



## The Development of the Ancient City of “Side” from Its Discovery to the Present and Determination of Conservation Problems

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### Abstract

Cities are tangible evidence collecting the cultural values of the communities that lived on them. Since Side located in Manavgat-Antalya, is a natural harbor city, it has preferred by a lot of societies from ancient times to present day. Founding the city at the same point over and over created historical layers. However, this cultural accumulation is stuck in the background due to necessities of contemporary life. Tourism which is the most important development in Side has caused transformation of city. After the ancient city of Side was opened to mass tourism, implementations of conservation development plan were not conduct correctly. Although Side city was approved urban and archaeological site, the city was not protected and the deteriorations increased consistently. While the city serves tourism, it has been delayed to take precautions for protection of historical and cultural values. In this study, the problems which have happened the result of uncontrolled tourism and contemporary life are determined in terms of natural, social, cultural values and archaeological, traditional heritage. The information is obtained from field studies, literature research and decisions of councils and analyzed the effect of these problems. The methodology of the study is that firstly showing the multi layered historical urban texture, then evaluation of protection decisions of councils for the problems created by tourism, as a result determination how tourism affects the city during the protection process and identifying the developed problems with contemporary life in ancient city of Side except protection decisions.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Pamphylia region which had become home for many civilizations, located between Lycia, Cilicia and Pisidia on the Mediterranean coast. Calder and Bean defined the borders of Pamphylia from Idyros (Kemer) in the west to Iotape (Alanya) on their map (Figure 1b). Pamphylia was geographically located today's coastal part of Antalya province. The ancient city of Side was founded in this region of Anatolia called Asia Minor and is known to date back to before the Bronze Age. Today, it continues to exist as a town connected to Manavgat district, intertwined with the Selimiye village which was founded by Cretans who were settled in this region during the late Ottoman period. After the city was decided 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site, the registration of the residences in Selimiye villages and maintenance of modern life caused some problems regarding the protection of archaeological site. Besides, until the first conservation development plan for tourism, serious changes and deteriorations occurred in the city which was under the influence of uncontrolled mass tourism. After the first intervention and plans, it continued to deteriorate due to the inability to implement the conservation plans adequately and with ever increasing demands, the development of unfavorable situations regarding legal or illegal use for public improvements. So, Side still struggles these problems today. The aim of this study is, by making a literature research on the history of the ancient city of Side founded centuries ago, to get together historical data, information about documentation and preservation of the city from its discovery to the present, to determine the problems faced by the ancient city of Side which registered as a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site and the village of Selimiye where modern life continues in integration with the city. Within this scope, in addition to the

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literature research, the results of field studies which were carried out at various times since 2019 are evaluated and the obtained data are presented.

## 2. THE HISTORY OF ANCIENT CITY “SIDE”

In the B.C. 14-13<sup>th</sup> century, Mediterranean coastal was discovered by the Greek Akas who moved towards the Eastern Mediterranean and settlements were established here. During the Aegean Immigration in the B.C. 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Aeolians and Ions who were one of the Greek tribes on western coast of Anatolia, invaded Antalya region [1]. They named this region as Pamphylia which means “Land of All Tribes” [1] or “All Greek Tribes” [2]. It is known that the Pamphylia region which included the city of Side, was managed by the Hittite Kingdom in the B.C. 2000s. Pamphylia was named by Hittite as Hulaia River Country. There were important coastal cities Parha (Perge), Sallune (Selinus), Kastaraia (Kestros), Walwara (Alara) [3]. So it is assumed that the foundation of the city of Side dates back to those times.

There is no definite data on the founding date of the ancient city of Side [1]. The ancient geographer Strabon states that the city of Side was a colony of the Kymelians living in Aolis region [4]; Mansel thinks that the city may have been founded during the second colonization movements in B.C. 7<sup>th</sup> century [1]; Shepherd has shown the southern coasts of Anatolia as Greek settlements between the years B.C. 750-625 on his map of Eastern Mediterranean [5] (Figure 1a). After Mansel’s research, it was determined that the city of Side was older than migration of Kymelians. He started the research from the basis of the word of “Side”. The expression ‘Sid’ which means pomegranate was used in various region of Anatolia by taking different suffixes. So the society living in the city of Side had to be of Anatolian origin. Even if it is not certain, the church historian Eusebius living in B.C. 4<sup>th</sup> century claimed that the foundation date of the city of Side is B.C. 1405. This situation gives an indication of how old the city [1]. By way of the study on Pamphylia region in recent years, cities of Perge and Aspendos date back to the Bronze Age. For this reason, it is expected that a similar situation can be seen in the city of Side and that the city can be an old city possessing Anatolian tradition [6].



**Figure 1.** (a) Greek settlements [5], (b) Pamphylia borders of Calder and Bean [7]

In B.C. 6<sup>th</sup> century, Pamphylia region and the city of Side came under firstly the rule of the Lydian Kingdom and then the Persian Empire. However, the city of Side maintained a certain freedom under Persian auspices and continued to print its own money. In B.C. 4<sup>th</sup> century, revolts due to losing power of Persian Empire, broke out in the administrative units where the provinces were governed. These revolts caused great damage in the cities of Pamphylia. When Great Alexander occupied the Persian Empire in B.C. 334, the city of Side came under the protection of Alexander without any resistance in order to avoid further damage. During this period, the city of Side became one of the center of mints belonging Alexander [1].

