A REVIEW OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF BESIKTAS-YILDIZ FROM THE 19th CENTURY TO THE PRESENT

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The Besiktas district located in the Bogazici side of Istanbul experienced various changes throughout history. Considering these changes, there were no settlements in this district in ancient times. The district hosted three important structures in the Byzantine period and developed the identity of a settlement during the Ottoman Period. Besiktas became a region where palaces and pavilions were located and noble families and officers lived during the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent. As Sultan Abdulhamid the Second moved into Yildiz Palace, the district became the administrative region of the Ottomans. Therefore, the district experienced various urban changes and hosted many innovations. The region having historical and cultural values keeps its importance until today. The aim of the present study is to reveal the physical changes in the Besiktas-Yildiz region throughout history according to the requirements, cultural structural changes and regulations. Accordingly, the assessment section was addressed in three sections; until 19th century, during 19th century and after 19th century. The relevant literature was reviewed to determine the changing socio-cultural and socio-economic structure of the region in stated period. The analyses of the physical changes were presented on maps and figures of that period. In the conclusion section, the factors that caused the changes were addressed.

Keywords: Capital of Ottoman, Palaces of Ottoman, Physical change in cities, The influence of the palace on the city in Ottoman.

1 INTRODUCTION

Besiktas hosted important buildings from the Byzantine era and then became a settlement area during the Ottoman period. Besiktas is the first settlement in Bogazici. The reconstruction movement first started under the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent continued during the times of other monarchs. Shops constituted the socio-economic structure of the district, and Koyici keeping its existence since the Byzantine period became a commercial center in the Ottoman period. Muslims, Armenians and Greeks provided commercial activities in Koyici in the 17th century. Furthermore, Evliya Celebi has stated that the majority of the population in Besiktas was Anatolia-oriented in the 17th century and worked for vine cultivation. The only caravansary in Istanbul was located behind today’s Besiktas pier and continued its existence as the Deve Square until the 19th century. The palace officials and people in the high-class head to this region as the Ottoman dynasty moved to Besiktas. The moving of Sultan Abdulhamid the Second to Yildiz Palace increased these activities. Thus, the district gained social status. The district underwent many physical changes with these new settlements and the innovations in architecture and transportation in the capital of Ottoman were carried out as well.
2 RESULTS

2.1 Besiktas Before the 19th Century

It was mentioned in the Istanbul Haslar Kazası Defteri belonging to Besiktas settlement in the 15th century that the exiles and prisoners of war named “ortakçı kul” were placed in 164 villages including Atınburnu, Ortakoy, and Macka, and that vine cultivation was made in these villages affiliated with the Directorate of Galata according to the regulation in this record (Akbayar 1998). Mansions were built on Besiktas coasts and covered by the Dolmabahce Palace for Chief Admirals (Sinan Pasha, Kılıç Ali Pasha, Barbaros Hayreddin Pasha) during the reign of Sultan Beyazid the Second. The first construction by the Ottoman Dynasty in Besiktas was the Suleyman Palace built by Suleiman the Magnificent near the Inonu Stadium today (Figure 1). The road going until the coast from the palace ending up with the pier and a javelin square, which kept its existence until the 19th century was established in the area.

Figure 1. C. Stolpe Map 1880 (Salt Archive). Figure 2. The area where the caravansaries were.

