

T.C.
ISTANBUL GEDİK UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES



**IMPACT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON
GOVERNMENT POLICIES: A STUDY OF TÜRK-İŞ
(CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS)**

MASTER THESIS

Burçin YAŞAR PAKKAN

**Department of Political Science and International Relations
Regional Studies in International Relations English with Thesis**

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DECLARATION

I Burçin YAŞAR PAKKAN, declare that current thesis entitled “Impact of Non-Governmental Organizations on Government Policies: A Study of TÜRK-İŞ (The Confederation of Trade Unions)” is an original work. I accomplished it myself to obtain the master's degree in Regional Studies in International Relations. I also declare that present thesis or any part of it has not been presented to obtain any other degree or submitted as a research paper in any other institution or university.
(18/04/2024)

Burçin YAŞAR PAKKAN



PREFACE

In the pursuit of understanding the intricate dynamics between non-governmental organizations and government policy formation, this master's thesis delves into the Turkish Confederation of Trade Unions (Türk-İş) and its potential contributions to shaping governmental policies. As an exploration into the extent of its influence, this research not only scrutinizes the organization's impact on policy decisions but also advocates for the vital role that organized civil society should play in the societal decision-making processes.

The motivation behind this work lies in the conviction that a well-organized civil society, exemplified by entities such as Türk-İş, holds the key to fostering an environment where diverse voices actively participate in the formulation of policies that affect the broader community. This study contributes to the existing literature by shedding light on the potential of trade unions to act as conduits for societal interests in the policymaking arena.

During this academic journey, I have been incredibly fortunate to receive invaluable guidance and insight from my thesis advisor, Prof. Dr. Sha ATATRE. I extend my sincerest thanks to Sha Atatre for his unwavering dedication and mentorship throughout this endeavor. His exceptional academic expertise, empathetic demeanor, and problem-solving mindset have played a pivotal role in molding this research. I am deeply grateful for his steadfast support and constructive criticism, which have not only enhanced the scholarly depth but have also played a significant role in my personal and professional growth.

I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to my family for their understanding and encouragement during the demanding journey of completing this thesis. In particular, I express deep appreciation to my father-in-law, Rıfat PAKKAN, who, as the former President of the Trkiye Energy, Water, and Gas Workers' Union (TES-İŞ), has provided invaluable insights and support, playing a pivotal role in the progression of this research.

This thesis is not merely an academic exercise; it is a call to recognize and amplify the role of non-governmental organizations in shaping policies that impact the lives of individuals and communities. May this work contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding the importance of organized civil society in the decision-making processes that govern our society.

March 2024

Burin YAŞAR PAKKAN

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ABBREVIATIONS

AB	: European Union (EU)
ABD	: United States of America (USA)
AKP	: Justice and Development Party (Officially known as the Justice and Development Party, but also referred to as the AK Party)
CHP	: Republican People's Party
DİSK	: Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Türkiye
DYP	: True Path Party
HAK-İŞ	: Confederation of Righteous Workers' Unions
ICFTU	: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ILO	: International Labour Organization
MADEN-İŞ	: Miners' Union (This translation assumes a generic name; the specific name may vary based on the organization.)
NGOs	: Non-Governmental Organizations
SHP	: Social Democratic Populist Party
TÜRK-İŞ	: Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions

IMPACT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES: A STUDY OF TÜRK-İŞ (THE CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS)

ABSTRACT

Non-governmental organizations emerge as key actors in processes of societal change and transformation, as they represent various segments of society, embracing a broad perspective. The ability of these organizations to impact government policy-making and implementation processes stems from their significant role in democratic participation and governance.

Non-governmental organizations play an effective bridging role in shaping and implementing government policies to better align with the genuine needs of society. Furthermore, they hold governments accountable and scrutinize the adherence of public policies to fundamental principles such as social justice, human rights, and environmental protection. This oversight process serves as a crucial mechanism to support social transformation and enhance the overall welfare of society.

Non-governmental organizations can contribute to policy reforms, provide recommendations, and develop strategies for social change through collaboration with governments. In this way, NGOs become a vital tool for strengthening democratic processes, encouraging diverse stakeholder participation, and supporting societal transformation. This study discusses and analyzes the role and functions of Non-governmental organizations, with a specific emphasis on their impact on government policies. The aim is to provide a framework for understanding the contributions and effects of NGOs on shaping government policies.

Starting with the concept of Non-governmental organizations, the study focuses on factors influencing government policies. The research specifically delves into the Türk-İş Labor Union as a Non-governmental organization, examining its influence on government policies in detail. Providing an introduction to the history, structure, objectives, and activities of the Türk-İş Labor Union, the study also explains the methodology used to analyze the union's impact on government policies, conducted through a literature review.

The key findings of the study highlight the mechanisms through which the Türk-İş Labor Union influences government policies and the areas where this influence is more pronounced. Additionally, the study explores how the union's relations with the government are shaped and the factors influencing these relationships.

Systematically addressing the shortcomings and inadequacies of the Türk-İş Labor Union in its relationship with government policies, the study aims to analyze the root causes of these deficiencies and propose solutions for the future. Criticism of the union's behavior in the face of government policies is presented from the perspective that its capacity to influence is limited, and there are shortcomings in creating the desired impact.

Among the main arguments of the study is a systematic analysis of the factors underlying the weaknesses in the Türk-İş Labor Union's political influencing processes. Factors such as internal dynamics, leadership structure, policy communication, adaptability to social changes, and collaboration capacity with other stakeholders are examined, identifying barriers limiting the union's influence on government policies.

Furthermore, the study offers future-oriented solution proposals, discussing strategies for Türk-İş Labor Union to play a more effective role in political influencing processes. Recommendations focus on internal reforms, leadership development, communication strategies, and closer collaboration with other stakeholders.

Highlighting the importance of overcoming the shortcomings in Türk-İş Labor Union's behavior in the face of government policies, the study emphasizes the broader significance for non-governmental organizations to participate more effectively in political influencing processes. In this context, solution proposals are centered around strengthening civil society-government relations, promoting democratic participation, and increasing strategic collaborations for societal transformation. The study aims to be a valuable resource for organizations seeking to enhance their performance in political influencing processes and strengthen civil society-government relations.

Keywords: *Non-governmental Organizations, Social Change, Government Policies, Türk-İş Labor Union, Political Influence, Democratic Participation, Collaboration, Solution Proposals, Systematic Analysis, Societal Transformation.*

SİVİL TOPLUM KURULUŞLARININ HÜKÜMET POLİTİKALARINA ETKİSİ: TÜRKİYE İŞÇİ SENDİKALARI KONFEDERASYONU (TÜRK-İŞ) İNCELEMESİ

ÖZET

Sivil toplum kuruluşları, toplumsal değişim ve dönüşüm süreçlerinde kilit bir aktör olarak öne çıkar, çünkü bu kuruluşlar, toplumun çeşitli kesimlerini temsil ederek geniş bir perspektifi kucaklarlar. Hükümetlerin politika oluşturma ve uygulama süreçlerine etki etme yetenekleri, sivil toplum kuruluşlarının demokratik katılım ve yönetişimde önemli bir rol oynamasından kaynaklanır.

Sivil toplum kuruluşları, hükümet politikalarının oluşturulmasında ve uygulanmasında toplumun gerçek ihtiyaçlarına daha iyi uyum sağlamak amacıyla etkili bir köprü rolü oynarlar. Ayrıca, sivil toplum kuruluşları, hükümetleri hesap verebilir kılarlar ve kamu politikalarının toplumsal adalet, insan hakları, çevre koruması gibi temel prensiplere uygunluğunu denetlerler. Bu denetim süreci, toplumsal dönüşümü desteklemek ve toplumun genel refahını artırmak için önemli bir mekanizma olarak işlev görür.

Sivil toplum kuruluşları, hükümetlerle işbirliği yaparak politika reformlarına katkıda bulunabilir, öneriler sunabilir ve toplumsal değişim için stratejiler geliştirebilirler. Bu şekilde, sivil toplum kuruluşları, demokratik süreçleri güçlendirmek, çeşitli paydaşların katılımını teşvik etmek ve toplumsal dönüşümü desteklemek adına önemli bir araç oluştururlar. Bu çalışmada sivil toplum kuruluşlarının rolü ve işlevleri ele alınarak, sivil toplum kuruluşlarının hükümet politikalarına olan etkisi özel bir vurgu ile tartışılmış ve analiz edilmiştir. Bu analizler, sivil toplum kuruluşlarının hükümet politikalarının şekillenmesindeki katkılarını ve etkilerini anlamamıza yönelik bir çerçeve sunmaktadır.

Sivil toplum kuruluşlarının hükümet politikalarına olan etkisini incelemek amacıyla sivil toplum kuruluşları kavramından başlayarak, hükümet politikalarına etki eden faktörlere odaklanılmaktadır. Çalışmada genel anlamda bir sivil toplum kuruluşu olarak Türk İş Sendikası'nın hükümet politikalarına yönelik etkisini detaylı bir şekilde incelenmesi amaçlanmaktadır. Türk İş Sendikası'nın tarihçesi, yapısı, amaçları ve faaliyetleri hakkında bir giriş sunmakla birlikte Türk İş Sendikası'nın hükümet politikalarına olan etkisini analiz etmek için kullanılan metodolojiyi de açıklamaktadır. Bu metodoloji, literatür taraması şeklinde gerçekleştirilmiştir. Çalışmanın anahtar bulguları, Türk İş Sendikası'nın hükümet politikalarına etki etme mekanizmalarını ve bu etkinin hangi alanlarda daha belirgin olduğunu ortaya koymaktadır. Ayrıca, sendikanın hükümetle olan ilişkilerinin nasıl şekillendiği ve hangi faktörlerin bu ilişkilere etki ettiği de incelenmektedir.

Türk-İş Sendikası'nın hükümet politikalarıyla ilişkisindeki eksiklik ve yetersizlikler sistematik bir şekilde ele alınarak, bu tespitin temel nedenlerini çözümlenmeyi ve geleceğe yönelik çözüm önerilerini ortaya koyulması amaçlanmaktadır. Türk İş Sendikası'nın hükümet politikaları karşısında sergilediği davranışın eleştirisi, sendikanın etkileme kapasitesinin sınırlı olduğu ve istenen etkiyi yaratma noktasında eksiklikler gösterdiği perspektifinden sunulmuştur.

Çalışmanın temel argümanları arasında, Türk-İş Sendikası'nın politika etkileme süreçlerindeki zayıf noktalarının temelinde yer alan faktörlerin sistematik bir analizi bulunmaktadır. Bu faktörler arasında sendikanın iç dinamikleri, liderlik yapısı, politika iletişimi, toplumsal değişimlere uyum yeteneği ve diğer paydaşlarla işbirliği kapasitesi gibi unsurlar ele alınarak, Türk İş Sendikası'nın hükümet politikalarına olan etkisini sınırlayan engeller belirlenmiştir.

Ayrıca, geleceğe yönelik çözüm önerileri sunularak, Türk İş Sendikası'nın politika etkileme süreçlerinde daha etkin bir rol oynaması için önerilen stratejiler tartışılmıştır. Bu çerçevede, sendikanın iç reformlar, liderlik gelişimi, iletişim stratejileri ve diğer paydaşlarla daha yakın işbirliği gibi faktörlere odaklanan çözüm önerileri sunulmuştur.

Türk İş Sendikası'nın hükümet politikaları karşısındaki davranışındaki eksikliklerin aşılmasının, sadece sendikanın değil, genel anlamda sivil toplum kuruluşlarının politika etkileme süreçlerinde daha etkili bir şekilde yer almalarının önemine vurgu yapılmıştır. Bu bağlamda, sivil toplum-kamu ilişkilerini güçlendirmek, demokratik katılımı teşvik etmek ve toplumsal dönüşüm için stratejik işbirliklerini artırmak gibi genel prensipler çerçevesinde çözüm önerilerine odaklanılmıştır. Bu çalışma, Türk İş Sendikası'nın politika etkileme süreçlerindeki performansını geliştirmek ve sivil toplum-kamu ilişkilerini güçlendirmek isteyen benzer kuruluşlar için değerli bir kaynak oluşturmayı amaçlamaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Sivil Toplum Kuruluşları, Toplumsal Değişim, Hükümet Politikaları, Türk İş Sendikası, Politika Etkileme, Demokratik Katılım, İşbirliği, Çözüm Önerileri, Sistematik Analiz, Toplumsal Dönüşüm*

1. INTRODUCTION

The examination of Türk-İş Confederation of Trade Unions as a significant actor in Türkiye's political arena, both from a historical and contemporary perspective, constitutes the fundamental aim of this thesis. The historical evolution of the union, how it adapted within the variable dynamics of political and economic periods, and how these adaptation processes manifested in the union's impact on government policies will be thoroughly explored. In this context, the contribution of Türk-İş to the development of Türkiye's multi-party political system, its influence in the realms of democracy and human rights, and the effects of societal and political changes on the union's strategies will also be examined.

Furthermore, Türk-İş' s role in shaping economic policies, particularly during economic crises and transformation processes, is prominent. The union's responses to economic reforms, the effects of these reforms on the labor market and workers' rights, and the union's political positions on these matters will be scrutinized in detail within the scope of this thesis. Additionally, Türk-İş' s proactive or reactive attitudes during economic transformation processes, how these attitudes shaped the overall political impact of the union, and its contribution to general economic policies will be analyzed.

The societal impact of Türk-İş is a significant component of this thesis. The role of the union in societal issues such as gender equality, child labor, working conditions, environmental sustainability, and social justice will also be explored. The campaigns and policies pursued by the union in these areas, as well as the impact of these activities on societal awareness and government policies, will be examined in detail. In this context, the union's participation in social policy-making processes, public opinion formation strategies, and the overall political and social influence of these strategies will be evaluated.

In addition, the international activities of Türk-İş and its relationships with global labor movements are vital for understanding the international influence and contributions of the union. The roles the union assumes in global labor movements,

international solidarity, and collaboration, and the effects of these roles on Türkiye's domestic policies and economic strategies will enrich the thesis by providing a global perspective.