After the death of Great Alexander, the disagreement about rule of empire having fertile lands. As a result, the lands were divided and the Kingdoms of Hellenism were established. Pamphylia that could not be shared among kingdoms, often change hands and was under temporary occupation, but the cities of Pamphylia continued to live autonomously. During B.C. 3<sup>th</sup>, the city of Side minted the coins under the rule of Seleucids which was one of the Hellenistic Kingdoms. In B.C. 190, the Kingdoms of Roman, Rhodes and Pergamon came together and started the war against the Seleucids. After the war, the Seleucids gave the western part of Pamphylia region to the Kingdom of Pergamon, but city of Side which was located in the east became free between the years of B.C. 188-102. During this period, Side experienced its first heyday and established dominance in the Mediterranean trade [1].

After Alexander's death, the deterioration of empire led to spread the piracy in Meditterrenian. This situation created a great security problem for the kingdoms during the Hellenistic Period [8]. The Roman Empire intervened against the increasing piracy due to the impotence in Cilicia and took possession Pamphylia and Cilicia regions in B.C. 78. [1] [4]. The city of Side which was under Roman auspices for a while, regained its autonomy in A.D. 2-3<sup>rd</sup> century and it lived its golden age in which the life quality of city has increased like never before. During this period, town planning activities increased and many monuments, structures were built. The city turned into a provincial center where governors and civil servants lived and the city was called a metropolis. Because of weakening of Roman authority towards the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Pamphylia was exposed to attacks from another tribes [1].

During the 5-6<sup>th</sup> century Byzantine period, the city of Side was chosen as the episcopacy center of Eastern Pamphylia and received the title of metropolitan. In this way, the city experienced its last bright period [1]. It is known that the city began to decline after the middle of the 6<sup>th</sup> century. During this period, the city of Side faced safety problems about shipping trade and transportation. Therefore, the city lost its former importance.

Arab and Persian attacks which started in the 7<sup>th</sup> century and continued throughout the centuries, put an end to the wealth of Asia Minor and it experienced mixed period until the middle of the 9<sup>th</sup> century. In 622-623 years, it is thought that after the Persians took Rhodos and Cyprus, they possessed and plundered the fertile lands of Pamphylia [9]. The harbour city of Side was plundered rather than invaded by the Arabs and its ports were used for logistics [10] [11]

There are almost no ruins from the 7<sup>th</sup> century in the city of Side [12]. As a result of excavation researches, the places outside the late antique city walls, were left in the end of 6<sup>th</sup> century or the beginnings of 7<sup>th</sup> century. For this reason, it is thought that due to the continued attacks from 7<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of 9<sup>th</sup> century, the city began to shrink and was withdrawn into the walls and turned into the castron [10].

As a result of attacks, due to the fact that the city turned into ruins, people migrated to New Antalya. According to Mansel, it is not known that when the city was destroyed and community left it. When considering that the Byzantine structures were not later 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries in city of Side, Mansel thought that the city might have been abandoned in 10<sup>th</sup> century [1]. Bean shared similar view that there was a great fire in the city of Side in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and people moved to Antalya at the present time [13]. The same definition was made by the Arab geographer Idrisi on his travel trip in 1150 and he determined that there were a little community living in the city which had unusable condition and most of people have moved to New Antalya region [1].

With the realization of the Seljuk raids to Pamphylia in 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century, the city of Side left the Byzantine hands and entered the Seljuk rule [10] [11]. During the studies, trace of existing whose small community lived in 12<sup>th</sup> century was found. On the other hand, when the city of Side maintained as metropolitan in 14<sup>th</sup> century, a small Christian group were lived in there [12].

After the ancient settlement of the city of Side ended, no settlement was established on it throughout the centuries. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the ancient city of Side was revived. In 1890, the Muslim people who were under the pressure of Greeks in Crete, were brought to Antalya. Cretan immigrants were settled in the villages of Selimiye, Ahmediye, Mecidiye and Kadriye in Antalya by the order of the sultan of period, II.

Abdulhamit. Towards 1900, the part of immigrants settled between ancient theatre and coast. Then they established Selimiye village [14] (Figure2c). During the Ottoman period, Selimiye was managed for feudal system. With the proclamation of the Republic, they acquired their own lands after the Land Reform Law was arranged [15]. People in Selimiye village made their subsistence by farming, olive growing, animal husbandry, fishing and crafts. Since the village was self-sufficient, people traded among each other through barter without money [16].

### **3. THE DISCOVERY OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF “SIDE” AND THE HISTORY OF DOCUMENTATION STUDIES**

The remained historical structures, belonging to ancient city of Side in coastal region, provided to notice by travelers using the sea route in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Thus, the city was made visible again by identifying the location of the city of Side on the maps [1] [14]. The city of Side was not mentioned in the travel books of Evliya Çelebi and Katib Çelebi who went from Antalya to Manavgat by road in different time in 17<sup>th</sup> century, but Piri Reis who traveled by sea gave place to drawing of the city of Side and its surroundings on his map [1].

