

Ancient Smart Cadastrate: Akarçaytepe Cadastral Map

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SUMMARY

Anatolia is the home to early complex societies and has been the birth place or passage of many civilizations. Despite of qualified academic studies and field excursions, excavations, and studies, Anatolian history is composed from a vast variety of unknowns. One of these unknowns originates from Akarçaytepe, Turkey.

Akarçaytepe is located in the middle Euphrates Valley on the side of Sanliurfa and on the south of Halfeti and north of Carchemish. Akarçaytepe presents an example of a Pre-Pottery and Pottery Neolithic settlement. The settlement is in a region which has been occupied continuously since the Paleolithic Age.

A series of limestone plates, were found in-situ in Akarçaytepe, during archeological excavations held from 1999 onwards. Today, these plates are exhibited in the Sanliurfa Museum. Due to the absence of interdisciplinary studies and geospatial evaluations, these findings are named as “line-decorated plates” by archeologists.

This paper aims to present Akarçaytepe plates as parts of a scaled- cadastral map unknown in human history and cadastral mapping has been known since pre-pottery Neolithic period (Pre-pottery period Layer V). Human beings, with no reference to time and place created their smart cadastrate systems using the technique and technology of their time. Pre-pottery Neolithic societies used stone and carved their maps and plans on to it.

Spatial dimensions of exhibited plates are presented through several measurements with reference to google earth images of the village and its close surrounding. The evaluation of these plates here, with reference to other historical findings, will enable us to understand the initial instances of land

registration and cadastral applications in history.

Cadastral maps and spatial plans are for a social agreement, consolidation, and order. Not only today, but all throughout history these form the grounds for settlement and social information systems. This paper discusses that in the geospatial maturity process of societies, cadastral maps like Akarçaytepe plates were always demanded to guarantee ownership of land, its registration and to simplify spatial distribution of social parts, cultural links, and traditions where production relations are the determining factor. Today, the major difference is that cadastral map, once a proof of ownership of the agricultural production and settlement area of slow civilizations, has transformed into a tool of registry prior to rent generating land uses. But, in every case, the need for cadastral maps are unchanged. And, cadastral maps will always be on the basis of geospatial maturity of societies which are closely linked to and defined by social systems.

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