

## **Water for Sale! Privatization and Commodification of Nature, the Turkish Experience**

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There exists a direct link between privatization and commodification. Both the World Bank and the United Nations consider water, transportation, health services, education etc. as human needs rather than rights. This distinction is crucial, since needs can be met in many ways, including through commercial transactions, whereas no one can buy or sell a human right. Here comes the manipulation of concepts by the hegemonic ideology. As a matter of fact mobility of goods and massive commodification is a cornerstone of modern liberalism. Herein lies the key analytical twist in neo-liberal writing on privatisation and the commodification of nature and public services. Neo-liberals not only claim that it is theoretically sound to think of public services and nature as private goods, but go so far as to consider it an economic, social and environmental necessity to treat them this way. They argue that subsidising water for instance as a public good, or having the state provide water without competitive pressures, leads to inefficient and unaccountable water provision, undermining its public good characteristics through waste, unresponsive behaviours and corruption. Treating water as a private good, on the other hand, creates efficient and accountable water delivery systems and therefore more desirable public good outcomes.

The so-called optimum outcomes of nature's privatization-commodification seem ideologically-biased and rather weak. Therefore, here we push the boundaries on how we understand the destructive effects and complex interactions of neoliberal capitalism with nature. In doing so, we will examine the effects of the commodification of nature, explicitly through the relations inherent to manipulations of governance, increased privatization, enclosure and market valuation. We will specifically make use of the Turkish people's experience with water privatization in Anatolia during the last decade.