This study aims to comprehensively understand the impact of Türk-İş on government policies in Türkiye by addressing it from multiple perspectives. Through the examination of Türk-İş as an example, a broad perspective on labor movements and civil society dynamics in Türkiye will allow for a deeper understanding of the influence of non-governmental organizations on political and economic systems.

As a result, Türk-İş Confederation of Trade Unions holds a significant position among non-governmental organizations in Türkiye, with the potential to influence government policies. However, the observed shortcomings in the behavior of the union towards government policies not only highlight the challenges faced by this specific organization but also underscore the obstacles hindering a more effective role for non-governmental organizations in shaping policy processes in general.

A critical step in overcoming the identified deficiencies in the Türk-İş Confederation of Trade Unions' behavior towards government policies is the strengthening of civil society-public relations. In this context, solution proposals can be developed by focusing on general principles such as promoting democratic participation and increasing strategic collaborations for societal transformation.

It is essential for organizations like Türk-İş Confederation of Trade Unions and similar entities to develop various mechanisms to represent diverse segments of society, ensuring broader participation. Platforms allowing various groups within society to voice their concerns can be established to encourage democratic participation.

Non-governmental organizations must formulate strategies to enhance effective collaborations with the government. Initiatives such as joint projects, consultation mechanisms, and efforts to increase stakeholder participation can contribute to strengthening civil society-public relations.

To enhance their influencing capacities, non-governmental organizations should develop effective communication and information strategies. Strengthening

communication channels is crucial for raising public awareness and ensuring more active participation in policy processes.

This set of solution proposals aims to improve the performance of the Türk-İş Confederation of Trade Unions in influencing policy processes and intends to serve as a valuable resource for similar organizations. Emphasizing the strengthening of civil society-public relations, the encouragement of democratic participation, and the increase in strategic collaborations, these proposals aim to contribute to the construction of more effective policy influence processes.



2. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT POLICIES

2.1. Non-governmental Organizations

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) are organizations where individuals or groups from various segments of society come together for common purposes. Craplet (1997) defines these organizations as "non-profit organizations engaged in social, cultural, environmental, or political activities." This definition emphasizes the multifaceted nature of NGOs and their broad impact on society. NGOs not only operate in specific areas but also play critical roles in processes of societal change and development.

When the concept of civil society is examined from historical and philosophical perspectives, it gains a profound meaning enriched by contributions from various thinkers. Thinkers ranging from John Locke to Jürgen Habermas have expressed different views on Non-governmental Organizations. John Locke, considered the father of liberalism, sees civil society as a structure that protects individual rights and balances the power of the state (Thompson, 1976). For Locke, civil society is the foundation for safeguarding individual freedoms and property rights.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau defines civil society as a structure reflecting the general will, protecting the freedoms and equality of individuals (Rousseau, 1762). Rousseau's perspective emphasizes the role of individuals in the social contract and the importance of the general will in society. This perspective anticipates civil society functioning as institutions working for the common good and promoting participatory democracy.

Adam Smith focuses on the economic dimension of civil society, stating that it consists of organizations protecting individuals' economic interests and contributing to a free-market economy (Smith, 2002). In Smith's thought, civil society plays a crucial role in regulating economic activities and the effective

functioning of market mechanisms. Enhancing societal welfare through individuals' economic activities forms a cornerstone of Smith's understanding of civil society.

These thinkers' approaches demonstrate that the concept of civil society can be evaluated over a wide spectrum, from protecting individual rights to advocating for economic interests and representing the general will. Each thinker, by highlighting different aspects of civil society, has made significant contributions to understanding how this concept can be shaped in various social and political contexts. This diversity helps us comprehensively understand the historical and philosophical dimensions of civil society.

Alexis de Tocqueville emphasizes the vital importance of civil society for democracy. According to Tocqueville, NGOs create solidarity among individuals and strengthen the social fabric of society by preserving democratic values (Tocqueville, 1835). These organizations encourage democratic participation and pluralism by bringing together different views and beliefs.

John Stuart Mill focuses on freedom and individual autonomy, stating that civil society provides a space for expressing individual will and contributing to social development (Mill, 1974). In Mill's perspective, civil society plays a central role in preserving freedom and fostering an individual's participation in social life.

Hegel considers civil society as part of an individual's moral and ethical development. According to him, civil society represents active participation in social and political life, supporting individuals' ethical development and social harmony (Hegel, 2002).

Antonio Gramsci views civil society as an ideological battleground and a critical player in social change (Gramsci, 2011). According to Gramsci, NGOs have the potential to transform social structures and relationships, challenging the hegemony of the ruling class and promoting social justice and equality.

Jürgen Habermas defines civil society as a structure where individuals address societal issues through rational debates and create a public sphere (Habermas, 1991). According to Habermas, civil society enables free and open discussions in the public sphere, contributing to the formation of social consensus.

The views of these thinkers on civil society illustrate the multifaceted and profound meaning of the concept, demonstrating how civil society effectively

operates on both individual and societal levels. This diversity provides a rich understanding of how civil society influences various aspects, from individual freedoms to social change.

These historical and philosophical perspectives show that NGOs have a versatile and deep impact on society. NGOs not only operate in specific areas but also play critical roles in processes of societal change and development. These organizations contribute significantly to strengthening democratic processes and enriching the social fabric of society.

In today's world, NGOs have become indispensable actors. By raising the voice of the public on various social and political issues, they play a crucial role in shaping government policies. NGOs, both at the local and international levels, advocate for and defend the rights of individuals and communities while expressing the needs and demands of society. These organizations create a significant impact on political decision-making processes and contribute to raising awareness of societal issues.

The role of NGOs in strengthening democracy goes beyond encouraging individual political participation. They also foster constructive dialogues with governments and other official institutions, bringing societal needs and expectations to the political agenda. Additionally, they reinforce the fundamental principles of transparency and accountability, which are crucial to democracy.

The influence of NGOs on government policies is not limited to the local and national levels; it is also evident on the international stage. These organizations can significantly influence policymakers in areas such as human rights, environmental protection, social justice, and education. Craplet (1997) notes that NGOs have the power to impact government policies by actively participating in advocacy activities, campaigns, research, and policy recommendations. This influence is exerted through efforts to address social, cultural, environmental, and political issues.

In conclusion, the historical and philosophical perspectives presented here highlight the multifaceted and profound impact of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) on society. NGOs are not only interventions in specific social issues but also pioneers in social change and development. These organizations are considered fundamental building blocks of the modern world, contributing not only to

addressing specific social problems but also to leading societal change and development. Therefore, understanding the societal impacts and contributions of NGOs is crucial for comprehending the nature and dynamics of contemporary societies.

The role of NGOs in democratic societies is not limited to promoting civil participation; these organizations also play a vital role in shaping government policies and raising public awareness. By engaging in constructive dialogues with governments and official institutions, NGOs contribute to bringing societal needs and expectations to the forefront of political discussions. Furthermore, they strengthen the core principles of democracy, such as transparency and accountability.

In the modern world, NGOs are recognized as essential actors working towards a more just, equal, and sustainable development of society. These organizations not only address specific social issues but also act as pioneers in driving social change and development. Therefore, understanding the societal impacts and contributions of NGOs is crucial for comprehending the nature and dynamics of contemporary societies.

NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) are considered indispensable elements of democratic societies. By increasing social participation, they make the public's voice heard on various social and political issues. These organizations, which play a crucial role in shaping government policies, contribute to the strengthening of democratic processes. Craplet's definition clearly highlights the extensive scope of NGO activities and their impact on society. This impact also has significant consequences at the international level. NGOs, particularly by demonstrating sensitivity to global issues, attract the attention of the international community and contribute to the development of global policies. By organizing campaigns against human rights violations, seeking solutions to environmental problems, and raising awareness on social justice issues, NGOs can be catalysts for significant changes worldwide.

Additionally, NGOs actively participate in intergovernmental meetings and international conferences, directly influencing policy-making processes. This involvement helps make policies related to global issues more inclusive and effective. Furthermore, NGOs possess significant power in shaping public opinion

and exerting pressure on policymakers. This power, especially through media and social media, reaches a broad audience, contributing to the acceleration of societal and political changes. NGOs play a critical role in shaping society and policies at local, national, and international levels. These roles are vital for strengthening democratic processes, ensuring social justice, and protecting human rights. Craplet's (1997) work emphasizes the extensive impact of NGOs and their importance for democratic societies.

In a study conducted by Jamison (1996), environmental NGOs are highlighted for playing a decisive role in the global agenda of environmental policies. These organizations, with their professional structures and financial resources, have replaced more activist groups and significantly influenced environmental policies.

Hutter and O'Mahony (2004) explore the role of NGOs in regulating the business sector in their study titled "The Role of Non-governmental Organizations in Regulating Business." The study focuses on the strengthening role of NGOs in policy networks and the challenges that arise as a result. It addresses how NGOs impact policy-making processes and the criticisms they face in these processes.

Dany (2006) examines the impact of NGO participation in the UN World Summit on the Information Society on democratic quality in his study titled "The Impact of Participation: Non-governmental Organizations' Contribution to the Democratic Quality of the UN World Summit on the Information Society." Through policy documents and NGO statements, the study discusses the contributions of NGOs in specific areas such as internet governance and how they influence policy changes.

Willetts (2010) explores how NGOs create a "global governance" structure in world politics. These organizations contribute to transnational participation and the formation of transnational political communities, adding a new dimension to international relations.

Evers (2013) examines various interpretations of the concept of civil society and their effects on third-sector policies in his study titled "The Concept of Civil Society: Different Understandings and Their Effects on Third Sector Policies." Evers

discusses how civil society influences public policies and addresses issues related to the division of labor among society, citizens, and the state.

Anheier (2013) explores how social sciences can assist NGOs in their measurement, evaluation, and participation in policymaking processes in his study titled "Civil Society: Measurement, Evaluation, Policy." The study focuses on how NGOs can evaluate themselves, develop tools for internal discussions and policy dialogues.

Omede and Bakare (2014) analyze the impact of NGOs on sustainable development, particularly in Nigeria, in their study titled "The Impact of Non-governmental Organizations on Sustainable Development in Developing Countries: The Nigerian Experience." The study examines the participation of NGOs in policy-making processes, their role in areas where government services are lacking, and their contributions to societal change.

Baqueiro (2016) investigates the participation of NGOs in public policies in Latin America in his study titled "The Participation of Non-governmental Organizations in Public Policies in Latin America." Within the framework of democratic governance theory, the study discusses how NGOs influence policy-making processes and promote social participation.

Lewis and Kanji's (2020) study examines the role of NGOs in development and social change. These organizations have been effective, particularly in providing social services and shaping public policies, especially in developing countries. Additionally, Kim (2000) discusses the key role NGOs play in the transformation of civil society and democratization processes, using the example of South Korea.

These studies demonstrate the diverse impacts of NGOs on the international community. Whether in environmental policies, development processes, or global governance, NGOs have become indispensable actors in today's world. Through strategic partnerships with governments and independent projects, these organizations play a significant role in international relations.

2.2. Factors Influencing Government Policies

Government policies are shaped by various factors, including economic conditions, political structures, international interactions, and the impact of non-

governmental organizations (Marume, 2016). In addition to NGOs, media, lobbying activities, and public opinion also play crucial roles in guiding government policies (Robinson, 2001).

We can categorize the factors influencing government policies under the following headings: Economic Conditions, Political Structures, International Interactions, and the Impact of NGOs.

2.2.1. Economic Conditions

Economic conditions form the foundation of government policies. Indicators such as economic growth rates, unemployment levels, inflation, budget deficits, and global economic trends affect decisions made by governments across a wide spectrum—from fiscal policies to education and health policies. Achieving economic stability is among the top priorities of governments, and various policy tools are deployed to attain this goal.

Economic conditions are considered a central factor in shaping government policies. Economic growth rates, unemployment levels, inflation, budget deficits, and global economic trends are decisive factors in the decision-making processes of governments. These economic indicators influence strategic decisions made by governments, ranging from fiscal policies to education and health policies. Ensuring economic stability is a top priority for governments, and various policy tools are employed to achieve this goal.

Economic growth is a key focus of government policies. May (2012) emphasizes that economic growth plays a pivotal role in the decision-making processes of governments regarding critical areas such as public investments, taxation policies, and financing social services. Sustainable and balanced economic growth is essential for increasing employment, ensuring income distribution fairness, and elevating the national welfare level (May, 2012).

In conclusion, the central role of economic conditions in shaping government policies cannot be ignored in this context. As highlighted by May (2012), economic growth is a fundamental factor in the decision-making processes of governments, critical for achieving goals such as increased general welfare, income equality, and support for sustainable development. Economic stability and growth not only form

the basis of fiscal policies but also shape policies in areas such as education, health, and social services. Therefore, closely monitoring economic indicators and making strategic decisions based on these indicators are crucial for achieving national welfare and sustainable development goals. The effective design and implementation of economic policies are necessary for ensuring social and economic stability.

2.2.2. Combating unemployment and inflation

Levels of unemployment and inflation are among the foremost concerns of government policies. These two economic indicators are considered fundamental measures of a country's economic health and significantly shape the policies of governments in maintaining economic stability. Effectively combating unemployment not only ensures social tranquility and economic balances but is also a critical factor for the popularity of governments. Similarly, combating inflation effectively is a key goal of monetary policies and essential for maintaining price stability (Kreishan, 2011).

Combating unemployment requires significant policy development at both macroeconomic and microeconomic levels. Governments use various tools to create employment and reduce unemployment rates. These tools include tax incentives, labor market regulations, education and vocational training programs, and even direct job creation programs. Additionally, policies that promote economic growth play a crucial role in combating unemployment, as economic growth can create new job opportunities.

The fight against inflation is tightly managed through monetary policy tools. Central banks play a significant role in combating inflation by adjusting interest rates and controlling the money supply. Additionally, government expenditures and debt management can also impact inflation rates. Keeping inflation under control is vital for ensuring economic stability and confidence. Uncontrolled inflation can diminish purchasing power and increase economic uncertainty.

In conclusion, combating unemployment and inflation constitutes the foundation of government policies and holds critical importance for the health of the national economy. As emphasized by Kreishan (2011), effectively addressing these two factors can enhance the popularity and public trust in governments, while also

being necessary for maintaining economic balances and supporting sustainable development.

