in developed capitalism and the second is the expansion of the ideology of the city in a form specific to the dominant classes. State intervention for increased socialization of consumption and its management situates at the core of the urban problem and Castells emphasizes that these are the key elements in the organization of consumption. Because, according to Castells, the contradictions are intensifying while they get politicized. He acknowledges the expansion specific to the dominant class of the urban ideology as an urban form of class contradictions and naturalizes this process. Castells explains that the relationship between the structures, which are the essential features of structuralism, is due to the close relationship and dependence of the different elements of the basic urban system with each other. Thus, he argues that the process of the collective consumption is not only commodity related but also related to the process as a whole; hence it wouldn't be possible to regulate housing by intervening in transportation or vice versa. In addition, he stresses that the definition of "urban problems" is insufficient and that the crises and contradictions of the urban system exist.

Castells notes that the structure and processes of the urban system are determined by the logic of the direct capital, in the forms specific to the capitalist system. With his criticism of "functionalism," Castells denominates the Chicago School as a great intellectual adventure. He suggests that the theoretical orientation of the Chicago School is not meaningful in terms of demographic and geographical empirical-theoretical categories and social issues, and it is based on data aggregating spatial distributions of activities using complex statistical techniques. Among the critics of the Chicago School, the criticism of modernity, particularly in the context of Wirth's approach, attracts attention. According to these criticisms expressed by Castells, a direct connection is established between urban culture and western culture and a myth of urban culture is created. Castells also criticizes the evolutionist approach of culturalist theory, which considers modernization to be the equivalent of urbanization. Thus, it is expressed that the dichotomies predicted by the Chicago School in relation to the city, such as rural-urban, society-community, does not reflect reality (Pınarcıoğlu et al., 2013).

According to geographer David Harvey (2002), adopting the Marxist perspective that space is constantly reproduced for continuity of capitalism, the spatial transformation is an ideological process that has a significant position in production and reproduction. Harvey indicates that giving structural and authentic characteristics to the city, independent of capital accumulation would be faulty, and the urban space is directed towards the investment in order to maximize the profits of the capital entrepreneur, and the urban space become meaningful through capital accumulation processes (Harvey, 2002). Hence, new investments and spatial changes in the city change the values of use of the space. This is not realized according to urban internal dynamics (Alkan & Duru, 2002: p.1) but to the ideology of the dominant class. Urbanization process is the spatial organization style of industrial society (Harvey, 2001). Harvey describes the structuring of the artificial environment in the organization of the individual and social relationship as a method for capitalism to be established and sustained. In addition, he considers the production of unequal and segregationist spaces as a reflection of the capitalist capital accumulation process. Harvey advocates the neo-Marxist structure of post-modernism. The production assumptions standardized by the Fordist production system during the rise of the industrial city have begun to control the space through a new flexible production system, which is developed in parallel with the economic crises (Harvey, 2001). Thus, space has transformed into a tool that supports the processes of consumption.

### **In lieu of conclusion**

The choice of location of the capital on urban space and the consumption-oriented decisions ensure that space is renewed, and gain value and capitalism defeat their own internal contradictions. The integration of safe luxury residential areas and shopping centres, residences and skyscrapers are the reflection of the reproduction of the environment, built by investments, through the exchange of urban space. Henri Lefebvre, Manuel Castells and David Harvey are contemporary urban theoreticians who contribute greatly to finding a solution of today's urban problems. The tools used by these three theoreticians to explain the city are shaped according to the structuralist approaches. It is observed that the three theoreticians regard the processes of capital accumulation, class struggle, and collective consumption as the main starting points to develop an urban approach. Structuralist approaches require in-depth observation and analysis. The theorists concentrate on collective unity rather than

