Editorial Introduction:
The City Inside Historical Process

The Neolithic period during which human beings adopted a sedentary life, built a neigbourhood system, generated settlings with village/town characteristic is one of the most important periods within the humanity's struggle of existence. This period was also a source of inspiration for the cities that would be established later. Thus small and large cities have emerged in the south of Mesopotamia in Sumerian period. The societies, which searched how to achieve yield from soil, climate conditions and the times of the rivers' overflowing, had the surplus product in time and this had caused urban hierarchy and division of labour in societies. Experting had emerged inevitably with the division of labour and this was followed by the invention of writing that provided the transfering obtained information to next generations, sailing vessels, record keeping, weight and measurement units and such inventions (Güvenç, 1984, p. 193).

In the following period urbanization had expanded in the Antique Age through all Mediterranean World. Such that, it has been estimated that Hellenes had almost one thousand and five hundred city states in the Meditteranean (Hansen, 2006, p. 31; also see Welwei, 1998, pp. 35-89). It has been thought that three hundred of this number were located in Anatolia, which is situated in the west of the Euphrates. It is possible to find out this number from the coins of the cities which succeded to mint their coins and the inscriptions that are found. The cities which were free against the outside world and self contained economically caused the expansion of the Antique Age culture in a relatively homogenous way. *Polis* not represented as a political organization but also with religious, economic, and military integrity (Ağaoğulları, 1994, p. 15). A remarkable point is that the cities referred to themselves with "plural possessive suffix" on inscriptions and coins. For example, not Byzantian or Aspendos but the states of Byzantians or Aspendoses. Therefore the city sticks to the minds as the area which harbours its citizens. It is known that Romans gave the importance to the concept of city and citizen with bigger acceleration especially after their first emperor Augustus. It is seen that they set up new cities and support the reconstruction movements actively. On the other hand, although the expansionist Roman Empire governing during the years between B.C. 753- A.D. 1453, reached wide borders and even relocated its capital to Constantinopolis, the state took its name from the modest Roma city settled along with Tiber River and preserved this name from its foundation day to the day it collapsed. This name displays the privileged situation of the citizens living in the state during centuries.

After the various political failures and economic problems which triggered the end of *Polis* city-states and the Roman Empire, the "camp looking" cities with cosmopolitan characteristics succeeded the *polis* in the Middle Ages. The basic reason of the people's crowding big cities was undoubtedly defence and to be able to continue their lives (Pirenne, 200, p. 58). Therefore in order to show the majesty of the cities, castles and towers had started to manifest themselves. Each of cities had a self-endosed appearance, and it is thought that the number of the cities which sheltered one hundred thousands population was quite few in the twelfth century (Keleş, 2004, s. 23). Handicrafts, trade and agricultural activities underlied their economies (Thorns, 2004, p. 14). On the other hand, geographical discoveries taking place during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries led up to the development and growth of trade. Some cities gradually had a

say in economy and trade in this period. For instance, Venice, Genova, Lisbon can be considered to be examples of such cities becoming effective in the seventeenth century (Thorns, 2004, s. 14). At the beginning of the industrial revolution, generally the nobles of the city, traders and bankers were the arbiters in the cities (Keleş, 2004, p. 23). After the industrial revolution, which was seen in the midst of the eighteenth century, the numbers and the population of the cities started to increase. Henceforth people had enhanced production efficiency largely by benefiting from coal and petrol. With the industrial revolution, innovations in manufacture, population explosion, distinctions in demographic and social structure emerged and the migration from rural areas to urban cities accelerated (Kaya, 2017, pp. 31-32).

Nowadays there is the close relation between the word "city" and "civilization" in a lot of languages. Today the Turkish word of "uygar" is in relation with the Uyghurs, who become sedentry in Middle Asia. The word *civilisation*, which is used in western languages, however, is derived from *civitas* that is used instead of the word "citizen, nation" in Latin. Similarly "Medeniyet" is derived from *medine* meaning "şehir" in Arabic (Kaya, 2017, p. 37). As it is seen, cities are the most significant places that contributed to the development of humanity in terms of culture. At the same time, the cities are the places that satisfied the needs such as living together safely and sheltering, accessing fresh water, heading towards suitable physical locations and places, and economic self sufficiency.

Thus in the major part of the history studies, the communities in past times were surveyed alongside the places where they lived, and in this sense the history of the cities were put under the scope. Man feeling himself belonging to the piece of land he lives on and having a mutual interaction with it point out the close connection and continuity between the city and the man. Besides, this relation is not stable and differs with a continuous motion according to various periods and geographies. Therefore, it is extremely important to put forward the impacts of the politic, religious, economic, socio-cultural changes and improvements on the city life and architecture from the most primitive accommodation units to the most complicated city styles by evaluating scientific methods.