2.2.3. Budget policies and fiscal discipline

The budget policies and practices of governments hold a significant place as a reflection of economic conditions. These policies are closely related to the management of budget deficits and public debts, forming the basis for fiscal sustainability and economic confidence. It has been emphasized that sound fiscal policies and effective budget management are crucial for long-term economic stability. In this context, the budget policies and fiscal discipline practices of governments are critically important for maintaining economic growth and stability (Kim et al., 2021).

Budget policies balance government expenditures and revenues. Achieving this balance can have a significant impact on economic activities. Especially during economic downturns, government expenditures can stimulate economic growth and reduce unemployment. On the other hand, creating a budget surplus and reducing public debt during periods of economic growth can serve as a buffer against future economic shocks. It is essential for budget policies to be in line with economic cycles, with the flexibility to adapt to changing economic conditions (Shi, Svensson, 2003).

Fiscal discipline requires maintaining sustainable levels of public debt and keeping budget deficits under control. High public debts can create a burden for future generations and negatively impact economic growth. Effective debt management and fiscal discipline have direct effects on interest rates and investments. Proper debt management and fiscal discipline can increase the government's credit rating and international investor confidence (Gale, Orszag, 2003).

In conclusion, government budget policies and fiscal discipline practices are of vital importance for economic stability and sustainability. Sound fiscal policies and effective budget management play critical roles in maintaining economic growth and stability. These policies demonstrate their impact on economic balances and emphasize their significance in the long term.

2.2.4. Global economic trends

The global economy has undergone significant changes in recent years, emphasizing economically crucial trends and their effects on social development. Particularly, the integration of gender equality into public policies and democratic processes, along with public sector reforms, has been highlighted. In this context, the effects of China's measured opening to the world economy since 1980, under Deng Xiaoping's policies, are noteworthy (Singh, 2000).

It is stated that the increasing interdependence among the world economies signifies economic globalization. Shangquan (2000) discusses the risks brought about by globalization and ways to prevent these risks. The study delves into the role of international economic rules and government interventions in this process, emphasizing their importance. Griffith-Jones and Stallings (1995) focus on the globalization of financial flows and its impact on development strategies. The influence of these flows on government policies and economic decision-making processes is substantial.

Frieden and Rogowski (1996) analyze the impact of the international economy on national policies. The authors present hypotheses examining how the increasing importance of the world economy affects government policies and influences the preferences of local actors. Feldstein (2000) discusses the future of global economic integration and various aspects of this integration. The author explores the global mobility of financial capital and how governments navigate policy-making in this context.

Profiroiu et al. (2020) concentrate on changes and trends in the world economy's development. The authors provide examples of strategies that positively impact economic and social development. Researchers such as Bussière and Ahearn (2011) assess the protectionist responses to the global crisis and the impact of rising economic powers on the global economy. They evaluate the effects of these trends on global economic governance and policymaking processes.

In conclusion, global economic trends have deep and continuous effects on government policies, financial systems, and social development. These impacts have a complex structure that policymakers and researchers must continually assess and understand.

2.2.5. Political structures

The political structure of a country plays a significant role in shaping government policies. In democratic systems, the policymaking process tends to be participatory and pluralistic. Different political parties, non-governmental organizations, and the public participate in the policymaking process. In authoritarian regimes, the policymaking process is more centralized and involves limited participation. In both cases, the characteristics of the political structure influence the nature and implementation of government policies.

The influence of government structures on public policy decisions is evident, particularly in the effects of administrative structures on per capita government expenditures (DeSantis & Renner, 1994). The importance of the industrial structure's influence on public policy in the context of the American political system underscores how political influence and economic power are intertwined and affect each other in shaping public policies (Salamon, Siegfried, 1977).

Different federal and political structures between the United States and Canada have influenced intergovernmental policies in both countries (Radin & Boase, 2000). Studies on the impact of democratic institutions on policies highlight that democratic structures are effective in shaping policies across all examined domestic policy areas (Roller, 2005). Differences in healthcare policies between the United States and Canada clearly demonstrate the influence of political structures on health policy (Rosenau, 1994).

The effects of political structures on municipal policies are more pronounced, especially in resistant-to-reform cities (Lineberry, Fowler, 1967). Conditional effects of special forms of administration on public policies are noteworthy in specific areas, such as rate structures determined by public water systems (Mullin, 2008).

The importance of the public's influence on public policy and the potential of democratic institutions to increase citizens' impact on policies underscore the relationship between public opinion and policy (Burstein, 1998). Studies on the effects of political institutions on environmental policies are essential, especially in autocracies where leaders must ensure public or private goods for winning coalitions (Bernauer, Koubi, 2009). Systematic effects of political structures on public policy

are evident, with different electoral systems influencing party systems and policy outcomes (Cox, McCubbins, 2000).

These sources indicate that political structures play a critical role in shaping and influencing policy-making processes and outcomes, both at the local and national levels.

2.2.6. International interactions

International relations and interactions are also among the crucial factors shaping government policies. Globalization, international trade, foreign investments, diplomatic relations, and international agreements can influence a government's foreign policy strategies and domestic policies. Particularly, countries with small and open economies may be more sensitive to international economic and political trends.

International interactions have deep and multifaceted effects on government policies. Mitchell's (1989) work addresses the impact of international relations and comparative public policy on foreign policy and international relations. This approach begins by considering the consequences of international migration for international relations and examines how these outcomes are reflected in national foreign policies (Mitchell, 1989).

Another study by Bilder (1989) emphasizes the roles of states and cities in foreign relations and highlights their potentially harmful effects on foreign relations. This work suggests that local governments can weaken national foreign policy positions or create challenges in foreign relations (Bilder, 1989).

Cortell and Davis Jr. (1996) examine the importance of international institutions and how international rules and norms impact domestic policies. The authors discuss how government officials must pay attention to international rules while considering the interests of societal groups (Cortell, Davis, 1996).

Weiner's (1985) work demonstrates the significant impact of international migration on international relations and how state policies are affected. This study underscores the notable consequences of international migration, especially in the context of state policies (Weiner, 1985).

In conclusion, the general result drawn from these sources is that international interactions have significant and wide-ranging effects on government policies. International migration, the roles of local governments in foreign relations, international institutions and rules, and their influence on government policies highlight the importance of international interactions as a crucial factor in policy-making processes.

2.3. Role and Functions of Non-governmental Organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a fundamental role in democratic societies and make significant contributions to political processes, social development, and societal participation. Representing various segments of society, NGOs contribute to the creation and implementation of public policies, thus fostering democratic governance (Anheier, 2005). Anheier highlights that NGOs not only provide services but also play an influential role in policymaking processes and contribute to societal change (Anheier, 2005).

NGOs take a pivotal role in identifying societal needs and responding to them. Their contributions to societal change through advocacy, public awareness, policy proposals, and research are well-documented. The effectiveness of NGOs as key players in policymaking processes is widely acknowledged (Pasha, 2016).

The impact of civil society is closely related to press freedom and the formation of public opinion. Acknowledging the conditioning effect of civil society on press freedom reinforces the significance of public opinion. The necessity for civil society and press freedom to target policies and the interconnectedness of the influence of civil society with press freedom should not be overlooked (Themudo, 2013).

NGOs are also effective at the international level. A study by Omede and Bakare (2014) demonstrates that Non-governmental Organizations have a significant impact on sustainable development in developing countries. This research illustrates how NGOs play a crucial role in international interactions and contribute to the development processes in developing countries (Omede, Bakare, 2014).

In conclusion, NGOs have a critical role in societal, political, and economic processes. With their multifaceted functions, including identifying societal needs,

participating in policymaking processes, and exerting influence internationally, NGOs are an indispensable part of democratic societies.

2.4. Impact of Non-governmental Organizations on Government Policies

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have increasingly gained influence over government policies. These organizations, by engaging in various activities related to social, cultural, environmental, and political issues, can shape government policies. In this context, Marume (2016) emphasizes that NGOs inform policymakers through advocacy activities, public opinion shaping, policy proposals, and research, contributing to the shaping of policies in line with societal needs. This process underscores the effectiveness of NGOs in policymaking processes.

The concept of civil society emerges as an influential concept in public policies and political processes. Evers (2013) notes that the impact of civil society on public policies and political processes is significant concerning the division of labor among society, citizens, and the state. This highlights how changing understandings of the civil society concept can lead to different effects on third-sector policies (Evers, 2013).

Omede and Bakare's (2014) study examines how non-governmental organizations remain effective amid continuous changes in government policies. This research illustrates the significant impact of civil society and non-governmental organizations on sustainable development in developing countries (Omede, Bakare, 2014).

Themudo (2013) emphasizes that the impact of civil society is contingent on press freedom, confirming the importance of public opinion. This study suggests that policies should target both civil society and press freedom, emphasizing the interconnectedness of the influence of civil society with press freedom (Themudo, 2013).

In conclusion, non-governmental organizations are clearly effective in different political and social contexts, playing a critical role in shaping third-sector policies. The concept of civil society creates a significant impact on public policies and political processes, playing a crucial role in shaping these processes. These

studies demonstrate how non-governmental organizations have become important players in policymaking processes and play a critical role in meeting societal needs.

2.5. Literature Review

Robinson (1995) examined how foreign donors support Non-governmental Organizations in Africa and how such support increases their participation in public policy processes in his study titled "Empowering Civil Society in Africa: The Role of Foreign Political Aid." The research assessed the participation of marginal social groups and their impact on development projects.

Holm, Molutsi, and Somolekae (1996) discussed the development of civil society groups in Botswana and how they exerted more control over the implementation of government policies in their study titled "Development of Civil Society in a Democratic State: The Botswana Model." The study highlighted the effectiveness of these groups in influencing government services delivery.

Foley and Edwards (1996) explored the paradox of civil society in their study titled "The Paradox of Civil Society," discussing its impact contingent on both democracy and the prior establishment of a strong state. The research delved into how citizens' efforts to organize for civil purposes were sometimes hindered by state policies, affecting the development of civil society.

Brinkerhoff (1999) focused on state-civil society collaboration in developing countries and how these partnerships contributed to policy implementation in "State-Civil Society Collaboration in Developing Countries: Policy Partnerships." The research discussed the variables influencing these partnerships and strategies for creating effective policy collaborations.

Hearn (2001) emphasized the importance of including civil society in the economic policy process in Ghana in his study titled "'Use and Abuse' of Civil Society in Africa." He discussed the consensus-building around Ghana's accelerated structural adjustment and the overlooked aspects of this process.

Anheier and Themudo (2002) investigated the organizational forms of global civil society in their study titled "Organizational Forms of Global Civil Society: Implications of Globalization." The research examined how Non-governmental

Organizations operate globally and the policies that encourage supportive frameworks, particularly in regions like Central and Eastern Europe.

Hutter and O'Mahony (2004) explored the role of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in regulating the business sector in their book titled "The Role of Non-governmental Organizations in Regulating Business." The study focused on the challenges and reactions faced by NGOs as their power in policy networks increased.

Howell and Mulligan (2004) examined the influence of Non-governmental Organizations on public policies in Mexico and Latin America in their book titled "Gender and Civil Society." The study covered various topics, including gender issues, integration policies, and interactions in the Western Hemisphere.

Ruzza (2005) analyzed the role and participation of Non-governmental Organizations at the European Union level in his study titled "EU Public Policies and the Participation of Organized Civil Society." The research highlighted how Non-governmental Organizations played a stronger role in EU governance and discussed contributions from the European Committee.

Curran (2005) investigated civil society participation in policy debates, emphasizing the importance of evidence in his study titled "Civil Society Participation in PRSP: The Role of Evidence and Its Impact on Policy Preferences." The research revealed that governments often lack necessary information to assess the negative impacts of their policies, undermining the involvement of Non-governmental Organizations.

Dany (2006) examined the impact of participation in the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society in his study titled "The Impact of Participation: Contributions of Non-governmental Organizations to the Democratic Quality of the UN World Summit on the Information Society." The research assessed the contributions of Non-governmental Organizations in selected areas such as internet governance through policy documents and civil society statements.

Blagescu and Young (2006) discussed capacity development for policy advocacy in their book titled "Capacity Development for Policy Advocacy: Current Thoughts and Approaches Among Agencies Supporting Non-governmental Organizations." They focused on the DFID-funded Civil Society Partnerships

Program aimed at enhancing the capacity of southern Non-governmental Organizations to influence poverty-alleviation policies.

Doyle and Patel (2008) explored how Non-governmental Organizations contribute to global health governance and act as public representatives in their study titled "Non-governmental Organizations and Global Health Initiatives: Legitimacy Issues." The research addressed arguments about the growth of global civil society and how NGOs influence global health policies.

Giffen and Judge (2010) studied the civil society policies and practices of donor agencies in their work titled "Civil Society Policy and Practice in Donor Agencies." The research examined how country offices that promote civil society and civic participation develop their strategies and collaborate with civil society groups in shaping national strategies.

Evers (2013) delved into different interpretations of the concept of civil society and its impacts on third-sector policies in their work titled "Concept of Civil Society: Different Interpretations and Their Impacts on Third Sector Policies." The study discussed the influence of civil society on public policies and political debates related to the division of labor among society, citizens, and the state.

Anheier (2013) questioned the extent to which Non-governmental Organizations and representatives benefit from social sciences in evaluating, debating, and engaging in policy dialogues in their work titled "Civil Society: Measurement, Evaluation, Policy." The study focused on how the effectiveness of Non-governmental Organizations could be measured and evaluated.

Shahin, Woodward, and Terzis (2013) examined the impact of the economic crisis on Non-governmental Organizations in the European Union in their study titled "Impact of the Crisis on Non-governmental Organizations: Risks and Opportunities in the EU." The research addressed the effects of budget constraints and government policies on the funding and activities of Non-governmental Organizations, highlighting both risks and opportunities.

Omede and Bakare (2014) investigated the influence of Non-governmental Organizations in developing countries, particularly in Nigeria, on sustainable development in their study titled "Impact of Non-governmental Organizations on Sustainable Development in Developing Countries: The Nigerian Experience." The

research discussed the conceptual framework of Non-governmental Organizations and their impact on sustainable development efforts, considering inconsistencies in government policies.