The first scientific researches in the cities of Pamphylia were initiated by European diplomats, explorers and researchers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. L.O.A. Corancez who went on a trip to Asia Minor in 1809, mentioned a historical city called “Sataliadan” which means “Old Antalya” on the coast of Pamphylia in his travel reports. When remains of columns, piles of stones and foundations of ancient structures in this historical city was evaluated, he was convinced that this place was one of the crowded cities in its time. Then, according to his detection, he thought that city of Sataliadan was corresponded to ancient city of Side. He examined the ruins of the city in detail and gave information about the condition, size and material of the existing structures [17]. This research is the first document about the ancient city of Side despite of including complex information [14].

The British Captain F. Beaufort who went on an expedition to the shores of Asia Minor in 1812, returned to England in 1817 and published his work “Karamania” in which he shared his travel notes. This book includes information about ancient city of Side. According to Mansel, the first scientific studies in the city of Side were initiated by Beaufort [1]. Beaufort stated that the city referred to as “Old Antalya” in the Pamphylia region points to the ancient city of Side in terms of its condition and size. During research in the city, Beaufort encountered a broken plinth with some kind of writing on it on the beach. As a result of epigraphic studies, it was understood that the text was written in the ancient language of Side (ΣΙΔΗΤΗΣ). Thus, Beaufort made certain that this city is the ancient city of Side. Since there was no living in the region and the city was completely abandoned, Beaufort gave the name of city continued as Side. Also he drew up the plan of Side peninsula. The port, theatre, agora and round structure in the middle of agora, Nymphium, city walls were shown in the plan [18] (Figure2a).

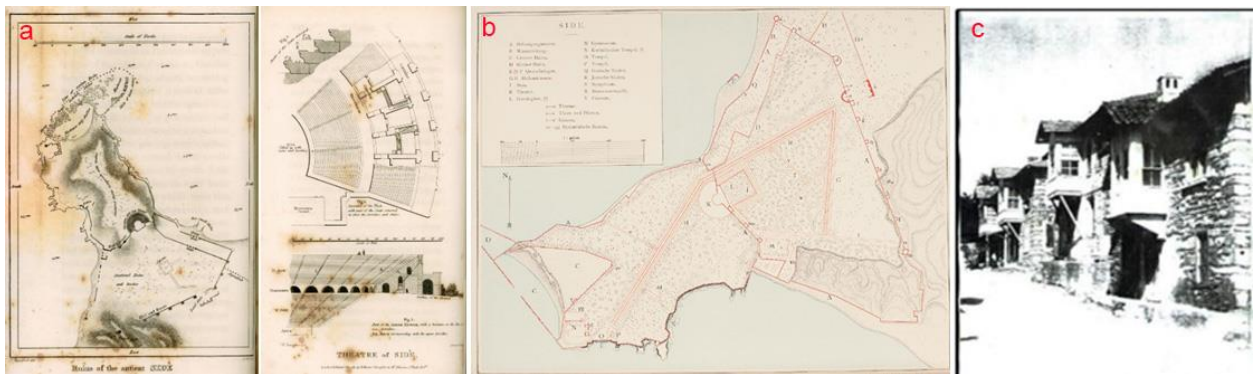
After Beaufort, C.R. Cockerell made discoveries in Southern Europe and the Levant between 1810 and 1817, and mentioned ancient city of Side in his travel notes [19]. Then, R. Walpole travelled to Greece and Asia Minor. He published these travel notes in 1820 and described the city of Side as a colony of Kymelians in his book [20]. Similarly, there are the travel notes of Leake who went on the Asia Minor expedition in the 1800s [21] and J.A. Cramer published in 1832 among the works summarizing the situation of the city of Side [22].

Fellows (1838) gave detailed information about the ruins found in historical region in Asia Minor, with the difference of previous travelers. Unlike Beaufort, Fellows did not find the architectural remains in the city of Side interesting and mentioned that there are almost no traces of Greek style in ruins, but that can be seen the traces of Rome everywhere [23]. In 1842, Spratt, Forbes and Daniell organized a research trip to Lycia, Milyas and Kibyrtis in the west of Antalya. The information obtained after the trip was published in 1847 as a two volume book with the contributions of Daniell [24]. The travel book of Dimitri E. Danieloğlu an Ottoman citizen of Greek origin living in Antalya, is a work that wrote down the ancient values in Perge, Aspendos, Selge, Side and Lara with his own observations and interpretations [25]. French researcher Ch. Texier analyzing in Pamphylia region, did not stop by the city of Side during his research



but, presented a compilation of historical and archaeological studies that have been done in the city of Side before [1]. French architect P. Trémaux (1863) drew plans concerning city and monuments, despite the insufficient quality of the photographs in his book on the archeology of Asia Minor [26]. During the trip, the notes taken by the German historian G. Hirschfeld who conducted research on the southern coasts of Anatolia in 1874, were published as summaries [27] [28] [29].

