

PREFACE

It has been ten years since the publication of Kolars' informative bibliographic review concerned with an overview of community studies in Turkey.¹ Even a cursory comparison of his review with that of Beeley's extensive bibliographic introduction to studies on rural Turkey,² which appeared only a brief seven years later, strikingly points out the character of the rapid growth which has taken place in Turkish social sciences. One of the most encouraging developments to be viewed in this burgeoning literature, which also now includes quite a number of urban studies, is the emergence of a cadre of highly capable Turkish social scientists. This body of scholars, representing a broad range of disciplines and most major Turkish universities, is a product of the past decade of important changes in Turkey.

There are a number of factors which can be cited to help account for the meteoric growth of a national social science enterprise. Two developments can be singled out which are of direct concern to this volume of essays. First, the decade of the sixties witnessed a number of university developments which favored the growth of the social sciences. In newly created universities such as the Middle East Technical University and Hacettepe University, both in Ankara, a number of social science departments and programs were established and staffed by young and highly talented scholars. In the older traditional universities, existing "chairs" and institutes for social science instruction and research were also able to expand their staff and move in the direction of conducting more sophisticated empirical research. Many of these younger staff members in various universities were trained abroad in western Europe and North America, and brought newly acquired research knowledge for data collection and analysis to bear upon traditional research topics which long occupied the attention of senior social scientists as well as served to identify new and promising research directions of their own. Increasing enrollment throughout Turkish higher education also meant that individual social science

¹ J. F. Kolars, "Community studies in rural Turkey", *Annals, Assoc. of American Geographers*, Vol. 52, No. 4, Dec. 1962, pp. 476-489.

² B. W. Beeley, *Rural Turkey: A Bibliographic Introduction*, Hacettepe University Publication, No. 10, Hacettepe University, 1969.

departments and programs now had a larger service function to perform in extending general coursework in the social sciences to an ever increasing student body pursuing a university education. Both the need to train specialists in the social sciences, and to expose students in the basic sciences and engineering to social perspectives, were and continue to be major challenges to centers of social science instruction and research. Thus, improved university environments assisted in attracting and holding a pool of better trained individuals, individuals who greatly added to the stock of knowledge concerning Turkish society.

Second, the succession of governmental changes in the 1960's and the increase in efforts to effect general reforms in the national society, led to the greater inclusion of social scientists in governmental activities. Increasingly, social scientists were recruited from universities to play a constructive part in newly-created agencies such as the State Planning Office and the Bureau of Statistics, and the Ministries of Settlement and Reconstruction, and of Village Affairs, to name only a few. In many cases, these agencies extended the possibility to individual scholars to obtain post-graduate instruction in their particular field of specialization as a part of mid-career training. Of main importance, however, were the cultural and social perspectives which, at times, social scientists were able to infuse into government thinking through their research efforts and interpretation of the complex tasks involved in the administration and planning of a changing national society. Programs for planned social and economic change existed since the founding of the Republic, but it has not been until recently that social scientists have been called upon for analysis and advice.

The social science enterprise in Turkey is indeed indebted to the efforts of foreign scholarship in Turkey. It seems unlikely, however, that the ensuing literature generated by local scholars will continue to carry the impression of foreign scholarship as it did in the past. With a growing use of sophisticated methods of data collection and analysis, new assumptions and hypotheses about Turkish society are being generated which owe a minimum to Western research on Turkey. This new extant literature, however, suffers from a number of restrictions. Turkish is not a language of scholarly communication outside of Turkey. Too few capable social scientists publish their research results in international scholarly media and, as a result, much current Turkish social thought suffers from a very limited readership. At a more local level, research publications in Turkey are insufficiently distributed in Turkish. Almost each university faculty

has one or more monograph series and at least one journal. These issues do not easily find their way to interested Turkish readers and even where a formal subscription service exists, problems still remain. The foreign student of Turkey as well as the Turkish scholar must often rely upon his own ability to obtain such materials from each individual source, a process which is at best time-consuming and discouraging.