Ambrosini and Van der Leun (2015) explored the role of Non-governmental Organizations in influencing public debates, providing legal defense for migrants targeted by exclusion policies, and challenging laws and government policies in their study titled "Introduction to the Special Issue: Enforcement of Human Rights: Participation of NGOs in Migration Policies." The research analyzed the contribution of Non-governmental Organizations to debates surrounding migration and their role in supporting migrants facing legal challenges.

Baqueiro (2016) investigated the participation of Non-governmental Organizations in public policies throughout Latin America in their study titled "Participation of Non-governmental Organizations in Public Policies in Latin America." The research evaluated the relationship between government and Non-governmental Organizations, considering the role of these organizations in contributing to public policies.

Tandon and Brown (2016) studied Non-governmental Organizations that rely on government funding, exploring the effects of working within government policies and the questioning of their legitimacy in their work titled "Civil Societies at Crossroads: Lessons and Implications." The study examined how dependence on government funding limits the freedom and impact of Non-governmental Organizations in policy and decision-making processes.

Williams, Abbott, and Heery (2017) investigated the role of civil governance in industrial relations and employment relationships in their study titled "Civil Governance in Employment Relations: Contribution of Non-governmental Organizations to Labor Governance Systems." The research explored how civil society actors influence employment policies and presented a comprehensive overview of the conceptual framework of civil governance.

Branden, Trommel, and others (2017) examined the restructuring of the state and Non-governmental Organizations in their work titled "Restructuring of State and Civil Society." The study highlighted that Non-governmental Organizations

increasingly operate as 'public' rather than 'civil society,' receiving support from public funding and adopting business-oriented

Ertan (2018), in his study titled "Policy Analysis of Non-governmental Organizations," provided a brief overview of the involvement of civil society in state policies and public services, summarizing the state of civil society in Türkiye.

Cooper (2018) examined the role and value of civil society in the modern context in his work titled "Civil Society in 2018: What is its Role and Value?" The study discussed how states attempt to marginalize civil society and how these strategies have changed over time.

Kahraman and Karip (2019), in their study on "The Effects of Non-governmental Organizations on Education Policies in Türkiye," thoroughly investigated the influence of Non-governmental Organizations on education policies and practices in Türkiye. The research revealed that Non-governmental Organizations in the education sector are often not considered by the political authorities, limiting their impact on education policies (Kahraman and Karip, 2019).

Çakır (2019) delved into the effects of Non-governmental Organizations on education policies in Türkiye post-1980 in his work titled "Education and Non-governmental Organizations: The Effects of Non-governmental Organizations on National Education Policies in Post-1980 Türkiye." The study examined the impact of Non-governmental Organizations on 21 concepts related to education policies set in Türkiye post-1980. It highlighted the criticism of AK Party's education policies by the Education and Science Workers' Union (Eğitim-İş Sendikası) and explored the influence of Non-governmental Organizations on education policies.

Şahin and Akboğa (2019) investigated the relationship between the state and Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye and the impact of participation in their study titled "State-Non-governmental Organizations Relationship and Participation in Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye." The research evaluated the capacity of Non-governmental Organizations to criticize government policies and their contributions to democracy.

Çağlar (2020) explored the relationship between local governments and Non-governmental Organizations using the example of Silivri in his study titled "Examination of the Relationship Between Local Governments and Non-

governmental Organizations Within the Framework of Current Constitution and Laws: The Case of Silivri." The research showed an increased influence of professional organizations, unions, and Non-governmental Organizations, indicating that these organizations can take parallel or opposing stances on government policies related to education and employment.

Nur Mutlu and Metin (2022) investigated the impact of Non-governmental Organizations that serve the elderly in Ankara on social policies in their study titled "Examination of Associations Serving the Elderly in Ankara in the Context of the Role of Non-governmental Organizations in Social Policy." The study found that these organizations were unable to influence decisions related to social policies but actively played roles in the field of public policies.

Berkvens, Roets, Haesevoets, and others (2023) examined the appreciation of local Non-governmental Organizations in local government and local governance policies in their study titled "Appreciation of Local Non-governmental Organizations for Local Political Decision-Making Tools." The research developed survey questions to measure how established a civil society organization is within local government and how it contributes to policy-making processes.

Taş (2012) discussed the future of unions in the context of the changing social classes in his study titled "In the Process of Change of Social Classes, Unions and the Future of Unions." The study explored how unions are generally perceived as ideological Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye and analyzed events where unions, particularly the Beşli Girişim (Pentagon Initiative), criticized government policies.

Delice (2013) explored the concept of governance and the impact of Non-governmental Organizations on this process in his study titled "Governance in International Organization Texts and Türkiye Practice: An Examination from Theory to Practice." The research demonstrated that Non-governmental Organizations can play an effective role against government policies and influence the process under the umbrella of civil society.

Cicioğlu (2011) investigated the approach of Non-governmental Organizations to Türkiye's European Union policy within the framework of the civil society-foreign policy relationship in his study titled "Approach of Non-

governmental Organizations to Türkiye's European Union Policy within the Framework of Civil Society-Foreign Policy Relationship." The study discussed how Non-governmental Organizations approach Türkiye's EU policy and their relationships with international non-governmental actors.

Babaoğlu (2015) examined the impact of disability policies in Türkiye and the role of Non-governmental Organizations in urban disability policies, focusing on the example of Ankara. The research demonstrated that civil society actors can be effective in influencing public policies by monitoring government activities.

Harman (2014) explored the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the tourism sector in his study titled "A Theoretical Review On Functions Of Non-Governmental Organizations In The Tourism System." The study found that these organizations did not play a central role in developing governance-based tourism policies but were effective at the local level, as illustrated by the example of Akçakoca.

Özaydın (2013) analyzed the crisis of the welfare state and the transformation of social policies, focusing on the role of Non-governmental Organizations during this process in his study titled "Crisis of the Welfare State, Transformation of Social Policy, and Rising Civil Society." The research examined the effects of non-governmental organizations, including unions and professional associations, and evaluated the impact of policies directed towards Non-governmental Organizations.

Özkan, Polat, and Şener (2016) delved into the role of Non-governmental Organizations in education in their study titled "The Place of Non-governmental Organizations in Education." The study showed that civil organizations are becoming increasingly influential in education and are aligning government policies with societal interests.

Biber (2009) conducted an evaluation of the historical reasons for the narrowness of the civil space in Türkiye in his study titled "An Evaluation on the Historical Reasons for the Narrowness of the Civil Area in Türkiye." The research revealed that civil society operates in a limited space in Türkiye, with restricted participation in decision-making processes.

Genç (2020) examined the role of Non-governmental Organizations in the field of education and their impact on the preparation of education policies in his

study titled "Non-Governmental Organizations and Education." The research evaluated the interactions of Non-governmental Organizations with the government and other stakeholders during the education policy-making process.

Aksel and Boşnak (2022) conducted an analysis of civil society policies and approaches to migration in Türkiye in their study titled "Building Bridges in Civil Society and Migration Studies: The Case of Türkiye." The study examined the centralization of authority in civil society policies, explored the government's policies regarding migration, and considered the diversity reflected in Türkiye's migrant population.

Akar (date not specified) conducted a comparative analysis of the labor policies implemented by Turkish Republic Governments between 1983-1998 in his study titled "Comparative Analysis of Labor Policies of Turkish Republic Governments (1983-1998)." The research analyzed the effects of government policies during this period and highlighted the influential role of Non-governmental Organizations and professional associations in decision-making related to labor.

Özkiraz and Arslanel (2015) investigated the existence and political influence of Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye between 1945-1960 in their study titled "The Issue of the Existence of Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye between 1945-1960." The research examined the development of civil society during this period, considering the influence of government policies and assessing the impact of the Democratic Party on civil society through examples such as the use of radio for party interests.

3. ESTABLISHMENT AND HISTORY OF TÜRK-İŞ TRADE UNION AS A CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

3.1. History of Türk-İş Trade Union

This section of the study is compiled from a comprehensive archive of magazines published by Türk-İş between the years 1963 and 2021. It aims to examine the evolution of the Turkish labor movement and union activities over this long period in the light of changing political and economic conditions. The magazines published by Türk-İş during this period provide valuable information on the history of the Turkish labor movement, significant events, and the societal and economic impacts of this movement. This compilation also serves as an important source shedding light on the development of union struggles and labor rights in Türkiye. All information used is obtained from the magazine archive on Türk-İş 's official website.

Türk-İş is one of the most significant representatives of the labor movement in Türkiye and is the largest and oldest labor union confederation in the country. Its establishment dates back to 1952 and has played a critical role in the development of the Türk-İş labor movement (Türk-İş, 2021). This section of the study extensively explores the long and impactful history of Türk-İş, shedding light on the development of the labor movement in Türkiye. The analyzed sections delve into the changes, challenges, and successes of Türk-İş over time. The writing of these sections is based on the document titled " Türk-İş Long History," which narrates in detail the evolution of the Türk-İş labor movement based on the union's own records. The provided information is a crucial source for understanding the activities of Türk-İş and the general structure of the Türk-İş labor movement, summarized in this section.

Türk-İş (The Confederation of Trade Unions) is a significant representative of the labor movement and union activities in Türkiye. Its establishment dates back to

1952, and since then, it has played critical roles in the development of the Turkish labor movement.

In its early years, Türk-İş faced various challenges. Its first General Assembly was held in Izmir in 1952, where the decision to join the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions was made. However, this decision was deemed insufficient by the authorities. Due to early disagreements and challenges, Türk-İş underwent changes in leadership and initiated efforts for various reforms.

In the 2nd General Assembly held in Istanbul in 1953, Türk-İş officially became a member of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions. During this period, Türk-İş experienced disagreements with the government and struggled against the pressures on unionized workers.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Türk-İş was influenced by political transformations in Türkiye. In 1954, Naci Kurt, the General President, resigned from his position after being elected as a member of parliament. During this period, Türk-İş had to continue its activities under government pressure. In 1958, the Delegates Committee made significant demands on labor rights and social security.

In the early 1960s, after the coup on May 27th, Türk-İş reconstituted its Executive Committee and continued to play a significant role in the labor movement. In the fall of 1960, around 174,000 workers were organized in 215 unions affiliated with Türk-İş. In 1961, Türk-İş campaigned for the acceptance of the 1961 Constitution and organized large workers' rallies in the same year.

In 1963, Law No. 274 on Trade Unions and Law No. 275 on Collective Bargaining, Strikes, and Lockouts came into effect. During this period, Türk-İş started efforts to strengthen the collective bargaining system. In 1966 and 1967, it held meetings with ministers, contributing to the resolution of issues, and by the end of 1967, the number of members in organizations affiliated with Türk-İş reached 545,000.

In the early 1970s, Türk-İş continued its efforts to protect democracy and advocate for workers' rights. In 1969, it contributed to a significant legislative change regarding retirement and held its general assembly meeting in Erzurum in 1970. In 1970, T Türk-İş ÜRK-İŞ emphasized its commitment to protecting democracy by expressing concerns about the country's turmoil and political situation.

After the death of General President Seyfi Demirsoy in 1974, Halil Tunç was appointed as the General President. During this period, Türk-İş took a clear stance against terrorism and supported the Cyprus Peace Operation. It led important events such as the general strike in Izmir in 1975 and emphasized worker education. Halil Tunç was re-elected as the General President in the 1976 general assembly.

In 1976, with the election of Halil Tunç as the General President, Türk-İş continued its union struggle. During this period, the political and social transformations in Türkiye continued to influence the activities of Türk-İş. Towards the end of the 1970s, Türkiye faced increasing political tension and economic difficulties. During this period, Türk-İş actively participated in defending workers' rights and preserving trade union freedoms.

In the 1980s, political changes following the coup in Türkiye had significant effects on the trade union movement. After the September 12, 1980 coup, pressures on Türk-İş and other trade union organizations increased. During this period, Türk-İş faced difficulties such as limitations on union activities and restrictions on the activities of member unions.

In the 1990s, Türk-İş attempted to adapt to the changing economic and political conditions in Türkiye. The effects of globalization and the free market economy created new problems for labor rights and working conditions. During this period, Türk-İş fought against the effects of economic liberalization on the working class and conducted studies on social security reforms.

In the 2000s and beyond, TÜRK-İŞ continued its efforts to defend and improve workers' rights in Türkiye and internationally. Global economic crises increased the challenges faced by the working class, and during this period, TÜRK-İŞ fought against issues such as unemployment, flexible working conditions, and the erosion of workers' rights. Simultaneously, it collaborated with the international labor movement, contributing to the development of workers' rights on a global scale.

This history highlights the ongoing influence of Türk-İş on the development of the union movement in Türkiye and its crucial role as an advocate for workers' rights, despite the challenges faced during various periods. From 1976 to the present day, Türk-İş has maintained its mission of protecting and advancing the interests of the working class, adapting to changing political and economic conditions. Today,

Türk-İş continues to defend the fundamental rights of the working class in Türkiye and strives to improve socio-economic conditions. The union also actively participates in international efforts to advance workers' rights, operating as part of the global labor movement.

3.2. Formation of the TÜRK-İŞ Union

Türk-İş (Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions), established in 1952, is a pioneering trade union organization that has made significant contributions to the development of the labor movement in Türkiye. Its formation process emerged as a result of the increasing demands for rights and the need to improve working conditions within the Turkish working class during the early 1950s. As Türkiye's economy rapidly changed and industrialization gained momentum in the early years, new demands and needs arose concerning the working conditions and social rights of the workers.

The formation of Türk-İş coincides with the period when Türkiye transitioned to a multi-party political system. This era represents a crucial stage in the development of trade unions and labor rights. The Confederation, by uniting unions operating in various sectors, has the capacity to represent a broad segment of the working class. This structural feature enables Türk-İş to play an active role in collective bargaining and social dialogue processes.

The establishment of Türk-İş is a product of the efforts of the working class during this period to organize and struggle for the recognition of union rights. The Confederation aimed to defend the rights of workers, improve working conditions, and enhance solidarity within the working class. In line with these objectives, Türk-İş brought together worker unions from various regions and sectors across Türkiye.

Since its inception, Türk-İş has achieved significant gains in workers' rights, labor laws, and social security, making substantial contributions to strengthening the trade union movement in Türkiye. Acting as a pioneer in union struggles, Türk-İş has actively participated on national and international platforms to make the voice of the working class heard, protect their rights, and contribute to their development.