Among the 19<sup>th</sup> century studies, the most comprehensive one was the research carried out in Pamphylia and Pisidia by the Austrian Researcher K. Lanckoronski and his team in 1884-1885. In the research team, topographers and draftsmen, especially the important architect and painter of the period G. Niemann and archaeologist E. Petersen were involved. The findings obtained from researches were published in the book “Städte Pamphyliens und Pisidiens” prepared in two volumes by Lanckoronski (1890). In the work, the topographical plans of ancient cities, the relief and restitution drawings of the important buildings and the inscriptions were brought together and evaluated with historical and archaeological views [30]. The information about ancient city of Side was placed in first volume of the book. The ancient structures in Side and parts of the city were shown by coding on the plan (Figure2b). (Lanckoronski, 1890: 125-152,185-186). Because of contagious disease and adverse environment conditions, researches have been unfinished [1].



**Figure 2.** (a). Site plan of Side and plan of the theatre (Beaufort,1817), (b). Site plan of Side (Lanckoronski, 1890).(c). Traditional rural houses of the Selimiye village constructed on Ancient Street with columns. (Side Excavation Archive, 1965-1966)

H. Rott and K. Michel who went on a trip to conduct research in Asia Minor, focused on the basilica structure in the city of Side [31]. In 1913 archaeologist R. Paribeni and his assistant Romanelli evaluated situation of the city during their visits and observed that the monuments were damaged with the arrival of the Cretans.They found a previously unknown type of writing on an inscription. In order to solve this writing, inscription has been photographed and published [32]. With the help of this, Side-Hellenic, bilingual written was introduced to scientific world at first time. In 1919-1922, at the end of First World War Italian researchers and archaeologists mostly studied monuments and inscriptions, but the city of Side was excluded from these researches [1].

In 1943 Prof. Dr. Arif Müfid Mansel was commissioned by the Turkish Historical Society to observe the archaeological values in Antalya. In the same year, Mansel and master architect Halit Uluc organized a research trip to cities of Perge, Silyon, Aspendos, Side of Pamphylia and Termessos of Pisidia. After evaluating the travel reports, Turkish Historical Society gave approval for excavations. The first archaeological excavations were begun in Perge in 1946 and in Side in 1947 [33]. The studies in cities of Side and Perge were conducted simultaneous under the presidency of Mansel. In the absence of Mansel, this studies carried out by Jale Inan. After Mansel’s death in 1974, Inan officially took charge in the presidency of excavations [34] [35]. After the last excavations in Side in 1976, she took part in the Perge excavations. Between 1977 and 1991, Inan conducted the restoration project of Side Apollon Temple with the help of Z. Ahunbay [35].

In 1982, with the decision to improve ancient theatre in Side and its surrounding by Culture and Tourism Ministry, the works in the city of Side was started again. Many researchers under the consultancy of Ülkü

İzmirligil carried out repair, cleaning, arrangement and excavations [36]. Since 2009 on behalf of Anadolu University, archaeological excavations have continued under presidency of Hüseyin Sabri Alanyalı and Feriştah Soykal Alanyalı [37].

#### **4. CONSERVATION AND PLANNING STUDIES ABOUT THE ANCIENT CITY OF “SIDE”**

Mediterranean coasts have significant tourism potential due to their natural and cultural values and climatic characteristics. For this reason, studies have been started on the policies of attracting foreign tourist to the Mediterranean coasts. The ancient city of Side and its surroundings have also been chosen as the region that is planned to spread holiday tourism in the Mediterranean. The first planning work for Side was started with “Side and Surroundings Tourism Planning International Competition” in 1969. In this competition started by the Ministry of Tourism and Promotion, the border of planning was determined to cover ancient city of Side, forest in Sorgun, Titreyen lake, Kumköy, Manavgat and the beaches in the coastal areas [38]. The competition specifications included conservation of historical ruins in the ancient city of Side, giving new functions to existing structures, designing future projects that have to adapt to historical environment within the archaeological landscape of the city [39].

EPA Architects Group won the first prize among 171 projects participating all around the world. According to jury report, the first project was successful than others in terms of using land by respecting the archaeological, ecological values and planning on controlled tourism strategies depending on the development of the region [40] (Figure 3a).

After the Side and Surrounding Master Development Plan in 1/5000 scale was approved, with the decision numbered 8242 in 1975 The High Council of Real Estate Antiquities and Monuments carried out registration and planning studies in the Selimiye village where the examples of ancient and modern age architecture are placed. According to council decision, 98 registered residential buildings reflected the socio-cultural and economic feature of Selimiye have protected but the rest of structures were moved to Kumköy [41].

With the decision numbered 8994 in 1976, The High Council of Real Estate Antiquities and Monuments established site protection boundaries to cover the necropolis of Side and the archaeological assets. Then, the conservation development plan was prepared by the EPA Architects Group (Figure 3b). In the plan, two conservation zones were identified: the first one was “Main Conservation Area” which was proposed to remove the village houses where archaeological artifacts existed together and spoiled the city texture; the second one was “Extended Conservation Zone” which included necropolis and agricultural areas. This project was approved by The High Council of Real Estate Antiquities with the decision numbered 1109 in 1978 and the name of project was changed as “Old Side City Conservation Development Implementation Plan” [40].

