

**TRANSFORMATION OF RURAL SPACE  
IN SOUTHERN ANATOLIA 60 YEARS AFTER  
PROFESSOR STANISŁAW LESZCZYCKI'S RESEARCH.  
PRELIMINARY REPORTS**

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**RESEARCH ORIGIN AND ITS ORGANISATION**

In 1936 two Polish scientists from Jagiellonian University of Cracow: Prof. Tadeusz Kowalski and Dr. Stanisław Leszczycki carried studies in Southern Anatolia. Kowalski, at that time already an outstanding oriental linguist, was studying the dialects of this part of Turkey, while the accompanying young geographer Leszczycki prepared anthropogeographical observations of the villages focusing on the impact of geographical environment on rural settlements.

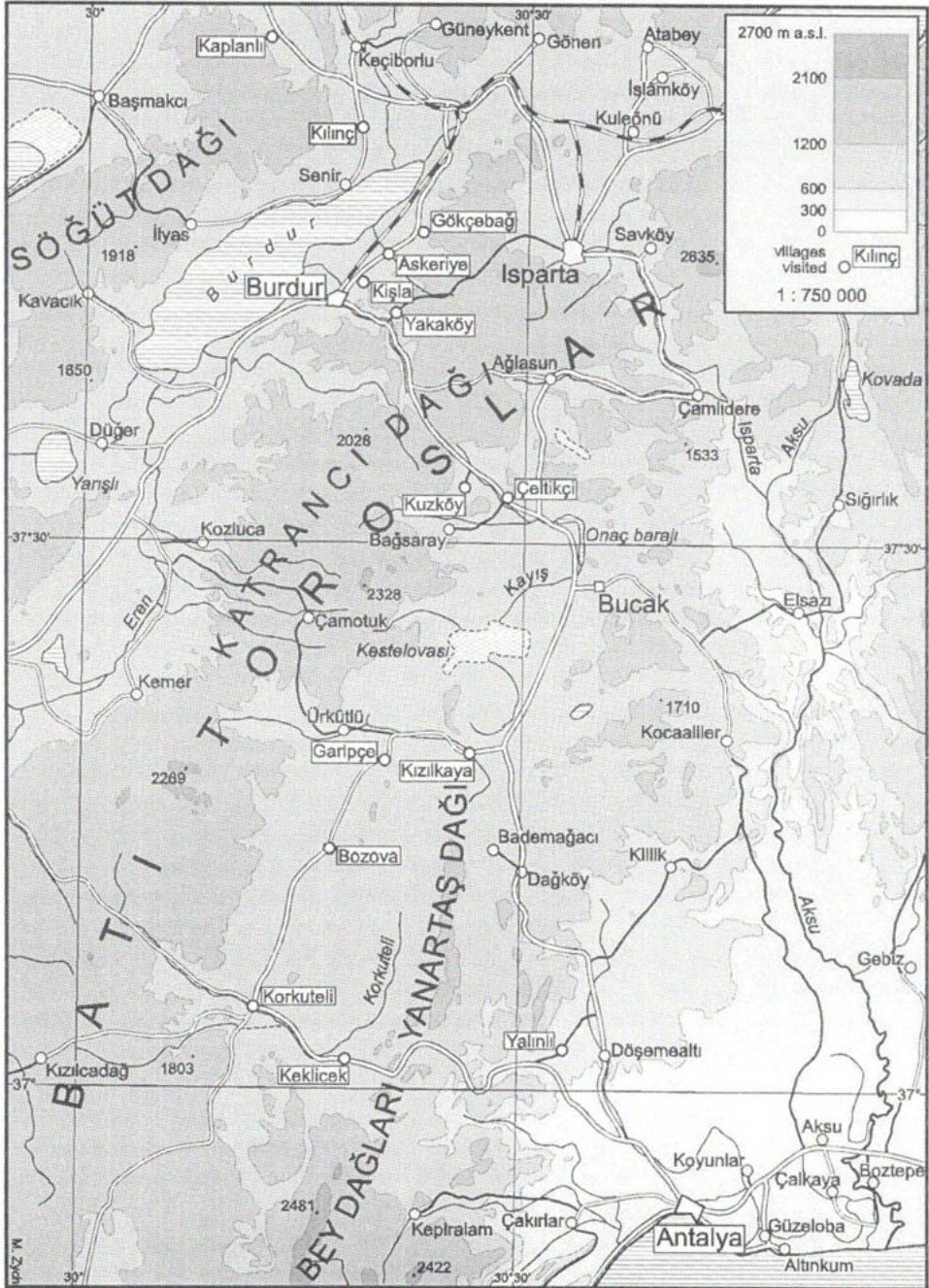
In fact this was not the first Polish geographical study in Anatolia. Nearly 10 years earlier another social geographer, Professor Ludomir Różycki, investigated mountain areas in Turkey and encouraged younger scholars to perform direct observations and analyses in the areas unknown in Poland.