The formation and activities of Türk-İş hold a significant place in Türkiye's political and social history. Its crucial role in the development of the trade union

movement is evident both in the direct contributions to improving the living conditions of workers and its impact on general social and economic policies in Türkiye. From its establishment to the present day, Türk-İş has remained a key representative of the workers' interests, actively contributing to the development of the trade union movement in Türkiye.

In the early 1950s, as industrialization and modernization processes gained momentum in Türkiye, awareness and demands regarding the rights of the working class increased. This period witnessed the rise of trade union movements in Türkiye and a felt need to enhance solidarity among workers. In this context, Türk-İş, established in 1952, became operational with the aim of coordinating union activities and expanding workers' rights. The fundamental goal of Türk-İş was to advocate for the socio-economic rights of the working class and improve working conditions.

In its early years, Türk-İş, as the representative of the Turkish working class, took significant steps in protecting and advancing workers' rights. Its first General Assembly convened in İzmir in 1952, during which the decision to join the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions was made. However, this decision was deemed insufficient by the authorities, highlighting the challenges faced by Türk-İş in its initial years. Despite these challenges, Türk-İş underwent changes in leadership and implemented various reforms to strengthen the labor movement.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Türk-İş played a crucial role in the recognition and expansion of workers' rights in Türkiye. This period witnessed significant developments in workers' rights and trade union freedoms, with Türk-İş leading the way as a precursor to these advancements. The formation and early years of Türk-İş represent a turning point in the development of the trade union movement and workers' rights in Türkiye. Since its establishment, Türk-İş has remained one of the most important representatives of the Turkish labor movement, continuously advocating for and advancing the interests of the working class.

In 1953, during the 2nd General Assembly held in Istanbul, Türk-İş took a significant international step by officially becoming a member of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU). This period is considered a critical phase for Türk-İş in the Turkish labor movement. Since its establishment, Türk-İş has

been making efforts to develop the trade union movement and workers' rights, often encountering disagreements with the government during this period.

These disagreements typically revolved around issues such as workers' rights, working conditions, and trade union freedoms. Türk-İş frequently criticized the government's policies towards the working class and actively fought against pressures on unionized workers. During this period, the primary goals of the union included improving working conditions, increasing wages, and ensuring occupational safety. Moreover, Türk-İş playing an active role internationally solidified its position as a strong advocate for workers' rights and social justice on the global stage. The union emphasized the importance of international solidarity and cooperation during this period.

The activities of Türk-İş during this period marked a significant milestone in the development of the trade union movement in Türkiye and increased awareness of workers' rights. The disagreements and challenges with the government highlighted the determination of the union and the importance of its struggle for workers' rights. This process also helped establish Türk-İş as a strong advocate for the trade union movement both nationally and internationally.

The formation of Türk-İş represented a crucial turning point in the development of the labor movement in Türkiye. Acting as a pioneer in workers' rights and trade union freedoms, Türk-İş has continued to play critical roles in the ongoing development of the Turkish labor movement. This process, from the establishment of Türk-İş to its current status, can be considered as part of the struggle to improve the socio-economic conditions of the working class and defend union rights in Türkiye's working life history.

The history of Türk-İş is intertwined with Türkiye's modernization process and transformations in the world of labor. Contributing to the development of the trade union movement and workers' rights, Türk-İş has been influential in shaping Türkiye's socio-economic structure. In this regard, the formation and activities of Türk-İş represent a significant milestone in the history of Türkiye's working life.

3.3 TÜRK-İŞ Union Members and Representatives

Türk-İş, as the largest and most influential trade union confederation in Türkiye, plays a crucial role in advocating for workers' rights and improving working

conditions. As of 2022, the Türk-İş Board of Directors continues its activities under the leadership of Ergün Atalay as the General President. Atalay is widely recognized as a significant figure in the labor movement with extensive experience. Accompanying him in the leadership, Pevrul Kavlak serves as the General Secretary, responsible for coordinating Türk-İş 's administrative and operational activities. Ramazan Ađar, as the General Financial Secretary, manages the confederation's financial affairs, while Nazmi Irgat, as the General Education Secretary, focuses on worker education and development. Eyüp Alemdar, the General Organization Secretary, is tasked with strengthening Türk-İş 's organizational structure and ensuring more effective conduct of union activities.

This leadership team of Türk-İş not only represents the interests of the working class in Türkiye but also engages in active diplomacy on national and international levels concerning workers' rights. These leaders negotiate with the government, employers, and other relevant parties on issues related to workers' socio-economic rights and working conditions, playing a crucial role in determining policies. The Board of Directors, acting as a bridge between member unions and workers, consistently strives for the strengthening of the trade union movement, protection of workers' rights, and improvement of working conditions. In this context, the leadership of Türk-İş holds a key role in effectively representing the strong and influential Turkish labor movement.

Türk-İş, as the largest trade union confederation in Türkiye, has a comprehensive organizational structure. The highest governing body of the confederation is the Board of Directors led by Ergün Atalay. The Board determines the strategic direction of the confederation and oversees the implementation of various policies. The Board consists of positions such as General President, General Secretary, General Financial Secretary, General Education Secretary, and General Organization Secretary.

The organizational structure of Türk-İş is shaped through the participation of member unions. These unions represent workers from various sectors in Türkiye and play a crucial role in determining Türk-İş 's general policies. While directly representing their members, the unions also send delegates to the Türk-İş Board of Directors. This structure is critically important for advocating workers' rights and effectively conducting union activities.

Additionally, Türk-İş works on specific issues through various committees and subunits. These committees operate in areas such as worker education, legal matters, international relations, and social policies. The committees develop special projects and initiatives that support the confederation's general policies and more effectively protect the interests of workers.

The organizational structure of Türk-İş is also shaped through general assembly meetings. The General Assembly, attended by all member unions of Türk-İş, is the highest decision-making body of the confederation. In these meetings, crucial matters such as the future policies of Türk-İş, strategies, and the selection of the leadership team are discussed and decided.

In conclusion, the organizational structure of Türk-İş comprises a broad member base, an effective board of directors, and various subcommittees. This structure forms a significant foundation for protecting and advancing workers' rights, improving working conditions, and conducting union activities effectively.

3.4. Establishment and History of TÜRK-İŞ Union as a Civil Society Organization

Türk-İş (Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions) holds a critical place in the history of the Turkish labor movement and is considered a significant representative for the development of union struggles and workers' rights in the country. Founded in 1952, Türk-İş emerged as a result of the rapid changes in Türkiye's industrialization process. During this period, the increase in the numerical and political power of the working class led to a heightened awareness of trade union and workers' rights. Türk-İş was established as a response to these changing socio-economic conditions, undertaking the mission of advocating for the rights of the working class in Türkiye (Türk-İş, n.d.).

The activities of Türk-İş have played a significant role in Türkiye's economic and political history. The union has actively engaged in advocating for worker rights, improving working conditions, developing fair wage policies, and enhancing occupational safety standards, contributing to the improvement of the living standards of the working class. Moreover, Türk-İş has been influential in political

transformations and social movements in Türkiye, making substantial contributions to the democratization process and the strengthening of civil society.

The history of Türk-İş is also a key factor in understanding the evolution of workers' rights and the trade union movement in Türkiye. Since its establishment, significant developments have occurred in union organization and workers' rights in Türkiye, shaped in part by the leadership and participation of Türk-İş. Therefore, the history of Türk-İş is crucial in comprehending the general structure of the Turkish labor movement and how this movement has evolved in societal, economic, and political contexts.

Türk-İş has played a central role in the development of workers' rights and the trade union movement in Türkiye, acting as a significant force both in advocating for the rights of the working class and influencing the overall social and political structure of the country. Examining the history of this union provides an in-depth understanding of Türkiye's socio-economic and political history and allows for a better grasp of the dynamics of the Turkish labor movement.

The establishment of Türk-İş in the early years faced significant challenges in the Turkish context. In the 1950s, Türkiye encountered various obstacles in the field of trade union activities and workers' rights due to factors such as the lack of legal regulations, restrictions on workers' organizing freedoms, and harsh working conditions (Yıldırım, 2005). During this period, limitations on workers' organizing freedom and the challenges of working conditions emerged as some of the most significant hurdles faced by the working class.

Nevertheless, Türk-İş managed to overcome these challenges and took important steps to strengthen workers' rights. The union made efforts to improve legal regulations related to workers' rights, expand organizing freedoms, and enhance working conditions. Throughout this process, Türk-İş emerged as an advocate for workers' rights both nationally and internationally, effectively becoming a platform for expressing the voice of the Turkish working class. Particularly, struggles related to collective bargaining agreements and the right to strike played a significant role in the development of workers' rights in Türkiye.

Despite the challenges of this period, Türk-İş achieved notable successes in protecting and improving workers' rights. The union actively fought for the

economic, social, and political rights of the working class, shaping an essential actor in Türkiye's social and economic development. The efforts of Türk-İş during this time hold historical significance for the development of workers' rights and the trade union movement in Türkiye and occupy a crucial place in modern Turkish social history.

In 1953, during the second General Assembly held in Istanbul, Türk-İş strategically joined the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) (Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions, 2023). This crucial development paved the way for Türk-İş to play an active role not only at the national level but also on the international stage in advocating for workers' rights and participating in global trade union movements. Membership in the ICFTU increased Türk-İş's international recognition and positioned it as a significant player in the global labor movement.

Türk-İş's membership in the ICFTU allowed the Turkish labor movement to have its voice heard internationally and established the union as an effective actor in advocating for global workers' rights. This membership also enabled Türk-İş to expand its efforts in defense of workers' rights through international solidarity and cooperation. Connections established with international labor unions strengthened Türk-İş's role in the global fight for workers' rights and contributed to mutual support and collaboration among trade unions.

The ICFTU membership of Türk-İş significantly contributed to the development of international norms and standards for workers' rights and working conditions in Türkiye. During this period, Türk-İş increased its interactions with international trade union movements, gaining new perspectives on improving workers' rights and working conditions in Türkiye, and integrating this knowledge into its national-level struggles. Therefore, ICFTU membership expanded Türk-İş's capacity for advocating workers' rights both nationally and internationally, enhancing its effectiveness in this field.

Türk-İş's membership in the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions became a milestone in the union's history. This membership strengthened Türk-İş's role in the global labor movement and added an international dimension to the union's advocacy for workers' rights in Türkiye.

The history of Türk-İş is a valuable source for understanding the evolution of the trade union movement and workers' rights in Türkiye. The 1960s and 1970s were crucial years for political and social changes in Türkiye, and during this period, Türk-İş played a significant role in defending the interests of the working class (Yıldırım, 2005). As Türkiye underwent economic growth and social transformation, the problems faced by the working class and their demands for rights increased significantly. Türk-İş provided an essential platform during this period to voice the concerns of the working class and fight for their rights.

The 1960s and 1970s were decisive years for the development of trade unions and workers' rights in Türkiye. During this period, Türk-İş conducted various campaigns and struggles to protect social and economic rights of workers, improve working conditions, and develop fair wage policies. The union actively participated in matters such as collective bargaining agreements, the right to strike, and the enhancement of occupational safety standards, contributing to the improvement of the living standards and working conditions of the working class.

In this period, Türk-İş also played a crucial role in the broader context of political and social changes in Türkiye. By contributing to the democratization process and the strengthening of civil society, the union became an influential actor in shaping Türkiye's social and economic structure. The activities of Türk-İş during this period highlight the impact of workers' rights and union struggles on Türkiye's overall political and social landscape.

The activities of Türk-İş in the 1960s and 1970s mark a turning point in the development of trade unions and workers' rights in Türkiye. This period became a crucial milestone for Türk-İş in terms of defending the rights of the working class and improving working conditions, solidifying the union's role in Türkiye's social and economic history.

In conclusion, the establishment and history of Türk-İş hold exceptional importance in the development of the trade union movement and workers' rights in Türkiye. Since its founding in 1952, Türk-İş has played a pioneering role in advocating for and improving workers' rights, engaging in effective struggles to enhance the living standards of the working class and improve working conditions. With its advocacy and activities for workers' rights on both national and international

levels, the union has become an integral part of the global labor rights movement. The history of Türk-İş remains an indispensable source for understanding the struggles for workers' rights and the evolution of the Turkish labor movement, providing critical insights into Türkiye's socio-economic and political history.



4. THE INFLUENCE OF TURKISH-İŞ TRADE UNION ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES

4.1. Turkish-İş Trade Union's Relations with the Government

Türk-İş Confederation of Trade Unions holds a significant position in Türkiye's political history in terms of its relations with the government. Established in 1952, this organization is considered one of the oldest and most influential representatives of the Turkish labor movement. Since its inception, Türk-İş has aimed to influence government policies and legislation regarding labor rights and working conditions. In this context, the union has consistently engaged in dialogue with the government, making various initiatives to make the voice of the working class heard in policy-making processes.

Türk-İş's stance towards government policies has varied over time, sometimes adopting a critical approach and at other times a collaborative one. Particularly during the transition period to a multi-party political system in Türkiye and its aftermath, Türk-İş frequently criticized the government's policies on labor and union rights. These criticisms intensified, especially during periods when labor rights were restricted after the military intervention in the 1980s. However, the union also explored ways of cooperation with the government, especially during economic crises, by seeking solutions through social dialogue mechanisms.

In its relations with the government, Türk-İş aimed to protect and improve the interests of the working class, developing various strategies to achieve this goal. The implementation and effectiveness of these strategies are closely related to Türkiye's socio-economic and political dynamics, and the union's influence on government policies has varied over time. In this context, the history of Türk-İş is intertwined with the general political and economic history of Türkiye.

Since its establishment in 1952, Türk-İş has been a significant actor in improving labor rights and working conditions in Türkiye. The union has consistently embraced the principle of "a union movement in social dialogue and

cooperation" from its inception. While this approach sometimes necessitated collaboration with the government, it did not prevent Türk-İş from adopting a critical stance towards government policies.

The political and economic transformations in Türkiye during the 1980s and 1990s further emphasized the importance of Türk-İş's relations with the government. This period stands out as a time of profound changes in both political and economic structures in Türkiye. Particularly after the 1980 military coup, strict controls on the trade union movement and setbacks in workers' rights led to a significant transformation in TÜRK-İŞ's attitude towards government policies (Özkiraz, Nuray, 2008).