individual activity in the light of neutrality and scientific observation. Hence, there is a neo-Marxist perspective when defining the space. According to Harvey, cities that have become part of the capital accumulation process constantly renew themselves as industrial products for urban production, consumption, and change. The way to ensure the economic stability is to direct the capital into the built environment and solve the problem of excessive accumulation (Harvey, 2003). The policy of creating urban rents, which is the solution of the economic crises experienced by the capitalist system, is supported by the urban transformation projects and functionalist decisions applied today. Castells, Lefebvre, and Harvey explain the politicization of urban services and the social movements that are formed in accordance with this politicization and which are developed with a focus on rent, consumption, and capital (Keleş, 1972). Therefore, the concepts of collective consumption, alienation, freedom, and rights are integrated into the space. In the capitalist system of production, the theoreticians state that space is a dominant ideology on the social constructions and define the city as a web of relations consisting of political and ideological perspectives. Theorists argue that the urban space, which is selected according to vital needs, shall be designed free, fair and equitable rather than being designed based on the ideology and perceptions of relationships; hence, consider urban rights as a problem of the modern urbanization process.

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# EFFECTS OF RIO HABITAT CONFERENCES ON TURKEY'S SETTLEMENT, CITY AND ENVIRONMENT POLITICS

ESMERAY ALACADAĞLI

## **Introduction**

Topics like protection of the environment, control of population movements, and resolution of the problems created by immigration in cities, occupy a constant place in the agenda of states and are the subjects of various sections. These issues are frequently discussed in international platforms, and they also constitute the main theme of the regulations made by international organizations. One of these organizations is the United Nations (UN) with 193 state members, which was established with the aim of "protecting world peace and security and creating an economic, social and cultural cooperation". The UN has been closely interested in development, environment, settlement and growth problems and has been working on these issues since its establishment in accordance with its mission to provide peace and the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Keleş, 1996).

"The UN Human Environment Conference", held on June 5, 1972 in Stockholm by the UN, was the first meeting where environmental problems were evaluated on an international level and "environmentally compatible economic development" was discussed by world leaders. At the end of this conference, June 5th was set as the World Environment Day. One of the most concrete consequences of this conference, which presented a Declaration with 26 articles and an Action Plan with 109 articles, was the establishment of the UN Environment Program (UNEP). In accordance with a decision taken at this conference and with the contributions of the Housing, Building and Planning Centre (Keleş, 1996), the Conference of Human Settlements (HABITAT) was held in Vancouver in May 1976. In this conference, with the participation of 131 countries, an action plan with 64 proposals was approved. The Vancouver Declaration, the basic vision of which is that "the situation of human settlements

determines the quality of life in that country to a great extent," approaches the settlement problem as a human rights problem on this basis. The HABITAT Centre, established after the meeting, started to work in Nairobi in 1978. The Human Settlement Fund, which is expected to provide incentives for settlement problems in underdeveloped countries, has been linked to this centre (Keleş, 1996).

In 1987, the Report of the UN Commission on Environment and Development, known as "Our Common Future," was published. Our Common Future defines "Sustainable Development" as "meeting the needs of this day without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In June 1992, the UN Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio. At the end of this meeting, in which 179 countries participated, five key documents emerged, including two declarations, two contracts and one main action plan. These are the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, Forest Principles, the Convention on Climate Change, and Biological Diversity, respectively. The Rio Declaration, which confirms the Stockholm Declaration, defines the human right to use the environment and the responsibility for the protection of the environment. The action plan called Agenda 21 and the documents called Forest Principles, which define the activities required to adopt the principles defined in the Rio Declaration, were approved by the heads of states and governments of the participating countries and the Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity was opened for signature. Turkey approved the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and Forest Principles and signed the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Convention on Climate Change, the ultimate aim of which is defined as "stopping the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous effects on the climate system", was signed in May 2014, and Turkey became a party of the Kyoto Protocol in 2009 (Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, 2012).

