

The role of international & regional institutions and trade agreements in the process of internationalization of turkish capital

A CRITICAL ESSAY

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Abstract

International institutions are widely considered as the main and central dynamics behind economic and social restructuring, particularly in the countries which engage in global (i.e. WTO) and/or regional (i.e. EU) trade negotiations. Similarly, national governments are seen as passive actors who unwillingly implement the liberal policies which are allegedly imposed to themselves by external powers. Such perspectives focus on external dynamics *only*, and this focus acts as a device which convinces recalcitrant public opinion, particularly in countries which are members of both the highly criticized international institutions like the WTO, and the highly appreciated regional blocks like the EU. Accordingly, measures are not to be taken for the highly criticized WTO membership, but only for EU membership for instance. Moreover, these perspectives do not take into account the role of the national state or the interests of the domestic capitalist class in such countries.

What is mostly omitted in this kind analysis is the dialectical relation between internal and external dynamics in the process of capitalist accumulation. This paper aims to point out the importance of overlapping and mutual interests of domestic and foreign capitalists, and the coordinating role of the national states, international institutions like the WTO, and regional blocks such as the EU in the process of capital accumulation by focusing on the case of Turkey. The paper also argues that none of these dynamics are independent from domestic social formations since interrelations between economic, social and political dynamics within a country are continuous.

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