The policies implemented in the post-coup period significantly altered the nature and impact of the trade union movement in Türkiye. During this period, TÜRK-İŞ took a more oppositional stance against government policies that restricted workers' rights and freedoms. The union, especially during this period, intensified its criticisms of government policies, covering issues such as the protection of workers' rights, job security, wage policies, and working conditions (Mahiroğulları, 2012).

In the 1990s, the process of economic liberalization and political changes in Türkiye created new dynamics in TÜRK-İŞ's relations with the government. Changes in the economic structure during this period diversified and deepened the problems faced by the working class. TÜRK-İŞ continued to take a critical stance against government policies during this period, while also exploring solutions through social dialogue mechanisms (Çetinkaya, 2014).

In general, TÜRK-İŞ's relations with the government during the 1980s and 1990s represent a significant turning point in Türkiye's political and economic history. The attitudes and strategies exhibited by the union during these periods contributed both to the development of the labor movement in Türkiye and, more broadly, to the changes in Türkiye's socio-economic structure (Çelik, 2015).

TÜRK-İŞ engages in continuous dialogue with the government on the improvement of labor rights and working conditions. The union closely monitors government policies, especially in areas such as minimum wage, occupational health and safety, unemployment, and social security. Legislative changes in these areas

have been shaped by the influence of TÜRK-İŞ and its contributions (Görmüş, 2006).

For example, TÜRK-İŞ's role in minimum wage negotiations can be examined. The union has fought for determining a wage that reflects the living costs of workers by actively engaging with government and employer representatives during the process of setting the minimum wage. In this process, TÜRK-İŞ has made statements emphasizing the fair payment of the laborer's sweat.

TÜRK-İŞ has frequently criticized the government's policies regarding trade union rights. Especially in cases of restrictions on fundamental union rights such as union membership, the right to strike, and collective bargaining, TÜRK-İŞ has actively fought against such limitations. In this context, the union's emphasis on "the protection and development of workers' rights is fundamental to democracy" is noteworthy.

The relations between TÜRK-İŞ and the government have played a crucial role in Türkiye's political and economic history. The union has been actively involved in a continuous dialogue and struggle with the government for the improvement of labor rights, the protection and expansion of union rights. In this process, TÜRK-İŞ has both displayed a critical approach and explored ways of collaboration. This dual approach has made significant contributions to Türkiye's socio-economic development (Mahiroğulları, 2011).

The Turkish Confederation of Trade Unions (TÜRK-İŞ) has played a critical role in Türkiye's political and economic history. Since its establishment, the union has been actively involved in an ongoing dialogue and struggle with the government regarding the improvement of labor rights, the protection and expansion of union rights, and related issues. TÜRK-İŞ, during this process, has both adopted a critical stance and explored ways of collaboration. This dual approach has made significant contributions to Türkiye's socio-economic development (Mahiroğulları, 2011).

TÜRK-İŞ's relations with the government, especially after 1980 and the subsequent political and economic transformation processes in Türkiye, have become more pronounced. After the 1980 military coup, strict controls on the trade union movement and setbacks in workers' rights led TÜRK-İŞ to take a more oppositional stance against government policies. During this period, the union increased its

criticisms of government policies, particularly focusing on issues such as workers' rights, job security, and wage policies (Demir, 2011).

In the 1990s, the economic liberalization and political changes in Türkiye created new dynamics in TÜRK-İŞ's relations with the government. Changes in the economic structure during this period led to a diversification and deepening of the problems faced by the working class. TÜRK-İŞ continued to take a critical stance against government policies during this period while actively seeking solutions through various social dialogue mechanisms (Turgut, 2019).

In summary, TÜRK-İŞ's relations with the government represent a significant turning point in Türkiye's political and economic history, especially during the 1980s and 1990s. The attitudes and strategies adopted by the union during these periods have contributed both to the development of the labor movement in Türkiye and, more broadly, to the changes in Türkiye's socio-economic structure (Koç, 2012).

4.2. Contributions of TÜRK-İŞ Union to Government Policies

The contributions of TÜRK-İŞ to government policies are particularly evident in the areas of labor rights and social policies. The union has played a significant role in shaping government policies, especially in issues related to collective bargaining, minimum wage regulations, and improvement of working conditions. TÜRK-İŞ has actively participated in policy development processes concerning social security, pension rights, and other related matters, advocating for the interests of the working class.

In Türkiye, the contributions of the TÜRK-İŞ Union to government policies hold a prominent place in socio-economic and political realms. The transformations in Türkiye's economic and political structure since the 1980s have further emphasized the impact of TÜRK-İŞ on government policies.

During the political and economic crisis in the 1980s, the discourses of TÜRK-İŞ, along with Hak-İş and DİSK, had profound effects on the working class and the trade union movement in Türkiye. The split of the CHP from the DYP-SHP/CHP coalition government, followed by its later formation of a government with DYP, did not align with the expectations of TÜRK-İŞ. This period influenced

the stance of unions towards government policies and affected their struggles for labor rights (Volkan, 2023).

Furthermore, significant changes occurred in Türkiye's capital structure and business environment with the advent of the AK Party government in 2002. The evolution of the Turkish labor system during this period has been examined as part of a macro-institutional analysis. In fact, these changes have roots dating back to the Özal government, where the development of entrepreneurial spirit and the private sector also influenced the relationship between TÜRK-İŞ and the government (Dirlik, 2016).

An important aspect in the evolution of Turkish labor law and labor relations is the evaluation of the conciliation board's establishment and the Ta'til-i eşgâl law. These developments shed light on the contribution of TÜRK-İŞ to government policies in the evolution of Turkish labor law. The union has played a crucial role in shaping policies by critically evaluating the government's approach to labor and union rights (Doğan, 2012).

The contributions of the TÜRK-İŞ Union to government policies in Türkiye have become more pronounced, especially since the 1980s, with the privatization policies adopted by governments. Koç's (2000) work on "Atatürk's nationalizations and state takeovers, today's privatizations" is noteworthy in this context. During this period, considerable effort was made to transform government policies into state policies. TÜRK-İŞ, during this process, highlighted the impact of privatization policies on labor rights and working conditions.

Studies related to the integration of Syrian refugees into the Turkish business world also demonstrate TÜRK-İŞ's contributions to government policies. The policies of the Turkish government regarding refugees and their effects on the business environment have been a significant part of the union's agenda. TÜRK-İŞ has actively collaborated with government officials in addressing the integration of refugees into the labor market, making substantial contributions in this regard (Köroğlu, 2023).

Research on the restructuring of the union field and polarization during the AKP era illustrates the influence of TÜRK-İŞ's policy on government policies. The restructuring of the union field and the increasing tendency to join unions close to the

government have led TÜRK-İŞ to reassess its role and impact in the trade union movement (Erdinç, 2014).

TÜRK-İŞ is also seen to play a significant role in the politics-union relationship. The union has shaped its stance towards government policies based on changes in the political arena, aiming to influence the government on issues related to labor rights and union freedoms (Sezer, Çavuşoğlu, 2016).

A study on the scope and conditions of general job security in Turkish Labor Law shows the impact of TÜRK-İŞ on changes in labor law. During the process of passing the new Labor Law bill in the Parliament, TÜRK-İŞ emerged as a crucial actor in Improving job security and working conditions (Yavuz, Ekmekçi, 2010).

Finally, the influence of ILO (International Labour Organization) norms and the organization's supervisory mechanism on Turkish labor law is noteworthy. TÜRK-İŞ has encouraged the government to comply with ILO norms and has made efforts to protect labor rights at international standards. This process has contributed to the development of Turkish labor law and labor relations at both national and international levels (Sayın, 2013).

In conclusion, the contributions of TÜRK-İŞ to government policies, particularly in the areas of labor rights, union freedoms, and labor law, have been significant. These contributions have played a crucial role in shaping Türkiye's socio-economic structure and have been instrumental in protecting and enhancing the rights of the working class.

4.3. TÜRK-İŞ Union's Attitude Towards Government Policies

The TÜRK-İŞ Union has played a significant role in the history of trade unions in Türkiye and has occasionally displayed a critical approach to government policies. The union has openly criticized government policies, especially in situations where labor rights are restricted or violated, and has actively fought to protect the rights of the working class (Çelik, 2010; Mahiroğulları, 2011).

Established in 1952, TÜRK-İŞ initially formed close relations with the government, and this period is considered the beginning of the union's relationship with the government (Kaştan, 2006). In the early years, during the Demokrat Parti

government, the union maintained close ties with the government, but over time, these relations underwent various political and economic transformations.

Between 1973 and 1976, TÜRK-İŞ adopted a more critical stance towards government policies. During this period, the coverage of Türkiye's trade union movement in U.S. diplomatic correspondences, the union's stance on the Cyprus issue, and the strikes of DİSK-affiliated Maden-İş Union are particularly significant (Çelik, 2012).

TÜRK-İŞ Union demonstrated a distinct policy and stance regarding women's labor and employment in post-1980s Türkiye. Özar's (2012) study examines in detail the approaches of unions, especially TÜRK-İŞ and Tek Gıda İş Union, towards women's employment and working conditions during this period. The study highlights the attitudes and policies exhibited by TÜRK-İŞ in its 1990 and Tek Gıda İş Union in its 2007 13th Ordinary General Assemblies. TÜRK-İŞ's policies on the position of women in the labor market and working conditions hold particular importance in this study. The union has actively engaged in evaluating women's labor and developing solutions for the challenges faced by women in the workforce. TÜRK-İŞ has adopted specific policies and conducted efforts to encourage women's employment, improve working conditions, and promote gender equality. The decisions and attitudes taken during the general assemblies of TÜRK-İŞ and Tek Gıda İş Union can be considered concrete examples reflecting the unions' policies on women's labor and employment (Özar, 2012).

After the coup on September 12, 1980, TÜRK-İŞ Union witnessed an extraordinary political transformation in Türkiye. The policies and decisions implemented by the military administration had profound effects on the working class and the trade union movement. Following the coup, TÜRK-İŞ opted for a more cautious and balanced approach rather than directly confronting the military administration. During this period, the union chose to adapt to restrictions and challenges in labor rights and collective bargaining negotiations rather than resisting. Koç's analyses indicate that during this period, TÜRK-İŞ struggled to protect the rights of the working class and contribute to the reconstruction of civil society. However, it also adopted a careful stance in the face of the repressive policies of the military administration. TÜRK-İŞ's policies during this period should be evaluated within the framework of the political atmosphere in post-coup Türkiye and the strict

control and interventions of the military administration on the labor movement. The union continued its efforts to protect labor rights and trade union freedoms during this challenging period but also aimed to prevent further harm to the working class by adapting to the political conditions of the time (Koç, 2010).

TÜRK-İŞ Union, under the influence of neoliberal policies and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic in Türkiye, has undergone a challenging period concerning labor rights and working conditions. The government's policies, especially those related to precarious and flexible employment, have become significant areas of struggle for TÜRK-İŞ and its affiliated unions. During this period, TÜRK-İŞ actively exerted efforts through its member unions such as Türkiye Mine Workers' Union (Maden-İş) to protect labor rights and improve working conditions. The union exhibited a critical approach towards the government's biased stance in union authorizations and its policies towards the labor movement. In the context of the economic and social challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, TÜRK-İŞ shaped its stance as a resistance against the negative impacts of both neoliberal policies and increased capital dominance during the pandemic, emphasizing the importance of union rights and worker protections (Berk, 2020).

TÜRK-İŞ Union has adopted a specific stance regarding the privatization policies implemented in Türkiye. These policies, especially in the 2000s, led to significant changes in the economic structure and prompted labor unions to develop new strategies. During this period, TÜRK-İŞ focused on the effects of privatization on the working class and working conditions. The union actively took on the role of protecting workers' rights and employment guarantees during privatization, engaging in negotiations with the government and employers. However, in some instances, TÜRK-İŞ showed a tendency to collaborate with the government or employers in the face of challenges posed by the privatization process. This shift in the union's stance towards privatization policies indicates a balance between traditional union approaches to protect labor rights and the necessity to adapt to changing economic and political structures. TÜRK-İŞ' policies during this period reflect the union's efforts to balance the protection of workers' rights with new positions taken in response to evolving economic and political conditions (Altuğ, 2020).

The attitudes developed by TÜRK-İŞ towards Türkiye's changing political and economic conditions showcase the significant roles the union has played in

protecting the working class and the trade union movement. Since its establishment in 1952, TÜRK-İŞ has developed attitudes towards changing government policies at different times, starting from the Demokrat Parti government and adapting to various government policies in subsequent periods. These attitudes, particularly in the aftermath of the September 12, 1980 coup and the rise of neoliberal policies, reflect the union's efforts to protect labor rights while considering political and economic balances (Koç, 2010; Berk, 2020; Altuğ, 2020).

The policies regarding women's labor and employment demonstrate TÜRK-İŞ's commitment to gender equality and workers' rights, while its approaches to privatization processes reveal the union's efforts to adapt to economic changes (Özar, 2012; Altuğ, 2020). The union's policies and attitudes during these periods reflect its endeavor to respond to changes in Türkiye's economic and social structure while simultaneously defending the interests and rights of the working class.

In conclusion, the TÜRK-İŞ Union has played a critical role in protecting and advancing labor rights and the trade union movement in Türkiye. Its flexible yet principled approach to changing political and economic conditions demonstrates its commitment to defending the interests of the working class. The union's attitudes offer valuable insights into the historical and contemporary developments of the trade union movement and the working class in Türkiye.

4.4. The Influence of the TURK-IS Confederation of Trade Unions on Government Policies: Examining Significant Events within the Framework of a Case Analysis

The labor movement and workers' rights play a significant role in shaping economic and social policies in Türkiye. In this context, the TÜRK-İŞ Confederation, as one of the largest and influential labor unions in the country, has a pronounced impact on government policies. Particularly in the areas of labor, workers' rights, and social policies, the activities of TÜRK-İŞ have played a critical role in the formulation and implementation of government policies.

