SIXTEENTH CENTURY PERIODIC MARKETS IN VARIOUS ANATOLIAN SANCAKS

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Research on urbanization in pre-industrial societies has, among other topics, been much concerned with the development of marketing, undertaken both by mobile firms primarily in periodic markets and by shopkeepers mainly in stores. At a certain level of economic development, a hierarchy of markets establishes itself. This means that large commercial centers come into existence which determine the choice of imported, city-produced, and specialty products ultimately to be made available to buyers in markets lower down the scale. Wholesale prices paid by sellers in these latter markets are established in the major marketing towns. Goods are then channelled down through a series of commercial centers serving progressively smaller areas, until a selection of wares adapted to peasant budgets is carried by itinerant peddlers to the village market. Locally produced goods, on the other hand, move in the opposite direction, until they reach consumers in a large city or exporting merchants in a port town.

Apart from the hierarchy of markets, states with a developed administrative structure usually establish a hierarchy of administrative centers, from the capital down to the district level. Position of a town in the marketing hierarchy may influence its administrative status and the reverse may also happen. But the two hierarchies are definitely separate, so that important market centers may at certain times have no administrative function and administrative centers be commercially dependent on a near-by non-administrative town. In the present study,
the main emphasis is on the markets. But due to the links outlined above, the presence or absence of administrative functions in a given settlement is considered an important feature when establishing categories of commercial centers 1).

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