

A HISTORICAL PANORAMA OF AN ISTANBUL NEIGHBORHOOD:
CIHANGIR FROM THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY TO THE 2000s

by

Binnaz Tuğba Sasanlar

Submitted to
The Atatürk Institute for Modern Turkish History
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Master of Arts

Boğaziçi University

2006

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION: SURRENDERING TO THE AURA OF AN ISTANBUL NEIGHBORHOOD.....	1
Cihangir: Semt or Mahalle.....	5
Theoretical Concerns.....	13
Methodology and Sources.....	20
II. REFLECTIONS OF COSMOPOLITAN CIHANGIR: RECONSTRUCTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S PAST.....	33
Cihangir in Ottoman Times.....	33
Cosmopolitan Pera and the Rise of Cihangir as a Residential Area during the Nineteenth Century Globalization in Istanbul.....	40
Cihangir in Republican Turkey.....	51
Turkification Process.....	60
The Wealth Tax.....	62
The 6-7 September Riots and Cihangir: Narratives of Testimony.....	66
Cihangir Depopulated: The 1964 Expulsion of the Greeks of Istanbul and Its Effects on Cihangir.....	82
Déclassement in Cihangir: 1970s-1990s.....	98
The Lost Mahalle Spirit in Cihangir: A Mirror on the Minutiae of Everyday Life.....	104
A New Type of Cosmopolitanism in Present Day Cihangir.....	114
III. REDISCOVERING, REDEFINING, REMAPPING CIHANGIR AS A MAHALLE IN THE GLOBAL ERA.....	121
Istanbul Globalizing?.....	121
Istanbul since the 1980s: The Impact of Economic Globalization.....	123
The Political Ethos of a Globalizing City.....	126
Changing Urban Form.....	128
Redefinition of the Local.....	135
Reinventing Cihangir in the Global Era.....	138
New Strata, New Lifestyles.....	140
A Local Initiative: The Cihangir Beautification Foundation.....	145
A Local Newspaper: Cihangir Postası.....	149
Spatial Transformation.....	150
Genesis of a Fetish: The Republic of Cihangir.....	154
Gentrification Transforms Cihangir.....	156
The Neighborhood Consumed and Commercialized: Cihangir as Commodity.....	175
Narrations of a Globalizing Mahalle: How Cihangirlis Perceive the Change.....	182
IV. CONCLUSION: CIHANGIR RECONSIDERED.....	188
APPENDICES.....	194
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	288