The minimum wage negotiations in the early 2000s in Türkiye highlighted the tangible influence of TÜRK-İŞ on government policies. During this period, TÜRK-İŞ emerged as a prominent actor in the determination of the minimum wage. In this

crucial matter affecting the economic well-being of union members and the broader workforce, TÜRK-İŞ's advocacy and negotiation skills played a pivotal role.

TÜRK-İŞ employed various mechanisms in minimum wage negotiations, including direct dialogue with the government, public awareness campaigns, media initiatives, and informative activities for its members. These strategies allowed the union to exert pressure on the government and effectively advocate for a minimum wage that favored workers. For instance, research and reports conducted by TÜRK-İŞ during the minimum wage determination process served as significant reference points in the negotiations.

The impactful role of TÜRK-İŞ in minimum wage negotiations has had long-term effects on workers' rights and the labor movement in Türkiye. These effects are evident in various areas such as the improvement of labor rights and working conditions, as well as the promotion of economic justice and equality. Moreover, these negotiations have set an important example for other unions and civil society organizations, raising awareness about labor rights on a broader scale.

The success of TÜRK-İŞ in minimum wage negotiations serves as a significant case study for strengthening the labor movement and workers' rights in Türkiye. This example highlights the importance of strategic negotiation and advocacy activities for defending the interests of the working class. The influence of TÜRK-İŞ on government policies, especially during specific events and developments, can be examined in more detail.

For instance, the privatization processes, Tekel Actions, and the "Graveyard Retirement" protests, known as the Yatağan Actions, are crucial events that showcase TÜRK-İŞ's ability to shape government policies. These events are concrete examples of the union's influence, but they also reveal the challenges and limitations it faces.

Starting from the early 2000s, Türkiye accelerated privatization processes as part of its neoliberal economic policies. TÜRK-İŞ and similar labor organizations emerged as significant opposition forces against privatization decisions, actively advocating for the protection of workers' rights and the defense of the public sector. The union emphasized that privatizing significant portions of the public sector would create serious issues regarding job security, working conditions, and social rights. Despite TÜRK-İŞ's efforts to oppose privatization through campaigns, press

statements, protests, and strikes, the impact on government policies remained limited.

The constraints on TÜRK-İŞ's effective opposition to privatization policies can be attributed to the government's steadfast commitment to these policies, pressure from international financial institutions, media and public perceptions of these processes, and the strategic challenges faced by the labor movement. The union's efforts to create effective opposition garnered attention from the public, but against the backdrop of the strong influence of neoliberal economic principles and the government's determination, it proved insufficient.

This situation not only highlights TÜRK-İŞ's capacity to influence government policies but also underscores the structural and strategic limitations faced by the labor movement in Türkiye. Effectively opposing complex and multi-dimensional economic policies like privatization requires broader social alliances, strengthened international solidarity, and the presentation of alternative policy proposals. The challenges faced by TÜRK-İŞ in mounting effective opposition emphasize the need for a reevaluation of strategies to defend workers' rights in the face of neoliberal policies.

The Tekel workers' protests that occurred between 2009 and 2010 represent one of the most significant societal movements led by TÜRK-İŞ against privatization policies. During this period, Tekel workers organized extensive protests to draw attention to issues such as job insecurity, low wages, and deteriorating working conditions resulting from the privatization process. The movement not only opposed privatization but also encompassed broader demands for the protection of workers' rights and improvement of working conditions. Thus, it represented not just an anti-privatization struggle but a call for comprehensive social and economic justice.

The Tekel protests gained widespread visibility, receiving extensive media coverage from all over Türkiye and garnering support from various segments of the public. The movement raised strong public awareness about the injustices faced by the working class and the societal costs of neoliberal economic policies. However, despite the broad societal and media support, the protests fell short in compelling the government to reverse privatization policies or implement concrete policy changes related to workers' rights and working conditions.

While the Tekel workers' actions were symbolically considered a victory for union activism and social solidarity, their practical impact on government policies was limited. This case study serves as an essential examination of the challenges and limitations faced by the labor movement and workers' struggle in Türkiye. It also offers valuable lessons for similar labor movements and struggles against neoliberal policies in other countries.

The "Graveyard Retirement" protests, known as the Yatağan Actions, in 2014 opposed social security reforms in Türkiye that aimed to increase the retirement age. Various unions, including TÜRK-İŞ, organized widespread protests and demonstrations across the country, arguing that these reforms would weaken job security, negatively impact workers' rights, and further precariousize working life. The protests sought to have the reforms withdrawn and to preserve the social security rights of workers.

The Yatağan Actions represent a critical case study questioning the effectiveness of the labor movement and workers in influencing government policies on social issues. The protests organized by unions, including TÜRK-İŞ, aimed at challenging the government's decisions regarding social policies, demonstrated the limits of their influence and the difficulties encountered in shaping these policies.

These events also shed light on the pressure exerted by neoliberal policies on the concept of the social state and the negative effects of this pressure on workers' rights. The failure of the protests to bring about significant changes in government policies underscores the need to reassess the strategic approaches and methods of the labor movement. In this context, the Yatağan Actions emphasize that efforts to defend workers' rights and resist social security reforms need to be addressed not only at the national level but also through international solidarity and cooperation.

This situation holds significance in academic studies focusing on workers' rights and social security reforms, as well as in policy analyses and the literature on social movement theory. The Yatağan Actions provide a rich source for understanding the scope of the labor movement's influence and the dynamics of social struggles. Moreover, this case study suggests that the creation and analysis of obstacles faced during efforts to shape social policies and the participation of civil society and the labor movement in these processes are crucial.

In conclusion, when examining the impact of the TÜRK-İŞ Confederation on government policies through specific events and actions, a complex picture emerges. While the union has the capacity to influence government policies, as seen in areas like minimum wage negotiations, it has faced challenges in achieving concrete successes in other critical issues such as privatization, Tekel protests, and Yatağan Actions. This analysis reveals the difficulties and obstacles encountered by the labor movement and workers' rights defenders in Türkiye. The struggles of TÜRK-İŞ not only aim to defend workers' rights but also to be influential in broader economic and social policies. However, the results of these efforts do not always meet the desired outcomes, highlighting important lessons to be considered in shaping the future strategies of TÜRK-İŞ and the broader labor movement in Türkiye.



5. GENERAL STATE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS IN TÜRKİYE

5.1. Structure of Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Türkiye operate across a wide spectrum and represent various segments of society. Among these organizations are associations, foundations, and other civil entities working in areas such as human rights, environmental protection, education, health, women's and children's rights, social justice, and economic development. While contributing to processes of democratization, societal awareness, and social change, NGOs in Türkiye also have the capacity to influence government policies and legal regulations.

Various studies on the structure and impact of Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye examine their roles in societal and political realms from different perspectives. These studies provide a detailed examination of the structure, impact, and challenges faced by NGOs in Türkiye.

In his work titled "Non-governmental Organizations and the Turkish Perspective" (2011), Talas analyzes the structural weaknesses and dependencies on the foreign relations system of NGOs operating in Türkiye. This study emphasizes that the independence and effectiveness of NGOs in Türkiye are often limited due to fundamental weaknesses in their structure and excessive dependencies on external factors. Talas notes that the constraints on the independence and effectiveness of NGOs negatively affect the general societal and political structure in Türkiye. This research offers a detailed examination of the challenges faced by Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye from a broad perspective, revealing the detailed analysis of their internal structures and relationships with the external world. The study highlights the fundamental obstacles these organizations face in terms of sustainability and independence. In this context, Talas's analysis also unveils potential paths for the future development of NGOs in Türkiye and areas for improvement.

Aslan's work "Civil Society in Türkiye" (2010) comprehensively investigates how the bureaucratic structure in Türkiye hinders the development of Non-governmental Organizations. This study defines the rigid and inflexible nature of Türkiye's bureaucracy as a major obstacle to civil society. Aslan details how the rigid nature of the bureaucratic structure makes it challenging for Non-governmental Organizations to operate effectively and independently. Additionally, this study supports similar arguments put forth in Doğan Küçükömer's work "Alienation of Order." Küçükömer considers the negative impact of bureaucratic structure on civil society as a pressure element for social development and innovation. Aslan's research delves into the challenges faced by Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye, emphasizing the restrictive effects of bureaucracy on civil society and its consequences for societal development. This study underscores the importance of overcoming bureaucratic barriers for civil society to thrive in Türkiye, pointing to the implications for societal development.

Çabuk's study "Measuring the Reputation of Non-governmental Organizations Operating in Türkiye" (2017) proposes an innovative model for evaluating the reputation of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Türkiye. This model analyzes in detail how the perception of NGOs within society and the impact of this perception on the overall reputation of organizations. Çabuk emphasizes the significant role of the public image and reputation of NGOs in influencing their effectiveness and scope of impact. The study reveals how the perception of NGOs in society affects their success in societal and political interactions. The research includes a detailed assessment of the indicators and dimensions used to measure the reputation of NGOs and how these indicators influence the position of NGOs within society. Çabuk's study provides valuable insights into the challenges faced by NGOs in Türkiye and offers information on strategies for managing societal perceptions and enhancing reputations. This research can be considered a significant contribution to increasing the role and effectiveness of NGOs in society.

Çekiç's work "Social Capital and the Regional Structure of Civil Society in Türkiye" (2012) extensively examines the roles of Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye in the process of social capital formation and their impact on citizenship culture. The study analyzes the regional structures of Non-governmental

Organizations and their contributions to the development of social capital. Çekiç evaluates how Non-governmental Organizations create an interaction network within society and how this interaction affects citizenship behaviors and social participation. The research details the regional variations in civil society in Türkiye and the effects of these variations on social capital. The study highlights how Non-governmental Organizations establish connections within society and strengthen elements of social capital such as social trust, cooperation, and solidarity. Çekiç's analysis emphasizes the critical role Non-governmental Organizations play in strengthening societal structures and developing citizenship culture. This study aids in understanding the activities of Non-governmental Organizations in creating social capital and their overall impact on society at regional and national levels. In this context, Çekiç's research provides valuable insights for developing potential strategies for the growth of civil society and social capital in Türkiye.

Doğan and Altunoğlu's study "Relationships between Knowledge Management, Organizational Culture, Organizational Structure, and Performance: A Study on Non-governmental Organizations" (2014) thoroughly examines the knowledge management practices of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Türkiye and the impact of these practices on the overall performance of organizations. The research comprehensively evaluates the knowledge management processes, organizational culture, and structural characteristics of NGOs, and how these factors contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency levels of NGOs. Doğan and Altunoğlu analyze the integration of knowledge management, organizational culture, and structure into the successes of NGOs. In their study, they examine how knowledge management is integrated into the successes of NGOs and how this integration is reflected in performance outcomes. The research emphasizes the role of knowledge management in organizational effectiveness, decision-making processes, and innovation capacity and offers suggestions for improvement in these areas for NGOs in Türkiye. This study underscores the critical role of knowledge management and organizational structures in enhancing the performance of NGOs, providing valuable information for the development of strategic knowledge management and organizational culture practices for NGOs in Türkiye.

Sağlam's work "Historical Development of Civil Society in Türkiye and NGOs as the Organized Structure of Civil Society" (2020) thoroughly explores the

deep-rooted history of civil society in Türkiye and the evolutionary analysis of the organized structure of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This research comprehensively examines the historical development process of civil society in Türkiye and evaluates how this process influences the structural and functional characteristics of present-day NGOs. Sağlam analyzes the historical origins of NGOs in Türkiye, how these organizations' societal and political roles have changed and developed over time. The study demonstrates how the organizational structures of NGOs interact with social change and modernization processes. The research addresses how NGOs in Türkiye are positioned and function within the country's social, economic, and political structure, as well as how their effects on society have changed over time. Sağlam's study illuminates the historical context of civil society in Türkiye and how this context reflects on the current structures and operations of NGOs. This research contributes significantly to understanding the transformation of Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye from the past to the present and exploring potential paths for future development. The study sheds light on the importance of civil society and NGOs in Türkiye's societal and political life, providing an in-depth understanding of their roles and impacts.

Examining and evaluating Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Türkiye allows for a nuanced understanding of their multifaceted impact on societal and political realms. Research conducted by scholars such as Talas (2011), Aslan (2010), Çabuk (2017), Çekiç (2012), Doğan and Altunoğlu (2014), and Sağlam (2020) delves into the structure, functions, and challenges faced by NGOs in Türkiye, revealing the complex dynamics of civil society in the country. These studies showcase how NGOs contribute to the democratization process, societal awareness, and social change in Türkiye, while also addressing challenges such as bureaucratic hurdles, reputation management, and knowledge management.

The structural weaknesses and external dependencies limiting the effectiveness of NGOs in Türkiye, as highlighted by Talas (2011), are significant issues. Aslan (2010) points to the suppressive impact of bureaucratic structures on civil society, while Çabuk (2017) emphasizes the importance of reputation management for NGOs. Çekiç's (2012) research focuses on the role of NGOs in social capital formation, and Doğan and Altunoğlu's (2014) work examines the impact of knowledge management and organizational culture on NGOs'

performance. Sağlam's (2020) study provides an in-depth exploration of the historical development of civil society in Türkiye and its reflection on the current structures of NGOs.

In this comprehensive overview, the challenges and opportunities faced by NGOs in Türkiye play crucial roles in determining the critical role of civil society in societal and political life. The development and strengthening of NGOs towards a more independent, effective, and sustainable structure will contribute significantly to Türkiye's democratization process, social justice, and equality. The advancement and empowerment of Non-governmental Organizations in Türkiye will pave the way for a more participatory, transparent, and accountable governance. In this context, the diversity of issues that NGOs work on and their impact underline their continued pivotal role in Türkiye's societal transformation process.

5.1.1. Activity areas and represented segments of NGOs

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) play a critical role in shaping societies worldwide. These organizations operate in a wide range of areas, from local communities to global stages, influencing social, economic, and political structures deeply through their activities. NGOs can represent and impact every segment of society, from interest groups to powerful social segments, both at the local and global levels. Therefore, a critical examination of the activities and effects of NGOs is essential to understand their profound and widespread impact on social and political structures. Researchers and academics have contributed significantly to deepening our understanding of this subject by exploring various aspects of NGO activities, effects, and evolutions.

