

NON-ELECTORAL SOURCES OF PARTY SYSTEM CHANGE IN TURKEY

Sabri Sayari*

Introduction

The study of party system change, especially in the advanced democracies of West European countries, has generated a voluminous literature since the 1960s.¹ Scholars have identified a diverse number of factors and relationships to explain the transformative processes affecting party systems. The list of potential sources of change in party systems is long and varied: it includes changes in the economic, social, and political environment of party competition, shifts in mass electoral behavior, the strategic choices made by party leaders, and institutional factors such as the adoption of new electoral laws. One major area of scholarly focus on party system change and continuity in European democracies concerns the analysis of societal cleavages and their role in the structuring of party systems. Much of this analytical concern has been informed by the seminal work of Lipset and Rokkan which delineated how social structural cleavages shaped the formation of party systems in Western European democracies.²

* University, Istanbul Policy Center, Tuzla, İstanbul

¹ See, for example, Hans Daalder and Peter Mair (eds.), *Western European Party Systems: Continuity and Change* (London: Sage, 1983), Peter Mair and Gordon Smith (eds.), Steven Wolinetz, "Introduction: Party Systems and How They Change," in *Parties and Party Systems in Liberal Democracies* edited by Steven Wolinetz (London: Routledge, 1988), Michael Laver, "Party Competition and Party System Change," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 1:3 (1989), 301-324, Peter Mair, *Understanding Party System Change in Western Europe* (London: Frank Cass, 1990), Peter Mair, *Party System Change: Approaches and Interpretations* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997); Paul Pennings and Jan Erik-Lane (eds.) *Comparing Party System Change* (London: Routledge, 1998), David Broughton and Mark Donovan (eds.), *Changing Party Systems in Western Europe* (London: Pinter, 1999); Paul Webb, David M. Farrell, and Ian Holliday (eds.), *Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002).

² Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan (1967) "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems and Voter Alignments: An Introduction" in *Party Systems and Voter Alignments* edited by S. M. Lipset and S. Rokkan (New York: Free Press, 1967), 1-64.