After the revision of the project in 1979, The High Council of Real Estate Antiquities and Monuments accepted the Antique Side Conservation Master Plan with the decision numbered 3829 in 1982. Thus, it became the first conservation plan approved in Turkey [40]. The following conditions were brought for implementation of the conservation development plan:

- The city of Side should be closed to vehicle traffic and the parking area should be solved outside the city,
- New structures could be built on empty parcels provided that they were compatible with the environment,
- Division of existing parcels would not be allowed.

Between the 1970s and 1980s, only public works implementation plans of project were fulfilled. When the project was approved, certain expropriation rights were gained. However, these rights were not used due to the fact that the project was not applied within the valid time[40].

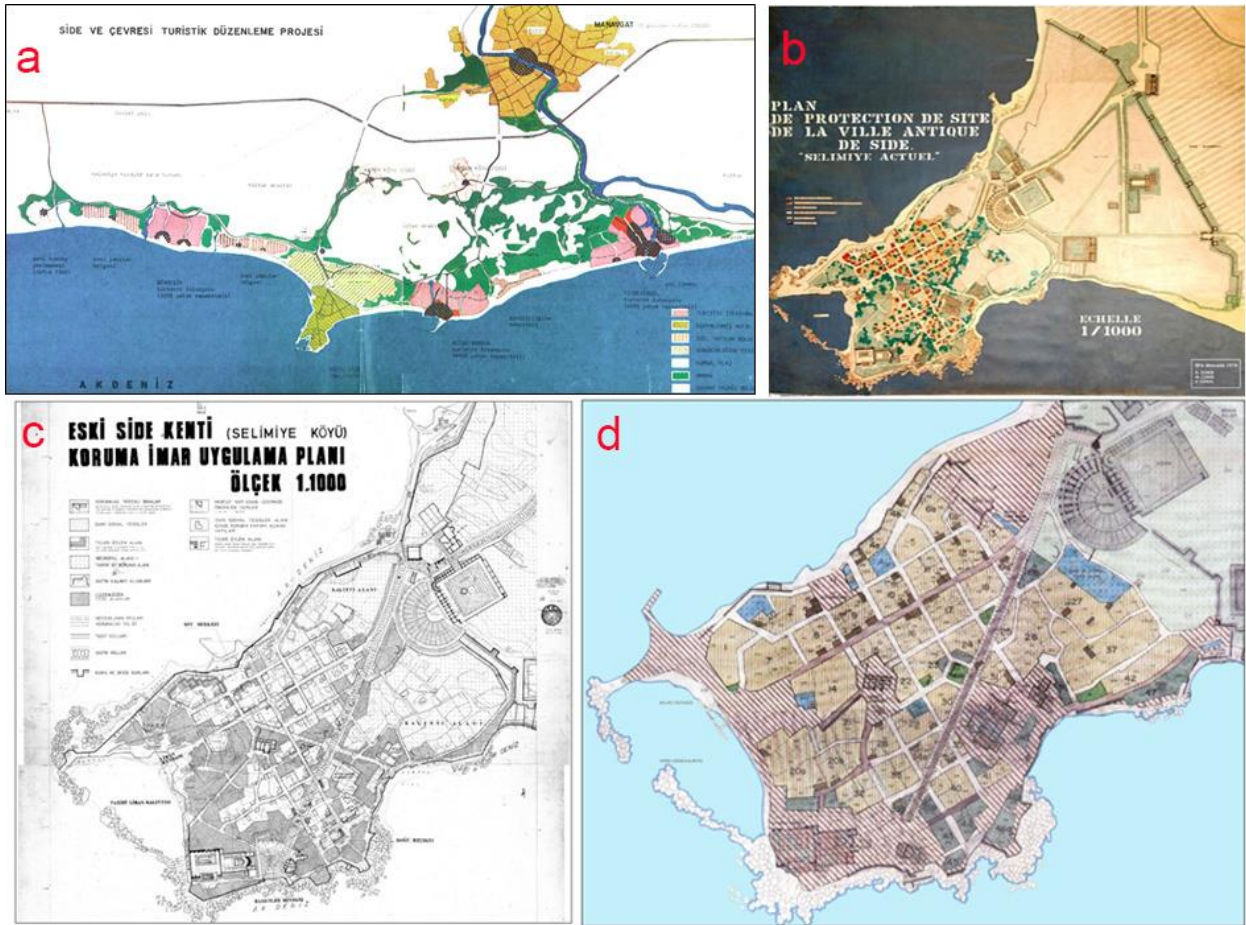
The High Council of Cultural and Natural Heritage made the following arrangements in Master Plan with the decision numbered 1313 in 1985:

- The structures which were predicted to be expropriated would not be demolished until their existence completed and would not intervened such as additions, renewals or repairs.

- Necessary expropriations would be implemented to make a scientific researches on colonnaded avenue
- Site boundary was re-evaluated as a result of excavations in necropolis region.

With the decision numbered 314 in 1989, the proposal of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site was submitted to the High Conservation Council of Cultural and Natural Heritage which wanted the site boundaries of ancient city of Side. After that, Side was determined as 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site with the decision numbered 730 in 1990 [41].

