

Turkish Cadastre: A Completed Yet Unfinished Endeavor – Does It Ever Truly End?

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SUMMARY

The history of cadastral works in Türkiye dates back to the pre-Republic era. During the Ottoman Period, the efforts began with textual records, which later evolved into records linked to individual sketches and eventually to records connected with cadastral maps (Yildiz, 2024). One of the reform efforts initiated immediately after the declaration of the Republic was identified as cadastral works. Initially aimed at recording the rights, responsibilities, and restrictions on real properties based on their geometric characteristics, as well as determining their value, the work soon transitioned into a purely legal cadastre, excluding the concept of valuation. The adoption of the Swiss Civil Code in 1926 is considered a significant turning point for Turkish cadastre. □ Over the next century, cadastral Works have been completed through steps such as implementing various laws containing different administrative, legal, and technical regulations for rural and urban areas, setting targets in development plans to ensure political support for completing cadastral work, developing a skilled workforce, establishing a private sector, and enabling the private sector to carry out the technical parts of cadastral operations. □ The completion rate of cadastre has been used as an indicator in development goals over the years, leading to the misconception that cadastre work could one day be fully completed. Williamson et al. described cadastral activities as an "unfinished, and even never-to-be-finished exercise". The evolution of cadastral activities in Türkiye aligns with this definition. Cadastre in Türkiye has evolved from initial registration to digitalization and renovation, moving towards 3D representation to respond to global trends such as rapid urbanization and population growth. □ Although cadastral work in Türkiye was primarily planned to create a land registry under state guarantee, the information produced as a result has been used in many different areas, from taxation to agricultural subsidies. The evolution of cadastral work has also increased expectations of cadastre. The re-integration of the "value" element, which was left behind in the early years, into cadastre in Türkiye reflects such expectations. □ This study will provide information on the development and current state of Turkish cadastre, explaining the notion of

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cadastre as a never-ending endeavor. Valuation is a field that can meet fiscal expectations from cadastre. Efforts to establish a mass valuation infrastructure linked to the cadastral system in Türkiye will be presented within the framework of the phenomenon of cadastral completion.□

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