



Ankara Arařtırmaları Dergisi *Journal of Ankara Studies*

From the Editors

Dear readers,

We remember our Great Leader Atatürk with longing and gratitude on the 100th anniversary of his arrival in Ankara. We dedicate our 14th issue to the heros of Kızılcağün, who changed the fate of the city.

Once Ankara was made capital on October 13th, 1923, it developed rapidly, and its population grew. According to 1923 records, the number of inhabitants was 21,446, and because of domestic migrations, this quickly reached 404,581 in the 1927 census (T.C. Ankara Valiliğı, 2019). The largest migration to Ankara took place from 1927 to 1935 and from 1950 to 1955, which led to different quests and implementations in urban planning. Following the Arab Spring in the Middle East, as a result of the civil war that broke out in Syria in 2011, just like the other provinces that experienced an especially large influx of migration from 2011 to 2015, a Syrian population emerged in Ankara. Our current issue features two articles analyzing the Syrians in Ankara from different perspectives, which should be beneficial for the study of the phenomenon of international migration that impacts the life, the population, and even the economy of the city. With reference to the concepts of ghetto and urban island, the first article takes up the distribution and the lifestyles of Syrians concentrated in the Önder, Ulubey and Alemdağ neighborhoods of the Altındağ district, whereas the second reveals the lives of Syrians in the Önder neighborhood of Ankara by focusing on how they adapted and transformed their living spaces.

Another article in this issue refers to police records of different neighborhoods in Çayyolu and Mamak and to field interviews, to study how informal connections that emerge through residence in apartment building areas or slum areas impact mass protests taking. The next article contains important insights and valuable suggestions for the city and studies the changes taking place in the ecologically significant İmrahor Valley, as contemporary indications of the transformations happening in the fringes of Ankara.

The next article deals with the concept of Millet Bahçesi (people's garden) which recently occupied the agenda of Turkish politics, and relates accounts of the establishment of the Millet Bahçesi in Ankara in the last quarter of the 19th century at the junction of İstasyon Caddesi and the present-day Atatürk Boulevard, which lead to the vineyards in the south of city. Another article studying the contribution of museum workshops to the education of children should also be greatly enjoyable to the readers.

In this issue we are pleased to feature articles on Ankara artists Eşref Üren and Bülent Arel who made great contributions in painting and music. Üren who spent the last 45 years of his life in Ankara, is an outstanding figure of the city's art scene and executed more than 100 landscapes which are part of prominent painting collections in Turkey. His drawings of Ankara that are now part of the İmren Erşen art collection are of great interest. The other piece focuses on Bülent Arel, one of the second-generation composers of the Republic, who was educated and worked in Ankara from 1940 to 1965. The article deals with Arel's compositions that were persistently innovative and universal, despite the political and cultural changes that occurred in the country following World War II, and despite the change power balance and cultural approaches after the adoption of a multi-party system.

We hope you enjoy reading our 14th issue.

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