It was filled up from Dolmabahce palace to Besiktas pier and was arranged as a dock. The coasts were transferred to the Ottoman Dynasty during the reign of Sultan Ahmed the First (1590-1617) and there was a gulf on the place covered by Inonu Stadium until the 17th century. This gulf was filled during the reigns of Sultan Ahmed the First (1603-1617) and Sultan Osman the Second (1617-1622). The filled area became the private garden of the sultan and then the Ottoman sultans started to spend some time in this garden (Sözen 1990). Evliya Celebi stated that the only caravansary in Istanbul was located behind the pier and it was referred to as Deve Square until the 19th century (Celebi 1972, Figure 2). The Cinili Mansion, the first building of Besiktas Coastal Palace, was built on the coast in Besiktas during the reign of Mehmed the Fourth (1648-1687) in the 17th century (Figure 3 and Figure 4). This building complex became a great palace with the construction started in the time of Mehmed the Fourth (1648-1687) and buildings were constructed during the time of Ahmed the Third (1703 – 1730). Members of the ilmiye class from the upper class of the Ottoman moved to Besiktas upon these developments in the 17th century. Darrüssade Abbas Aga constructed a mosque and a neighborhood called Abbasaga was formed in the area. A foreign architect was recruited for the first time during the reign of Selim the Third (1789 – 1807) in the 18th century. Architect Melling carried out the garden arrangements and decoration of the palace of Hatice Sultan, the sister of the sultan, in Defterdarburnu (Goncu 2015). Additionally, Melling was asked to perform the repair and reconstruction of Besiktas Palace. Melling built two buildings in that period, and one of them was the Valide Sultan (Queen Mother) Suite following the Agalar Koguşu next to the Cinili Mansion that could be seen in his engravings.
2.2 Besiktas and Yıldız in the 19th Century

Yıldız used as a coppice forest in the Byzantine Period was decorated with mansions by the sultans during the Ottoman period, and the mansions were mostly used for hunting and entertainment. The sultans got these mansions repaired and built new mansions for themselves to show their interest in this place. Sultan Mahmud the Second built a small mansion with a large garden at the end of the Yıldız grove in Besiktas in 1834. He named it Yıldız because the mansion had a view of Istanbul and the Bosphorus (Nuri 2017). The sultan organized suites (fâsil) and javelin training here. Sultan Abdüllaziz (1861-1876) showed more interest in Yıldız than other sultans. He had the previously built wooden Cıragan palace and the wooden bridge with windows enabling the connection to Yıldız Park. These structures were demolished, and they were reconstructed with stone (Figure 5). Additionally, he built the great lake in front of the Great Mabeyn, Malta Mansion, and Çadır Mansion (Figure 6 and Figure 7). He built various structures similar to the zoos in Europe next to the great glass winter gardens and placed animals of various species in these structures.

One of the important reconstruction movements during the Sultan Abdüllaziz period was the Akaretler community buildings built to bring income to a foundation he founded to cover the expenses of Sultan Abdüllaziz’s Aziziye Mosque in Taşlık, and the remaining of the lodging buildings designed as houses for Dolmabahce Palace guards and agents. It was the first building constructed considering the first mass housing project and design of Ottoman (Figure 8 and Figure 9). Abdulhamid Han the Second (1876-1909), who succeeded to the crown after Sultan Abdüllaziz, left Dolmabahce Palace due to safety worries and moved to Yıldız, which has a complete palace building and functions in the first years of his reign. He started a major reconstruction movement in the region since the palace did not have the capabilities to meet his services. He first bought the land that goes from Besiktas hill to Ortakoy from its owners and expanded the land.
The change induced by the palace

Yıldız became the state center as Abdulhamid the Second moved to Yıldız, and became a region where palace officials and ruling class lived. The sphere of the palace was surrounded by mansions in Serencebey Hill, Hasan Paşa River, Ortakoy hill, Akaretler, Maçka-Nişantaşı plane. Police stations were built in this period. Besiktas Central Police Station could be given as an example for one of these structures (Figure 10 and Figure 11).

Soldiers, government officials and clergymen built mansions around the palace in order to be close to Abdulhamid the Second. The pier in Besiktas was built in 1857. The roads going to the palace and pavilions were expanded after 1870. The road between Dolmabahce and Ortakoy was forested during the mayorship of Mazhar Pasha. Building wooden construction between Besiktas and Ortakoy was banned with the Municipal Law dated 1877.