The second of the UN Human Settlements Conferences was held in Istanbul in 1996. HABITAT II states its objective as "affordable housing for everyone and the development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanized world" (New Turkey, 1996). The main message of the Istanbul Conference is "a new ethic of settlement." The published declaration also emphasizes the importance of compromise, partnership and participation to fulfil the responsibilities and it is foreseen that the main actors are local governments in the implementation of the principles.

In 2002, in Johannesburg on the 10th anniversary Rio Summit, and again in Rio on the 20th anniversary, meetings were held on a continuous



and balanced development. In the Johannesburg Declaration; it is emphasized that sustainable development, global prosperity, stability and security depend on the elimination of differences and distinctions between the rich and the poor, the developed and the developing. In the third meeting, also known as Rio+20, the document, on which a consensus is achieved, is titled "The Future We Want." One of the most important innovations adopted in Rio+20 is the adoption of the "Green Economy" approach, involving the concept of "Degrowth" to achieve the goal of sustainable development (Keleş, 2013).

HABITAT III was held in Prague, the Czech Republic, in 2016. The Prague Declaration declared after the meeting, the main theme, which was assigned as "Housing in Living Cities", proposing to promote green, environmentally-sensitive and productive cities, as well as sustainable, participatory, governance-based, integrated urban planning and management. The main features of this framework are: creative and productive cities; green, compact, resource-efficient and durable cities; inclusive and safe cities; and good city governance (Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, 2017).

As a member, meeting participant, and contributor, the UN documents that have been approved as generally in compliance with internal laws and that have become a part of the national legislation; impose obligations and responsibilities on our country on both a national and international platform. The aim of this study is to reveal the effects of the United Nations, in particular its work on environment, on policies and practices in our country at the national level. In this context; Stockholm, Rio and HABITAT conference results and the produced documents that have been carried out by the UN and have an important effect on environmental and urban development processes are examined.

### **The situation of Turkey in terms of settlement, urbanization, and environment: 1970-2000**

After the 1970s, Turkey experienced an accumulation of population and capital in the Marmara and Aegean regions and the Mediterranean coast. In this process, after 1980, factors such as export-oriented industrialization, new world order, the beginning of the determination of the distribution of resources with market processes, changes in life patterns, speculative construction of second homes and encouraging tourism investments played a role (National Report and Action Plan, 1996). From 1960 to 1990, urban population quadrupled by increasing from 6.9 million to 31.4 million. The number of cities in our country is also in a continuous increase; the

number of cities increased from 66 in 1927 to 424 in 1990 (when a place with more than 10,000 people is called a city). Big cities have increased their share of the urban population; a vast majority of the growing population settled in these cities between the years of 1960-1990 (Khan, 1997). Our country has been experiencing an ongoing internal migration since the 1950s. Research reveals that the cause of the migration is economic, but deterioration of the safe living conditions in the Eastern and South Eastern Anatolia is also a factor (Khan, 1998). The cities that attract migration the most are also the cities that experience environmental problems the most. In these provinces, one of the biggest problems created by migration and unhealthy urbanization is the housing presentation format particular to us: squatting. The number of squatters increased from 80 thousand in 1950 to 1.5 million in 1983. According to 1995 data, the number of squatters is 2 million and 35% of our urban population is living in slums (Khan, 1997). Based on the spatial layout and production activities of industrialization, our land, water and air are polluted. According to an inventory drawn up by the Ministry of Environment and Urban Development; the prior environmental problem is water pollution in 32 provinces, air pollution in 27 provinces, and waste in 19 cities. During this period, some regulations were executed even though they were holistic. The Undersecretary of the Environment was established in 1978, environmental law was enforced in 1983, the organizational structure changed to the Ministry in 1991, and the environment was defined as a right in the Constitution.

## **The effects of Rio Habitat and studies conducted in our country**

### ***Development plans***

Development plans are documents determining basic policies in all sectors, and they are obligatory documents for all public institutions. The posterior plans such as regional plans and city plans have their own characteristics, but they have an approach in accordance with the basic principles defined in development plans (Keleş, 1997). In this respect, the development plans should be assessed first to evaluate the effects of HABITAT and Rio.