During the 1990s, many council determinations were taken to protect the ancient city of Side. However, the validity of decisions and implementation of the conservation plan could not be conducted in the correct way. For this reason, illegal construction has increased in the ancient city and the appearance of the city has been adversely affected.



**Figure 3.** (a). the first project of Side and Surroundings Tourism Planning International Competition in 1969, (EPA Architecture Archive), (b). Side and Selimiye Conservation Site Plan, 1974 (EPA Architecture Archive), (c). the First Conservation Master Plan for Side (Manavgat Municipality), (d). 1998 Side Conservation Revision Development Plan (Manavgat Municipality)

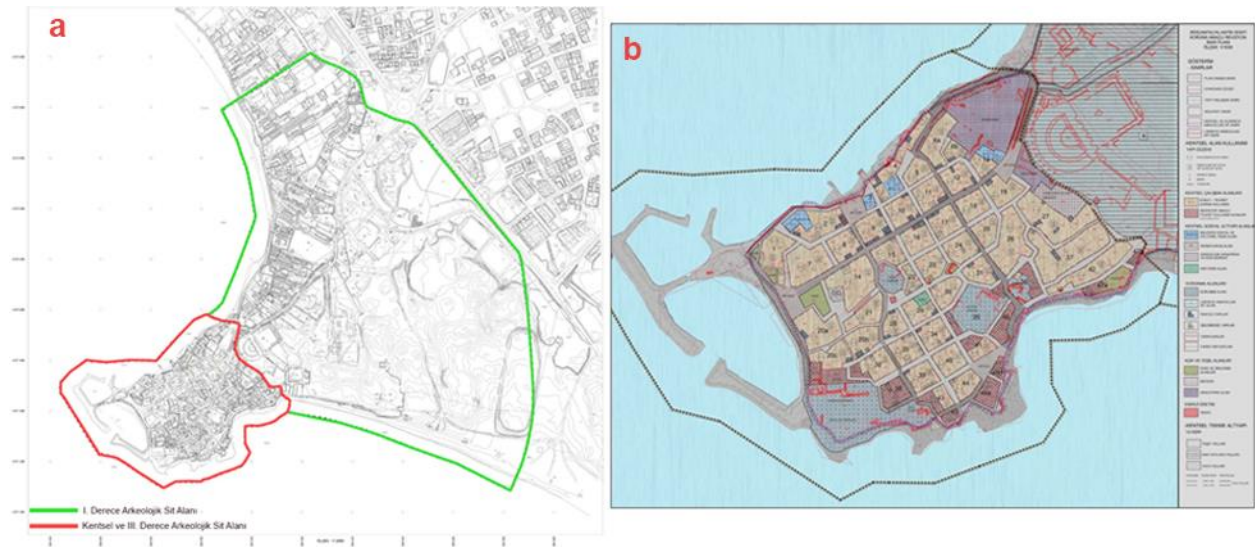
After people living in the city of Side opposed to expropriation, the High Council of Real Estate and Antiquities wanted to revise the master plan in 1992. A contract was made with Kale Architecture to prepare revision plan studies. After the master plan completed, it was not valid because Side Municipal Council did not approve this plan. Although all precautions were taken to protect the ancient city of Side and the plan implementation studies were completed, Side Municipality has shown an attitude of rejecting the conservation efforts. When the decision of Side Municipality was regarded as invalid, Antalya Regional Conservation Council in decided to enter into force “Side Conservation Revision Master Plan” with decision numbered 3771 in 1998 (Figure 3d). In addition, the necropolis area was shown as an archaeological site that should be protected and construction was not allowed.



Even though legal proceedings were initiated for inconsistent structures in the archaeological site according to the conservation master plan, using of illegal structures continued as a result of the tourism development in Side. On the other hand, construction permits were given to appropriate buildings in regions where new constructions are allowed. This situation started to cause problems in plan decisions. Because of given building permit for a one parcel and misapplication of precedent, hesitations about the implementation of the master plan have started. It occurred uncertainty about which plan provisions would be fulfilled.

The construction permit, which was included in the decisions of the Side Conservation Revision Master Plan dated 1998, has turned into an insolvable problem during the implementation process. So, the decision numbered 658 in 1999 has been suggested to the Antalya Conservation High Council that it would be appropriate to continue for the next studies. According to this decision, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site was determined where there was no intervention outside of scientific research and construction was not allowed except of infrastructure requirement, trip route, open parking area, wc, box office, guard box.

Antalya Regional Conservation Council announced that all structures in the archaeological site have to take into account decisions of council and plan provisions, otherwise the Municipality will have intervened to illegal structures. However, the desired process in this direction could not be realized and the decisions legally came to dead end. Therefore, Antalya Regional Conservation Council changed the status of village settlement within the borders of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site to updated Urban and as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Archaeological Site with decision numbered 1196 in 2012 (Figure 4a). In addition, around the monuments such as the Temple of Apollon, the Harbour Bath and the Great Bath located in village settlement has been created archaeological reserve to protect.



