

PROS AND CONS OF TURKISH REPUBLIC AND MODERNIZATION

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Abstract

Sparking first in the West, modernization has influenced all the countries in such a short time. As a long lasting process it has not ended up with the era post-modernization. In this sense modernization can be explained as the changes that all societies have to go through according to the features of their own social structure. So and so Ottoman Empire could not run away from modernization movements in the West because of its geopolitical position and the different ethnic groups that lived under the roof of it. The empire at the border of breaking up had to go through modernization to survive. Western modernization policies were also used a lot while the new state Turkish Republic was being established after the empire fell down. Therefore, one can claim that we have inherited some good and bad things from these two, which will help us to comprehend the situation that we are in now.

Starting from this point of view it is aimed to give a sociological criticism of Turkish modernization in this paper. In order to reach this aim most of Şerif Mardin's ideas on modernization will be made use of. Because, when it comes to the topic modernization of Turkey, Şerif Mardin is the key man to understand it in detail. He is a social scientist, a philosopher, an epistemologist and a policy maker who give life to his systematic and unique knowledge on Turkish modernization process with his own solving style. In the first part of the paper, modernization will be explained with a sociological point of view. And then western modernization and the situation Ottoman Empire was in during this process will be given shortly. And the second part of the study will focus on Şerif Mardin's understanding of modernization and his criticisms on the topic. Finally, Turkish Republic and modernization will be analyzed in detail with their effects on today's world.

Keywords: Modernization, Turkish Republic, Şerif Mardin, Ottoman Emire, West.