Leszczycki was carrying out his field studies in Southern Anatolia during 6 weeks from August 1st till September 13th, 1936. He prepared questionnaire which was filled out in the total of 30 villages, seasonal settlements and towns. The settlements were chosen along two profiles cutting the Taurus mountains from North to the South and along the motorways, i.e. from Karaman to Silifke and from Dinar to Antalya. In our reports we will name the former "the Eastern Route" and the latter "the Western Route".

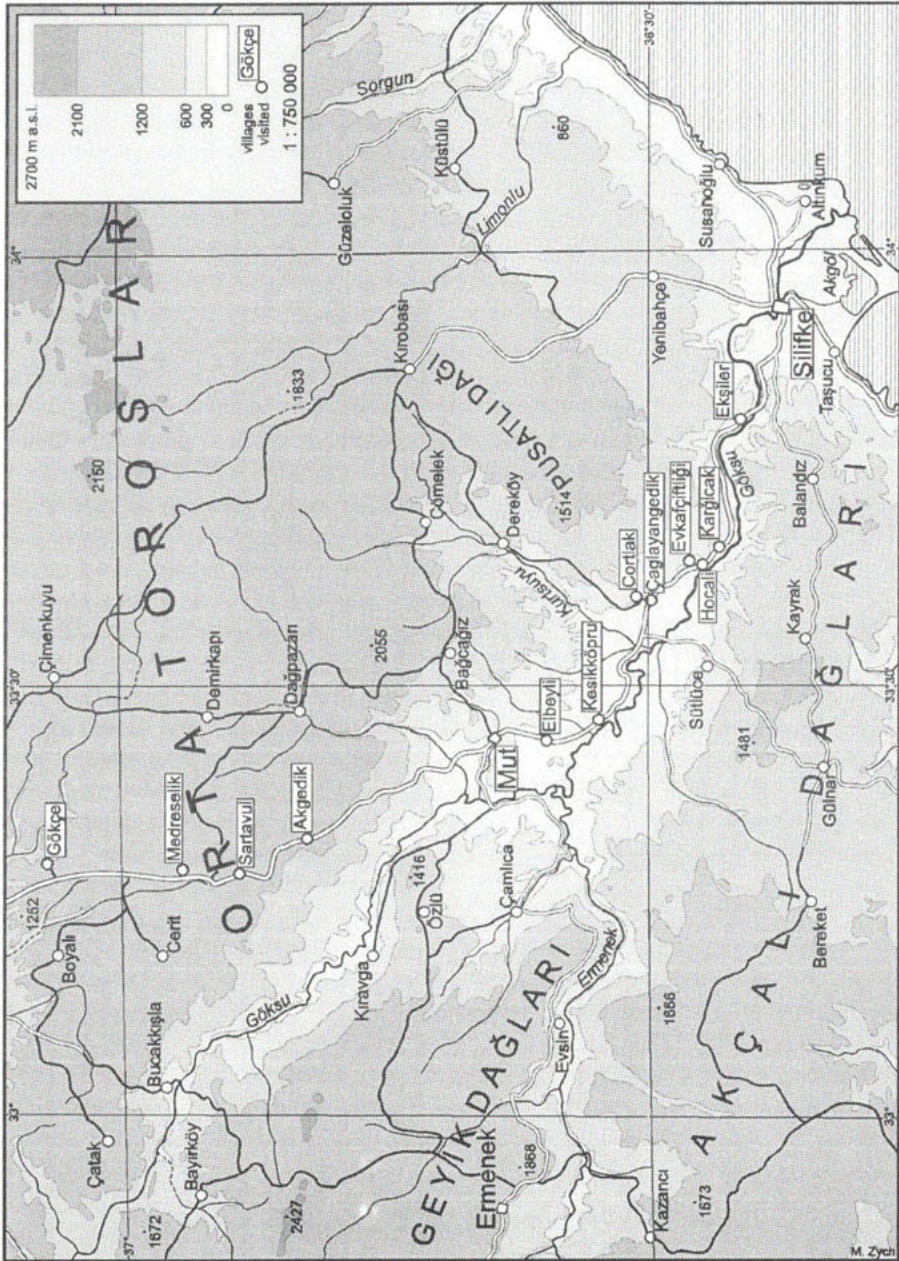
The results of Leszczycki's studies were published only in 1987, to celebrate His 80th birthday, by the Polish Academy of Sciences — the Institute of Geography<sup>1</sup>. In the mid-1980s Professor Leszczycki, an already internationally known scientist (the President of International Geographical Union

