

Meaning of individual resistance in Tokludede

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This essay will discuss conditions and effects of urban renewal projects on daily life of inhabitants in urban renewal project area. Case study will be focus on the Tokludede Neighborhood, also known as Turk Mahallesi. There was almost 80 household in the neighborhood before the demolishing. However, only few of them resist and gain their rights to maintaining living in the same place. Others were vanished. The remarkable part of this case is there was only one family who started and continued to fight against all kind of intervention through they living area, they neighborhood. And there was a little help, or collectivity had occurred during the resistance. At the end, neighborhood that they know was gone; they saved only the house that they live in it. And now they are waiting to confront newcomers and their lifestyle. Tokludede was one of them oldest neighborhood of Istanbul, last Ottoman and Turk Houses and their traditional lifestyle. Now, there is a five star hotel, a shopping mall and residences that they built

There are multiple results of urban renewal and effects of these results on human life, this paper will focus on this issue in the perspective of urban social movements. In addition to that, local activism and place-based resistance view will be reevaluated with the examples of individual resistance idea. Before the focusing of this paper problematique, we need to ask two main questions to the urban social movement literature: (i) how place-based and individual resistance examples can be framed theoretically? and (ii) what is the important of the individual resistance examples for urban social movement's future?

Social movements are 'one of the principal social forms', in order to gain a collective voice on 'rights, welfare, and well-being of themselves and others'. And these forms may shape in some collective actions, protesting in the streets or occupying a

building, or else, intervening a place and changing it usage. How about individual resistance?

According to the Harvey (2000), urban resistances against neo-liberal policies, feminist or gay activism and right movements mobilizations should be extent their scopes to attach themselves to class struggle if they maintain their action areas. However, a singular event and individual resistance may have meaningful enough to establish Harvey's critical points. "What is the meaning of these individual examples to urban movements?" is the main research question of this paper.

Case Study and Method

Tokludede Neighborhood locates in Historical Peninsula of Istanbul and it is a one of them oldest neighborhood in the city. It contained the historical view till 2011, after that date urban renewal project started to intervene the physical area of the neighborhood. This paper will be focus on the events after 2011 till now. However, since 2005, mental and psychological pressure of renewal project, namely the rumors of project, had been started to affect the inhabitants. Observation of the case was started in 2011 and it is still continued. In addition to that, I periodically made in-depth interviews with one of them inhabitant who is the focus character of the paper.³

Conclusion

This paper aims to contribute a discussion to the urban social movement literature. Meaning of individual resistance act in place-based activism perspective and importance of local resistance should be revalued in order to fight against neo-liberal urban politics and their unequal results. Although Tokludede case will tell us about a neighborhood demolishing story at the end, it may not considered as a victory, however it may also stimulate us to reconsider the victories of urban social movements in collective forms and re-open the discussion to meaning of individual resistance.

Bibliography

Harvey (2000) Space of Hope, University of California Press

³ I prefer to not express my interviewee's name, because there is a legal procuder has been going on between him and the urban renewal company.