In this context, we allocated the twentieth issue (2019/Fall) of the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Journal of Social Sciences to the "The City in Historical Process" theme in order to make the mutual effect between the city and human understood in detail. We aimed to convey to you the development of cities in history through new source readings and interpretations made by scholars from various disciplines in light of current data. For this purpose, we gave place to the extremely valuable articles written by scholars working in disciplines such as archeology, art history, history, epigraphy, and philologhy:

Nihan Naiboğlu focuses on the first settlements that began to prevail in Southern Mesopotamia through the end of the fourth millennium B.C. in her paper. The author investigates the fundaments of Southern Mesopotamian urbanisation model and discusses the social, environmental, economic and ideological qualities that accelerated and developed the urbanisation process in her article. Her principal claim is that one of the most significant qualities that would last without much transformation for ages of the urbanisation model is the religious organisation that has an unbreakable sanctity on human character.

Kenan Eren asserts the necessity of evaluation of the works of the Copenhagen Polis Centre famous for its research on *polis* city state on a critical basis. He especially points out that the issue of discovering the emergence process of *polis* city states is vital and the related research should be enriched with alternative questions and diverse perspectives.

Mehmet Oktan expresses in his paper that with the period of the Empire, the construction activities increased in Rome. He claims that the first emperor Augustus was the person who

greatly developed the construction activities in Rome and shaped the construction policy of the following periods. Ancient authors and inscriptions also prove that Augustus had initiated a great transformation on construction in Anatolia, ordered construction of many buildings, and provided assistance in various formats in certain towns.

Ferit Baz evaluates an inscription of accolade acquired from the settlement of Hierapolis located in Cappadocia in his paper. The inscription is dedicated to a woman named Flavia Aeliana Ma. This woman is praised of being the "mother of five *archiereis*" in the inscription. In this regard, the author discusses the subjects such as the woman, her family and the service of *arkhiereus*. Moreover, this paper asserts the significance of the culture of accolade in the Antiquity as well.

Murat Özyıldırım and Yavuz Yeğin discuss the construction activities ordered or supported by the Byzantine emperor Zeno of Isauria (474-491 A.D.) during his reign in Cilicia and Isauria in their paper. In this regard, they evaluate a monastery in the town of Olba as a building constructed during the reign of emperor Zeno.

Özlem Oktay Çerezci concentrates on the settlements created by the Turkic and steppe communities of the north of the Black Sea and Eastern Europe between the seventh and tenth centuries and evaluates their common traits. She primarily focuses on Mayatsk, which was an important settlement during the Khazar Period on a comparative basis with Antique Age cities of Central and Continental Asia in her paper.

Nevzat Keleş focuses on Grand Seljukid Period's urban and provincial apparatus in his paper and claims that the administrative structure in essence consisted of political-military structure, financial structure and religious-judicial structure in line with the classical understanding of the Medieval Islamic World. In this prospect, he introduces the administrators active in various fields and simultaneously responsible for the town affairs and their areas of responsibility.

Zeki Coşkun introduces the concept of Orientalism and its emergence process in his paper, and investigates the cities of Istanbul and Paris which have been the capitals of Orientalism. He claims that Istanbul is the prioritised image source of the civil Western object concerning the Orient. Through the end of the seventeenth century, France's occupation plans of Istanbul were transformed to the consumption and reproduction of the city and Orient by the Western actors in imaginary, oral, theatrical and visual aspects. This activity brought about the transformation of Istanbul beginning with the eighteenth century as well.

Filiz Bayram utilises the chronicles of the eighteenth century in her paper and evaluates the fires in Istanbul as the capital of the Ottoman Empire under diverse and interesting subheadings. She investigates the causes and locations of the fires, the personnel who involved in fire-fighting and fire-fighting policies of the grand viziers and sultans in her paper.

Özlem Çaykent and Ertuğrul Ökten focus on the rise of Edinburgh as one of the most promising cities of the Great Britain on physical and intellectual terms. In order to explain the cultural enlightenment of the city, the authors evaluate the city's intellectual, social and economic history. Besides mutual relations between these spheres, certain behavioural traits such as "enlightenment socialisation" and certain values such as progress and tolerance are deemed as the prime factors assuring the dynamism of the "Edinburgh of Enlightenment".

Zeynep Yaman focuses on the establishment, aims, structure, operation and especially social activities that contributed to Istanbul's civic life of Union Française, which was founded in Istanbul in late nineteenth century. The primary sources for this paper are the documents, reports, and official correspondences of the time obtained from the Nantes Diplomatic Archive of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs located in the French city of Nantes.

Işıl Tuna concentrates on the activities concerning Istanbul's urbanisation and construction during the Democrat Party government between 1950 and 1960 in her paper. The article evaluates the contribution of the construction activities in Istanbul on the city's modernisation process and the dimensions of the shantytown problem along with the transformation the city experienced.

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