When the developments are evaluated in parallel with the historical process, in the Fourth Plan (1979-1983), corresponding with the principles of the HABITAT I, the size of the venue is introduced for planning decisions, ensuring balance in the distribution of the services mentioned.

The weight is given to regions with a priority in development; mid-sized cities are promoted to prevent the accumulation in big cities with intimidating measures.

The Fifth Plan (1985-1989) adopts the principles of conservation and development of resources for the benefit of future generations while it is emphasized that the municipalities are responsible for the provision of urban services. The plan proposes the planning of housing, land, and infrastructure production problems ahead of the growth rate of the cities; the specialization of the cities; the disallowance of dispersed housing; and the establishment of transportation of organized industrial zones in settlement centres with industrial potential and transport facilities. These predictions align with recommendations in the Vancouver Action Plan and Our Common Future. The transfer of the construction authorization to local administrations, with the introduction of the Construction Law in 1985, is an approach compatible with the principle of localization of services.

The basic principle of The Sixth Plan (1990-1994) is to ensure the management of natural resources by protecting human health and the natural balance, allowing continuous economic development, and to leave a natural, physical and social environment suitable for humans for future generations. The principles of the plan (preventing construction accumulation on coasts, increasing field production, taking the use of land under control, developing a new model for the city management, and making necessary changes in the organizational structure in this framework of policies) are similar to the principles and approaches of the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21.

In the Seventh Plan (1996-2000), implementation of policies to prevent the migration to large cities is mentioned, and the specialization of cities is valued. Making at least one city an international autonomous centre is a goal at the end of the plan. The Seventh Plan proposes necessary adjustments to the Constitution and laws for an effective environmental management and reorganization of the authority and responsibilities of Ministry of Environment and other relevant ministries and local governments (Alacadađlı, 1997).

In the Eighth Plan, the next five-year development plan, solutions are proposed by giving weight to the issues of the scale problem in the settlement structure: the local government finance, control systems, participation methods, the needs of democratization, disadvantaged social categories, and the detection of problems of natural environment protection. In addition, it is stated that urbanization is a process developed by the migration of those who prefer urban poverty to rural poverty. The basic characteristics of the cities in Turkey are specified as poverty,

squalidity, violation of laws, disorder in everyday life, transportation and infrastructure inadequacies, pollution, uncontrolled growth, and city parts consisting of illegal structures.

The Ninth Development Plan (2007-2013), was prepared in accordance with the concept of strategic planning. Its vision is determined as, "stability in growth, a fair revenue sharing, competitiveness on a global scale, transition to an information society in Turkey." According to the plan, "conservation of the environment and development of urban infrastructure" is the most important factor to increase competitiveness. Sustainability in transportation and the sustainable use of natural resources is pointed out; it is stated that, "rapid population growth and industrialization process continue to be a significant pressure on the sustainable use of natural resources."

The Tenth Plan, prepared as a five-year plan again and still in effect, aims at four targets: "qualified person-strong community, innovative production, stable high growth, liveable spaces, [and] international cooperation for sustainable environment and development." The plan highlights the importance of investment in human resources and emphasizes that stable high growth rates cannot be reached with the perception of classical production, a living space is only possible with the concept of sustainability and nothing can be achieved alone in a global world. The plan has adopted its sub-goals to reach each target in line with these concepts.

### ***The national environmental strategy and action plan***

In the Rio Declaration, it is emphasized that each nation should have a "National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan" (NESAP). In this context, Turkey's NESAP is prepared with the participation of over 800 experts and an advisory team of 38 people. In NESAP, it is stated that the environmental management system of Turkey and its organizational basis was prepared before the 1992 Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, and national environmental policies should be harmonized with such international documents. The contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on this subject are specified, underlying the importance of participation. Privatization is supported in NESAP, indicating that "government enterprises are a burden for the economy."