**Figure 4.** (a). the borders of, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Archaeological Site to Urban and updated as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Archaeological Site (Government Gazette, 2012) (b). Ancient Side Conservation Revision Development Plan in 2014 (Manavgat Municipality)

Antalya Regional Conservation Council has rearranged the conservation master plan according to the new site borders. Ancient Side Conservation Revision Master Plan approved by council was decided to come into force by Culture and Tourism Ministry in 2014. Unlike the previous conservation plans, this plan was prepared to compromise with the people living in the city. This plan which is valid today, is the last revision conservation plan in rule (Figure 4b). In this plan, comprehensive decisions were taken intended for modern life. According to the master plan, the following relevant provisions were identified:

- In order to protect the historical areas and open them to visitors, they must be cleared of new construction.
- Restore of registered residential and traditional structures should be done in accordance with the regulations and policy decisions.
- Registered residential structures cannot be used for purposes other than those specified in the project.
- Traditional structures need to be protected from demolition.
- Accommodation facilities cannot be built in mixed use areas other than touristic and home pension.



- For residential and commercial areas, the rule of hmax:6,50m (two floors) and for recreational commercial areas, the rule of hmax:3,50m (one floor) should be applied according to precedent conditions.
- Buildings compatible with traditional texture can be construct in recreational commercial areas.
- In the archaeological site, environmentally polluting and noisy trade units cannot take place.
- “In parcels where new buildings will be made, after the excavation report is evaluated by Museum Management and Side Excavation Management and approved by Antalya Regional Conservation Council, the building project can be applied.
- In the new buildings, the materials and techniques of the all facade have to be appropriate to the traditional texture of the city.
- Vehicle roads will be constructed as causey with borders.
- No vehicle can enter the pedestrian roads except ambulance, fire service and officials.

After the conservation plan and plan provisions was completed at the end of 2.5 years, the project started to implemented as Ancient Side Urban Design Project by the Manavgat Municipality in 2016.

## **5. THE PROBLEMS THAT EXIST IN THE ANCIENT CITY OF “SIDE” TODAY**

Today, the city of Side has struggled with serious planning and infrastructure/superstructure problems under the pressure of tourism. The conservation works of Side which have been continuing since the 1970s cannot be realized due to migrations related tourism, problems of public improvements, illegal construction and unplanned development. In this context, there are various problems that prevent local people, tourists and officials living peacefully and hinder the preservation of ancient city and the reconstruction works of the new city.

One of the most important of these problems is the inability to use the coastal area correctly. These areas where natural opportunities and settled life coexist, attract a lot of people’s attention. Accordingly, the increasing population growth in coastal areas causes to appear new areas where meet the human needs. Activities such as new construction for accommodation needs, industrialization for production, tourism for improving economy of the city causes pollution, decrease of the resources on the coast, deterioration of the ecological balance and destruction [42]. Alparslan and Ortaçesme (2009), examined the causes and consequences of spatial changes depending on the development of Side and Manavgat coasts in the 22 years period between 1981 and 2003. According to results of research, in 1981 when the new construction had not started yet in region, it is seen that the dominant usage area was agriculture which made up 65% of the total land and forest areas made up 11.6% of them. In 2003, 48.3% of rural settlement areas, 38.7% of forest areas, 33.4% of areas covered with natural vegetation, 25% of dune areas and 21% of agricultural areas decreased in terms of square measure. The reason for this situation is shown as construction related tourism. As a result, the size of the new residential areas; hotels and holiday villages increased from 39 hectares to 534 hectares, second housing settlements increased from 1 hectare to 124 hectares and open areas without natural vegetation increased from 15 hectares to 261 hectares [43].

Intensive construction and usage leads to decrease in ecological diversity in the region. Manavgat and Side coasts which have unique fauna and flora are in danger of extinction due to the transformation of their natural areas for tourism and the increase in annual consumption. Endemic plants and reptile species living in dune areas, turtle breeding grounds on the coast of Manavgat River, fish species, sea-river potential, the forest areas affecting wildlife are at the risk in terms of sustainability [44].

One of the biggest problems encountered in Side is reconstruction activities. Although a large part of these activities are illegal, it has continued. So, there are problems over time due to the fact that the conservation plan has not been implemented or different laws that come into force have got ineffective each other. Among these problems, it includes the increase of illegal constructions because of tourism development in the city, changing floor heights of existing structures, making new additions to structures and projection to neighboring parcels and roads. In addition to the intense tourism pressure, it is difficult to protect the historical and cultural values in the city due to reconstruction activities (Figure 5).



**Figure 5.** Construction density of Side peninsula in 1960s (left) and 2015 (right) (Side Excavation Archive)

Ancient city of Side is under the pressure of tourism in the summer season and hosts the visitors at the limits of the city's capacity. This situation causes insufficient infrastructure and superstructure systems of city and other problems. Due to the archaeological site in city, the restriction of the applications in infrastructure works and the delay of the development plan implementation are led to maintain problems of infrastructure and superstructure. Due to increase of population in the city, the consumption of resources and the production of garbage waste have enhance rapidly.

