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Ortak Malı Olarak Su /Water as Commons

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ABSTRACT

Water is the basis of culture and the foundation of life. Only %2,5 of water that exists on Earth is drinkable fresh water. The majority of the amount is frozen in the glaciers and a part is underground. The rest of the fresh water that is accessible to people is surface water, subsurface water and atmospheric water. Water is a scarce source but it can meet all the needs of living creatures. The Water problem was described by İlhan: “The pressure on water resource due to the changes of human activities such as the globalization of the competitive market economies, acceleration of agricultural industrial and service activities, increasing of the World population, increasing proportion of the urban population, increasingly expansion of water and energy consuming way of living.” To whom does water belong? Is it a private good or common good? Historically, private ownership of water has been banned. Water and natural sources had been public goods in the ancient texts such as Roman Law. Garrett Hardin’s article “Tragedy of the commons”, first published in 1968 was based on privatization of water. He asserted that common goods cannot be governed by the society due to open access systems without ownership. It may be debated whether water as a private or public good, partakes of a universal dimension, beyond even nation, but in ecological terms it has its own cyclical movement. Water and earth resources have to be used in the most rational way both to protect the ecological balance and to provide sustainable improvement of human society. Water is a renewable source. However to continue the “renewable” feature after industrial and urban use it has to be treated. If the waste water cannot be treated, the renewable feature of water becomes rather a public danger that may poison nature not only within one region but globally.