Transportation

One of the important developments in the 19th century was experienced in transportation and public transportation vehicles, which increased human activities in the city. The construction of Galata bridges strengthened the connection of Besiktas with Istanbul, and regular ferry rides begun with the establishment of Şirket-i Hayriye in 1851. The Besiktas pier was built in 1857, Dolmabahçe pier was built in 1864 and the dock in Besiktas was built in 1913 (Figure 12). This development affected Bogazici villages in terms of population, lifestyle and architecture. The tramway company, which was privileged in 1869, put its first line between Azapkapi and Besiktas into operation. The first horsecars of Ottoman started to operate on this line (Figure 13).
3 BEŞİKTAŞ IN THE 20TH CENTURY

There was a great change in the Ottoman Empire in the 20th century. The country was declared a republic in 1923 and the caliphate was abolished on 3 March 1924. Subsequently, members of the Ottoman dynasty were taken abroad. For this reason, the palaces and the mansions along the coast from Beşiktaş to Arnavutköy were evacuated, they were given to public institutions in order, they started to be used as a warehouse and school, some of them were demolished. The mansions also suffered a similar fate, with the collapse of the mansion layout, some were divided and rented, some abandoned, some burned or demolished. During this period, the commercial life in Beşiktaş was also shaken (Akbayar 1998). Lütfi Krdar, the mayor of 1938-1949, initiated the first change in the district. With the plan prepared by the French urban planner H. Prost, a large-scale development movement started in the city. In line with the decisions of H. Prost plan, the streets behind Beşiktaş Pier were expropriated and Barbaros Square was opened, The Barbaros Hayrettin Pasha Tomb was unearthed by removing the wall in front of it. Barbaros Boulevard, which connects Beşiktaş to Zincirlikuyu in 1956-1958, was opened, divided the settlement into two and the district lost many cultural assets (Figure 15).

The Abbas Aga Mosque located in the part of Abbasaga Park overlooking Beşiktas gave the district its name. The area consisted of the graveyard in the park belong to this mosque. The tomb owners were informed that the tombs in this graveyard would be removed in 1940 (Figure 16a and Figure 16b). The owners of almost 200 tombs could not be contacted and the stones of these tombs were sold to lime factories. The bones in the tombs were thrown to four holes opened in the bottom corner of the park. The police station and fountain were demolished to clear the surroundings of the Barbaros Hayreddin Pasha Mausoleum in the same period (Figure 17).
4 ASSESSMENT

Besiktas has always been a valuable region with its view and gardens. Its significance increased with the construction of the first building by Suleyman the Magnificent, and all sultans were interested in Besiktas. It became a region where palaces, mansions and pavilions were constructed. It became an administrative center for the Ottoman Empire with Besiktas Palace, then with Dolmabahce Palace and lastly, with Yıldız Palace when Abdulhamid the Second moved to this place. This activity, which took place in the 19th century, was a turning point for the district and a great development activity started in Beşiktaş. Architectural works were left in the district in this period when the Ottoman Empire was in the modernization movement. A major reconstruction activity started in Besiktas, and the palace officials and high-class officers moved to Yıldız to be close to the palace and the region was equipped with western style pasha mansions. It became the most served area of the capital since it was the government center. The fact that the first tramway line was opened here can be the proof of this information. The modern lifestyle of that period also affected the palace. The palace, which was protected by police stations due to security concerns of the sultan, was a public sphere where the citizens could go as far as to the outer garden. The roads were expanded based on the Ebniye Law and stone mansions were built instead of wooden structures. Beşiktaş has developed into a rapidly developing and transforming district with Yıldız Palace. At the same time, the presence of the rich people who came with the palace had great effects on urban, architectural and social change in the district. For example, upper class statesmen had mosques built here and these mosques gave their names to the neighborhoods. The district continued to experience changes with the declaration of the republic in the 20th century. It did not lose its importance as a district, but with the new development movements, some buildings with cultural value before the 20th century were expropriated. Barbaros Avenue was opened, and the buildings around the Barbaros Hayreddin Pasha Mausoleum were demolished.

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