There are also many problems for the local people, who are the main users of Side. Along with tourism, the change, which occur due to adoption of new commercial functions, in the region and the buildings caused increase of the temporary population with different socio-cultural identity and negatively affected the life order of the native people. The reasons why people leave from their town and lose the sense of belonging to the environment in which they live, are that local people lose their means of living after agricultural areas were expropriated; the clothing and speech of local people are ridiculed by tourists; the usage of tools, vehicles, things belonging to daily life is banned because of visual pollution; local people feel uneasiness since with effect of tourism, crime elements increase such as alcohol, substance use, noise etc. [45]. In addition, the settlement of foreign tourists in Side has changed the user profile and cause to the loss of cultural values and cultural memory. Akengin and Dinç (2020) study on the population ratio which is determined to places of birth in 1985 and 2000 in Manavgat-Side depending on migrations due to developed tourism. As a result of research, while only 76 people were born abroad in 1985, number of people born abroad reached 10.565 in 2000 [46].

The residences which become functional transformation for touristic needs are used for commercial spaces such as restaurants, cafes, boutique stores and these new functions have found their place in contemporary life. This situation causes spatial changes in the traditional structures and the registered structures lose their original qualities. Another problem encountered is that the unique identities of traditional houses cannot be perceived due to physical interventions such as colors applied to the buildings, illuminated panels, signboards [45].

High vibration in the context of sound in the city because of touristic activities for entertainment and vibration on the ground because of vehicles entering into the city are caused to damage the structures in the ancient city. In addition, it was determined some adverse acting in ancient city such as climbing the old structures within the scope of entertainment activities.

Another case is that the historical structures created the ancient city are separated from urban context and remain in singular pieces. Güven Ulusoy (2014), evaluated the fragmented structures lost in the integrity of the city in terms of their physical, visual and functional relationship with their surroundings and determined the Great Bath and Harbour Bath structures in her fieldwork in Side [47]. In addition, it has become difficult to see these structures and perceive the whole city due to reasons such as the comfort conditions of contemporary life, tourism supply and height of new structures.

Due to the fact that the ancient city of Side is primarily oriented tourism concept, scientific excavations should be taken precautions and should be led to tourism. In scientific terms, considering that this knowledge is the most important thing to be transferred to future generations, the magnitude of the loss can be understood.

Excavations are carried out in the parcels where modern life continues. If the remaining part of the archaeological - cultural property which found within the borders, is located in the neighboring parcels and excavation work is not allowed in these parcels, all the data cannot be brought to light. Since ancient city of Side is also a tourism city, scientific excavations are not allowed by the property owners, except for areas in which illegal constructions located. Therefore, the practice of protecting and exhibiting cultural heritage is interrupted. Another negative result of this situation is that it is not possible to exhibit these cultural properties correctly and to protect them in contemporary life.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

Ancient city of Side is also a tourist region which includes urban and rural site, has been heavily deteriorated due to encountering with tourism in the early period which causes a lack of correct and comprehensive planning, economic rent, functional transformation, requirements for comfort conditions, infrastructure and superstructure setup, the public improvements. The solutions needed within the scope of the encountered problems could not be realized due to the conservation plans that could not be implemented for many years. In this context, first of all, it is necessary to pay maximum attention to the planning works and implementation and then to take the necessary measures. It is important to establish a balance between existing settlements, touristic areas and the natural environment at the planning stage. Also, it is necessary to ensure that the public and individuals benefit from this opportunity in a sensitive way. In the context of flora and fauna, coastal arrangement plans should be made for the damaged coastal areas, protecting the natural environment and ensuring the coastal-city interaction, the sustainability of the city should be aimed. However, the natural and cultural heritage in their surroundings and the coast is the most important principle to be considered. In this context, the decisions taken to protect the coastal environment should be arranged in a way that does not allow the natural, historical and cultural values of the coast to be destroyed.

At the present time, the implementation of the 2014 Conservation Master Plan in Side is valid and still in progress. In this plan, which was carried out with the participation of the public, the city was tried to be cleared of illegal structures and the traditional historical urban texture, which reflects the archaeological heritage and the socio-cultural characteristics of the Cretans who developed on this heritage, was tried to be brought to the fore. In this scope, Conservation Master Plan transformation works carried out by Manavgat Municipality was awarded with "Metin Sözen Conservation Grand Prize" at competition organized by the Union of Historical Cities due to integrating the multi-layered urban texture with urban life and having a well-constructed project scenario. The main purpose of the project was to give people the chance to live in their parcels in a way that preserves the historical monuments and civil architecture, to save the city from reinforced concrete and illegal structures and to clean the visual pollution that distorts the silhouette of the city. On the other hand, with the applications carried out until today, the building overhangs on the walking and vehicle roads have been cleaned and the circulation in the city has been facilitated. Additionally, in order to encourage the demolition of illegal structures in the city, it was allowed to construct new commercial buildings that fit the traditional civil architectural texture instead of the demolished one.

The protection of all these which have been identified in the past and which are being determined today with the help of scientific excavations, the exhibition of them in the continuity of contemporary life and bringing the movement of contemporary life to a harmless level should be considered in terms of sustainable protection and should be evaluated within the scope of planning studies.

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