A good deal of written social science-related source material is in the form of government publications. The various ministries, semi-official government agencies, and the occasional commission, do issue publications intended for the public, but they are distributed in such a way that a very narrow readership results. For the scholar, and particularly for the interested student, knowledge of interesting government-sponsored social science research is not only often difficult to obtain but most of the time is ultimately of limited comparative value. Such a lack of communication whether between government agencies, between universities or even between individual scholars working on the same subject matter but in different institutions, produces duplication of effort and academic isolation, the latter of which works to discourage constructive self-appraisal.

Little of the literature in Turkish social sciences is written in the form of textual material. What the student is able to learn concerning the analysis of Turkish society must be gleaned from classroom lectures and from difficult to obtain technical reports. Systematic treatments of a particular social science subject are all too often in the form of the published lecture notes of individual instructors, a form that is scarcely adequate for anything other than ex-cathedra teaching. Several introductory texts translated from English are used in social science courses. Based upon source material and theory derived from other societies, these translated works have limited value in bringing students to appreciate the complexities of Turkish society. Clearly the need exists to bring more material in a more usable form within the reach of a growing body of interested students.

This volume of essays is an attempt to accomplish several modest objectives. The first aim is to collect, under a single cover, a selection of varied approaches to the contemporary study of Turkish society. Ten Turkish and five foreign contributors were asked to each write a short paper dealing with the most important aspects of their on-going research on Turkish society. The contributors were selected on the

basis of criteria such as: expertise in a single discipline which has contributed to the increasing store of knowledge about Turkey, or long experience in government service as planner and consultant. Thus competence and relevant interests of authors form the basis for the selection and organization of materials included in this volume. Disciplinary representation is wide and consists of thirteen scholars drawn from universities: four geographers, three anthropologists, two sociologists, and one each from political science, law, demography, and city planning. In addition, two individuals with long experience in community development were invited from government service to contribute essays.

The papers vary considerably in focus, method and style. Eight papers, for instance, deal with various problems of rural development, of which three alone tackle the important problem of the sedentarization of nomads. One paper deals with change in regional networks and the effect of this change upon market towns. Three papers take a historical look at problems of urbanization and westernization. Methods vary widely and include Ottoman archival research, social survey research, analysis of government-generated statistics, involvement in community development projects and the participant-observer technique of anthropological fieldwork. Each article, although especially written for the volume, did not specifically involve new research. Most contributions seek to provide new insights into recently accomplished research, and attempt to condense extensive research material into short concise statements.

The contributions do not represent definitive statements on a particular issue or process of change, but rather seek to raise questions for further study. Several papers are clearly polemical in nature presenting alternative approaches to the same data. No central theme for the entire volume has been attempted, but rather the essays are to serve as diverse illustrations of what social scientists are attempting to achieve in their analyses of Turkish society and the ways in which it responds to change.

A modified version of this volume has already appeared in Turkish.³ The intended readership in the Turkish edition is multiple. Social science textual material in Turkish based upon Turkish examples is rare. Those efforts which might be considered multi-disciplinary in scope, such as

³ E. Tümertekin, F. Mansur, and P. Benedict, *Türkiye: Coğrafi Ve Sosyal Araştırmalar*, Coğrafya Enstitüsü, İstanbul: İstanbul University Press, 1971.

the Turkish edition of this volume are even rarer. Clearly, it is hoped that that edition can supplement existing material in various social science undergraduate programs in Turkey. There is also another area in which the Turkish volume can serve. In recent years a growing segment of the public in Turkey has become an audience for a minor swell of popular literature in the social sciences. Not all of this literature is of desirable quality and some of it is clearly political in interpretation of history and contemporary affairs. It is also hoped that the Turkish volume will find a popular readership and serve to contrast much literature which is based upon little or no research.

The editors would like to express their appreciation to the Geographical Institute of Istanbul University and to its Director Prof. Yalçınlar for providing a number of services which facilitated the preparation of both the Turkish and English volumes. We would also like to thank the Ford Foundation for a grant to the Institute of Geography which permitted the editors to meet the many necessary expenses from the commissioning of papers to final publication. A debt of gratitude is owed to Miss Nazmiye Özgüç and to Mrs. Alma Smith who respectively worked on the manuscripts in Turkish and English to bring about some semblance of stylistic order out of a plethora of individual writing styles. Lastly, we wish to extend our appreciation to contributing authors who responded to our occasional requests for revisions and additional information. It is hoped that this English edition can make a modest contribution toward an increased understanding of selected aspects of Turkish society.

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