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<sup>1</sup> Stanisław Leszczycki, Geographical investigation into settlement in Southern Anatolia (in Polish), *Prace Geograficzne*, No. 150, 1987.



Itinerary of Leszczycki's journey in 1936 and of the Turkish-Polish group in 1997. The Western Route.



Itinerary of Leszczycki's journey in 1936 and of the Turkish-Polish group in 1997. The Eastern Route.

at the turn of the 1960s) visited Southern Anatolia again as the participant of the trip organised by the Polish Geographical Society. He died in 1996 at the age of 89.

The late 1930s were a very important phase of implementation of Atatürk's great idea of building a modern Turkish society. Therefore, the Polish studies on linguistics and settlement performed in the 1920s and 1930s were received in Turkey of those days with interest and sympathy. As Leszczycki writes in his book, in the 1930s Atatürk was personally interested in linguistic studies and this is why Professor Kowalski was invited several times to the Presidential Palace in Ankara.

*The description of the state of rural settlement in 1936 is an approximate document of the changes which were occurring at that time in Turkey. If today somebody carried out a similar research he could ascertain the changes in the rural settlement within 50 years. This would enable a proper appraisal of the results of revolutionary reforms of the young Turkish Republic* wrote Leszczycki in his book in 1987.

"Somebody" has come 60 years after. We created a well organised group after 8 years of regular co-operation and common field studies in Poland and Turkey<sup>2</sup>. We undertook the same topic as did Leszczycki, but with a wider content of the research goals. Not only the physiographic description of settlements in the research area and the structure of settlements i.e. buildings, fields, transportation etc. were being investigated by us, but the economic and social development and the transformation stage of settlements and peasant economy as well.

Our field work consisted of three phases. In July and August 1997, Professors Gülcan and Selahettin Eraktan visited most of the rural settlements on the Western and Eastern Routes, studied by Leszczycki.

In September 1997, Polish team from the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies/University of Warsaw came to Turkey and investigated the Western Route with the group of Turkish partners from the Faculty of Agriculture/University of Ankara. The joint team visited the villages, interviewing their heads and some inhabitants, observing fields and the village life, making technical plans of some more interesting houses, and was also received in the Governor's and Agriculture Director's Offices in the Burdur and Antalya cities and in the local Agricultural Center Office in the Bozova village<sup>3</sup>.

The settlements on the Eastern Route, however, were visited by Polish

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<sup>2</sup> See, in particular: Adjustment processes of agriculture. Observation from Poland and Turkey in 1991, in: *Miscellanea Geographica*, 1992, Warszawa and: *Transforming rural sector to the requirements of market economy. Examples from Turkey, Poland and Ukraine*, 1997, (Gülcan Eraktan and Janusz Gudowski, eds), Warszawa-Ankara.

<sup>3</sup> Bozova gave us very specific and unexpected impressions. First, old farmers recognised their already passed neighbours on some old photographs in the Leszczycki's book. Second, we were shown an old house and the room where Dr. Leszczycki and Prof. Kowalski lived 10 days in 1936. Our interlocutors even remembered that one of Poles (Prof. Kowalski) spoke excellent Turkish.

colleagues themselves. So, Polish researchers went by the Eastern Route, getting impressions of the environment and the settlements and visiting more carefully two villages (Karğıcak and Gökçe), where they made some interviews.

In November 1997 the Turkish team visited again the villages along both Routes and made interviews with dwellers who were selected at random.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Gökçe, Medreselik, Yapinti, Elbeyli, Kesikköprü, Gedik, Hocali and Karğıcak on the Eastern Route and Kaplanlı, Cercin, Askeriye, Kışla, Kurna, Çeltikçi, Garipce and Bozova on the Western Route.

