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Understanding the Concept of Uneven and Combined Development and Turkey through the Concept

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ABSTRACT

“The law of uneven and combine development” focuses on unequal relationships between different spaces and the emerging synthesis from this very unequal relationship. In other words, it enables us to analyze multiple and dynamic social relationships where different social formations co-exist. While there is renewed interest in Trotsky’s “unequal and combined development” concept in the discipline of international relations, it is hard to point to this trend within development studies (Selwyn, 2011). It can be suggested that there is a major gap in operationalizing this concept within the Turkish academic world. By deploying this concept, this project aims to examine Turkey and contribute to the literature. Turkey’s late and unequal relationship with the broader world economy has concluded in the emergence of an unequal structure in the country. In this respect, the concept of “unequal and combined development” allows us to grasp Turkey’s capitalist development process in a holistic and dynamic way. I will particularly pay attention to the uses of the concept by looking at the nation-building process in Turkey and regional inequalities. The article will also demonstrate how the concept can be highly useful as far as both international relations and development studies are concerned. In line with this goal, the concept will help us to understand capital accumulation process by establishing the link between economy and politics. It is possible to manifest this use of the concept as we discuss the phenomenon pertinent to Turkey.

KEYWORDS uneven and combined development; capitalist development; Turkey

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