

## **THE REFORM OF THE OTTOMAN AGRARIAN LEGISLATION DURING THE TANZIMAT**

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In the beginning of the 40ies in the 19th century, the feudal timar ( a timar was land granted by the Ottoman sultans between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, with a tax annual value of less than 20000 akçes. The revenues produced from land acted as compensation for military servise) did not longer exist in the Ottoman Empire. He was superceded by law from the (Porta e Lartë) Ottoman Porte since 1832. In fact the timar was removed from the most fertile lands of Albania, which were part of landowner even before the timar was officially removed. The military feudal system, which relied in the natural economic resources, was involved in contradictions which were destroying such system. In spite of the efforts to prohibit the transfer from a state ownership into a private land ownership, and the right of the villagers to own the private property, the ottoman feudal state could not stop the limitations that existed in this bourgeois right. Therefore, the state issued new laws and was obliged to make changes into the existing agrarian laws. This was also due to the violations of the existing agrarian legislation. In addition, the economic downturn of the Empire, especially in the financial aspect, made it necessary to explore other financial resources. Moreover, new laws were necessary to adapt to the new relationships in the production field. Lastly, the whole agrarian legislation of the Tanzimat period, led to the fall of the feudal ownership of the land and it consolidated the landowner ownership. These laws recognized the right to own private land, the right to inherit, thus increasing the number of the people having such a right. This law also recognized the right to buying and selling of the land which would facilitate its introduction in the cash flow. In order to prepare the article, we researched a vast historical literature from the archives.

***Key words: Ottoman Empire, agrarian law, land, timar, Tanzimat, landowner***