### ***National and Local Agenda 21***

The most important of the documents approved in Rio is Agenda 21, which serves as an implementation plan and defines the necessary activities of governments and all related organizations, sectors in all areas that affect the environment and development. Agenda 21, each word of which is developed and adopted by governments, is the most comprehensive international program (Algan, 1995). Agenda 21, which gives responsibility to every person and organization that has an effect on nature or is affected, is not state-oriented but community-oriented unlike Vancouver, and a multi-actor/participatory management approach is put forward (Kate, 1998). Turkey's National Agenda 21, prepared by the Ministry of the Environment (MoE), is an action plan focusing on two basic points: bringing the processes of social development and environmental protection together and removing obstacles for the management of environmental protection with participation and collaboration. One of the most important recommendations of Agenda 21 is the preparation of local action plans (ÇB, 1993). Local Agenda 21 (LA 21), defined as the decisive word of the works in terms of preparation for the 21st century, is the effort for a successive, joint solution of the "local" and "common" issues, and in this context, for making existing resources sustainable. In Turkey, LA 21 studies started in the context of a project. When the number of the project-partner local authorities exceeded 50 in 1997, the Project was converted into "Turkey LA 21 Program." The work of Turkey LA 21 Program is supported by the decisions of the Council of Ministers.

Turkey LA 21 Program is coordinated by International Union of Local Authorities, Section for the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Region (IULA-EMME) at the national level. Coordination of LA 21 processes in program-partner cities is realized by the General Secretary of LA 21, established in each city. LA 21, as an important local democratization program, aims for the participation of the civil society in decision-making and their effect on local investments. The local decision and implementation mechanisms of the program are the local stakeholders organized under the umbrella of City Council. City Councils are supported by special interest groups such as Women and Youth Councils, Working Groups, Children, the Handicapped, and Elders Platform.

### ***Turkey National Report and Action Plan***

The National Report of Turkey is prepared by the Housing Development Administration (TOKİ) in a participatory process with the establishment of

a National Committee representing the relevant groups of the society. The report is aimed at bringing awareness to the society and the relevant actors on the issues of sustainable settlements and adequate housing for everyone, the main themes of the HABITAT II. In the report, the settlement system in our country and developments about housing are evaluated in three periods, including 1945-60, 1960-80 and 1980 to the present. Urban Indicators, one of the indicators prepared in accordance with the criteria determined by the HABITAT, are created under six modules specified as Poverty, Employment and Productivity; Social Development; Infrastructure; Transportation; Environmental Management; and Local Administrations. Housing Indicators are prepared under the two modules "Affordability and Competence of Housing" and "Housing Presentation." Economic, social, demographic and political processes are also ranked in the report, in addition to a National Action Plan. 28 priority topics defined in the Action Plan are classified under three separate titles, and the importance of each priority topic and strategy, the proposed solution, work to do, monitoring method, and responsible actors are determined. The report has determined the basic principles of the National Action Plan as: goal-oriented quality; sustainability, liveability, fair share and instrumental quality; city dependence, accessibility and multi-actor governance (HABITAT II Turkey National Report and Action Plan, 1996).

### ***Other Works***

Besides these three reports prepared in the context of HABITAT and the Rio Declaration, some changes are made in the constitution and law in regard to city, environment, region and housing; new applications are applied in parallel with new regulations. The 1982 Constitution gives the duty of protecting and developing to the state and citizens by defining the environment as a right in Article 56. Article 57 defines responsibilities of the state for housing. In 2006, Environmental Law, and in 2011 Environmental Organization Law were revised in accordance with the basic principles of the Rio Declaration and HABITAT II. With the restructured Environmental Organization Law, broad authority is given to the Ministry on construction plans of cities and urban renewal applications. In 2012, with the "Law on Transformation of Areas under Disaster Risk," broad authority on planning, design, and conversion in cities is given to the Ministry and Housing Development Administration (TOKI).