The activity areas and represented segments of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) exhibit a broad diversity at the global and local levels. These organizations have a wide spectrum of influence, ranging from interest groups to powerful social segments, reflecting the diversity and complexity of civil society.

The "Paradox of Civil Society" study conducted by Foley and Edwards in 1996 extensively addresses this diversity and complexity. By examining the political activities of Non-governmental Organizations across a broad spectrum, they emphasize the local and global impact and significance of civil society.

The research conducted by Anheier and Themudo in 2002, titled "Organizational Forms of Global Civil Society: Effects of Globalization," details the organizational structures and activity areas of global civil society. This study highlights how these organizations create an impact on an international scale and contribute to world politics. Particularly, the study explores how NGOs have become globalized and how this process is reflected in their structures and strategies.

The book "Global Civil Society" published by Salamon, Sokolowski, and List in 2004 focuses on social service activities of Non-governmental Organizations in Latin America. This research examines the impact of civil society on economic and social structures, particularly in the context of transformations in educational levels. Thus, it sheds light on the critical roles NGOs play in societal change and development.

Borchgrevink's 2006 study, "A Study on Civil Society," specifically addresses Non-governmental Organizations in Nicaragua. By deeply examining the organization and activity areas of certain social segments and understanding the current impact of these organizations, this study brings attention to the diversity of civil society.

The 2019 study by Anheier, Lang, and Toepler, titled "Civil Society in Changing Times: The Need for Narrowing, Changing, and Expanding Spaces and New Regulatory Approaches," explores the challenges faced by Non-governmental Organizations while serving broad masses. The study delves into their roles in advocacy and lobbying, examining their contributions to public policies and the regulatory needs they encounter. This research thoroughly examines the dynamic structure of civil society and the challenges it faces.

Analyses of Non-governmental Organizations' roles within society, how they serve various segments of the population, the continuity of collective actions, and their internal structures have been conducted (Sampson et al., 2005).

The political and developmental roles of civil society, their impact on government policies, and societal changes have also been discussed. In this context, the participation of NGOs in democratic processes, their relationships with different societal segments, and their places within democracy have been debated (Beger, 2004). Studies on the positions of NGOs in the European Union process in Türkiye,

their diverse political demands, and ideological interests are examples of research highlighting the diversity of NGO activities and interactions with societal segments (Ergun, 2013).

Analyses of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) reveal the deep and diverse impacts they have on societies at the local and global levels. Studies demonstrate how NGOs play significant roles in political, economic, and social areas, contributing to societal transformations. Understanding their evolutions during the process of globalization, how they serve various communities, and the challenges they face helps us comprehend the dynamic nature of civil society and its ever-changing needs. These research efforts provide crucial insights into the influence of NGOs on social and political structures, shaping our understanding of their future roles and contributions. Ultimately, the role and importance of NGOs in our societies become more pronounced through their global and local interactions, and their future activities will continue to play a central role in shaping our societies and addressing global challenges.

5.1.2. Social and political impact of NGOs

These organizations contribute significantly to Türkiye's democratization process and play effective roles in creating social awareness and supporting social change. Additionally, NGOs can have a decisive impact on government policies and legal regulations, shaping and directing developments in this field.

In this context, understanding the structure and functioning of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Türkiye is critically important to better grasp their roles and impacts in the social and political spheres. This structure is among the fundamental factors that determine the place of NGOs in society, their activities, and their relationships with the government.

5.2. Relations of Non-governmental Organizations with the Government

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) have increasingly gained importance in contemporary democracies, exerting profound influences on government policies, societal structures, and political processes, thereby becoming key actors in societal and political transformation. When examining various country examples, it is observed that the relationship between NGOs and governments varies

depending on the political, social, and cultural structure of the country. In this context, Türkiye stands out as an example that highlights the complex and dynamic nature of NGOs' relations with the government. The dynamic structure of the relationship between NGOs and the government in Türkiye can be considered a reflection of the country's overall political and societal structure.

NGOs have a significant impact on government policies and societal changes. This interaction manifests itself in various forms in different countries and political systems. Türkiye, with its complex political structure and dynamic societal fabric, serves as a noteworthy example to examine the relations between NGOs and the government.

In Türkiye, the relations between NGOs and the government are often seen as a reflection of the interaction between civil society and state mechanisms. This interaction, at times, takes the form of collaboration and support, while at other times, it adopts a critical and oppositional stance. The relations of NGOs with the government in Türkiye vary depending on political periods and government policies. For instance, during the early 2000s in the process of EU accession, collaboration between the government and NGOs significantly increased (Keyman, İçduygu, 2003).

NGOs in Türkiye play a crucial role in terms of political participation and civic engagement. These organizations serve as a vital bridge for conveying societal demands and concerns to the government and participating in political processes (Kuzmanovic, 2012). Especially in areas such as the environment, human rights, and gender equality, the effectiveness of NGOs is noteworthy.

NGOs can be influential in the formulation and implementation of government policies. In Türkiye, NGOs, particularly those active in the fields of environment and human rights, have spearheaded significant changes in the policymaking process (İlkkaracan, 2000). However, the regulatory role of the government over NGOs and occasional restrictions imposed, determine the boundaries of this effectiveness.

The relations between NGOs and the government in Türkiye have a dynamic and multi-dimensional structure. These relations can fluctuate between collaboration and interaction on one hand and a critical and oppositional stance on the other. The

roles of NGOs in societal and political participation contribute significantly to Türkiye's democratic process, while their impact on government policies is also noteworthy. However, the boundaries and possibilities of this interaction vary depending on both domestic and international political factors.

In conclusion, the relations between NGOs and the government in Türkiye can be evaluated within a complex spectrum. These relations progress at times in collaboration and common goals, while in certain situations, they may follow a critical and oppositional direction. The diverse roles of NGOs have a significant impact on shaping Türkiye's societal and political structure. Simultaneously, this interaction demonstrates that the relations between NGOs and the government are not only responsive to domestic political changes but also sensitive to international dynamics. In this context, the effects of NGOs on government policies and their roles in civic engagement processes remain dynamic and multi-faceted, requiring continuous assessment and analysis.

5.2.1. Importance of collaboration and dialogue

In modern societies, collaboration and dialogue are considered fundamental pillars of social cohesion and political stability. These concepts allow different perspectives and groups to come together to generate common solutions, enabling the harmonious coexistence of social diversity. Türkiye serves as a significant example emphasizing the importance of collaboration and dialogue with its ethnic, cultural, and political diversity. An analysis of Türkiye's political and social structure highlights the impact of collaboration and dialogue on social peace and political stability.

Social diversity in Türkiye increases the importance of collaboration. The peaceful coexistence of different ethnic, religious, and cultural groups requires a collaborative and understanding-based approach. Especially in various regions of Türkiye, ethnic and cultural diversity underscores the vital importance of collaboration for maintaining social harmony (Kaya, 2004).

In the political sphere, dialogue and collaboration in Türkiye form the foundation of political stability and the functioning of democratic processes. Open and constructive dialogue among various political parties and movements contributes to the strengthening of democratic participation and representation (Öniş, 2004).

Particularly in recent years, political polarization issues in Türkiye highlight the significance of dialogue and collaboration.

Collaboration between civil society organizations, the business sector, and the government in Türkiye is a crucial part of social and economic development. For instance, collaboration between NGOs and the government in sustainable development and environmental protection has led to significant policy changes (Göle, 2012). Additionally, collaboration between the public and private sectors in areas such as education and health has improved the quality of social services.

Present-day Türkiye serves as a laboratory demonstrating the tangible impacts of collaboration and dialogue on social and political structures. Türkiye's ethnic, cultural, and political diversity emphasizes the importance of building bridges and creating common ground among differences. This diversity highlights that collaboration and dialogue are critical not only for preserving social peace but also for promoting social progress and development.

The recent political polarization in Türkiye further emphasizes the importance of dialogue and collaboration. Addressing political differences through constructive dialogue can strengthen democratic processes and prevent social conflicts. Healthy communication channels established, especially between political parties and civil society organizations, allow for broader participation and representation in political decision-making processes.

Collaboration between NGOs, the business sector, and the government in shaping economic and social policies plays a vital role in Türkiye's development goals. Collaborations in areas such as sustainable development, environmental protection, education, and health provide valuable contributions to the policymaking process. These collaborations can ensure that government policies better reflect the needs of diverse segments of society and are more effective in implementation.

In conclusion, collaborative and dialogical practices in Türkiye are of vital importance for preserving social cohesion, sustaining political stability, and promoting economic development. These practices also emerge as fundamental elements in overcoming various challenges faced by Türkiye and in establishing a more inclusive, democratic societal structure.

5.2.2. Critical approaches and oversight role

In modern societies, critical thinking is considered one of the cornerstones of democracy. Critical approaches involve the continuous questioning and evaluation of existing systems, policies, and practices. Habermas (1985) defines critical theory as a tool to examine social and political structures and to ensure that these structures become more just and egalitarian. Critical approaches serve as catalysts for social change and progress because they challenge accepted norms and values of the current order, opening the way for innovative ideas and reforms (Foucault, 2008).

The oversight role in the democratic functioning of societies is a practical application of critical thinking. This role involves monitoring, evaluating, and, when necessary, criticizing the activities of governments, institutions, and other authoritative bodies. Oversight is critically important for ensuring social accountability, and it contributes to upholding the principles of the rule of law, transparency, and fair governance (Bovens, 2007). Particularly, media, civil society organizations, and independent oversight bodies undertake this role, supporting and strengthening the functioning of democracy.

In Türkiye, critical approaches and the oversight role have gained increased importance, especially in recent years. The strengthening of critical thinking and independent oversight mechanisms within Türkiye's political and social structure has contributed to the deepening of democratic processes. However, challenges faced by critical thinking and oversight activities should not be overlooked. Pressures faced by independent media organizations and civil society organizations represent some obstacles in these areas (Özbudun, Gençkaya 2009).

In conclusion, critical approaches and the oversight role are indispensable for the healthy functioning of democratic societies. These elements enhance accountability of governments and other power centers, contributing to the promotion of social justice and equality. The example of Türkiye clearly illustrates both the potential and the challenges encountered by these elements. To deepen democracy and sustain social progress, support and strengthening of critical thinking and effective oversight mechanisms are necessary.

5.3. Contributions of Non-governmental Organizations to Government Policies in Türkiye

The contributions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to government policies in Türkiye are essential and warrant greater recognition and encouragement to foster increased participation in these groups. Türkiye serves as a prime example showcasing the impact NGOs can have on shaping government policies. These organizations play vital roles in democratic processes, policy influence, and addressing societal issues, contributing significantly to Türkiye's social and political landscape.

NGOs in Türkiye exert considerable influence during the policy-making process, advocating for the inclusion of civil society voices in policy creation and implementation. Keyman and İçduygu (2003) highlight the growing effectiveness of NGOs in shaping government policies by providing research-based insights, raising public awareness, and applying public pressure on policymakers.

Notably, NGOs significantly impact social policies in Türkiye, particularly in critical areas such as health, education, human rights, and environmental protection. They play pivotal roles in developing and implementing policies that address the needs of marginalized and disadvantaged groups. By conveying societal needs and concerns to policymakers, NGOs ensure that government policies are inclusive and responsive to diverse societal challenges (Özbudun & Gençkaya, 2009).

In conclusion, it is imperative to acknowledge and promote the valuable contributions of NGOs to government policies in Türkiye. Encouraging greater public involvement in these organizations will enhance their effectiveness in influencing policy decisions, fostering a more inclusive and accountable social and political structure, and ultimately strengthening democratic processes in the country.

5.3.1. Impact on policymaking processes

The policy-making process is a fundamental building block of democratic governance and encompasses a wide range of actors. This process involves not only the government and politicians but also non-governmental organizations (NGOs), think tanks, experts, and citizens. The "Multiple Streams Model," developed by Kingdon (1984), elucidates the complexity of the policy-making process and how

various factors interact within this process. This model posits that the policy-making process consists of three main streams: problems, policies, and policy windows.

NGOs are increasingly becoming influential in the policy-making process. These organizations assist in bringing specific issues to the policy agenda by providing research, data, and expertise to policymakers. The "Advocacy Coalition Framework" developed by Sabatier and Jenkins-Smith (1993) provides a useful model for understanding how NGOs are effective in the policy-making process. This model emphasizes the capacity of NGOs to influence policy changes by forming advocacy coalitions in specific policy areas.

Citizen participation in the policy-making process is a fundamental element of democratic processes. Fischer (2003) notes that citizen participation makes the policy-making process more transparent, accountable, and inclusive. This participation brings the needs and preferences of the public to the attention of policymakers and ensures that policy decisions are accepted by a broad cross-section of society.

The impact on policy-making processes is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon. The participation of various actors such as NGOs, experts, think tanks, and citizens makes policy decisions more effective, inclusive, and reflective. This process enhances the quality of democratic governance and allows for better meeting societal needs.

5.3.2. Impact on social policies and bridging role

Social policies play a critical role in addressing the needs and issues of societies. These policies are aimed at enhancing social welfare, particularly in areas such as inequality, poverty, health, education, and social services. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, and policymakers play crucial roles as "bridges" in the creation and implementation of effective social policies in these areas. Putnam (2000), using the concept of social capital, emphasizes the importance of inter-community networks and trust for social development.

NGOs and other social actors have a significant impact on the development of social policies. These organizations ensure that the needs and demands from various segments of society are brought to the attention of policymakers, making social policies more inclusive and effective. Sen (1999), using social choice theory, asserts

that societal well-being is the sum of individuals' well-being levels and policies should be approached from this perspective.

By serving as a bridge between governments and the private sector, NGOs play a crucial role in solving various social issues. These organizations, particularly through advocacy for marginalized groups and disadvantaged communities, ensure that the voices of these groups are heard and included in the policymaking process. Granovetter (1973), using the theory of weak ties, explains that connections between different social groups facilitate the sharing of information and resources, thereby promoting social integration.

The impact on social policies and the role of bridging are of vital importance in increasing social development and welfare. NGOs and other social actors ensure the inclusivity and effectiveness of social policies through participation in the policymaking process. In this process, interaction and collaboration between social groups enhance the success of social policies, elevating the overall well-being of society.

5.4. Contribution of Non-governmental Organizations to Government Policies

Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) have a significant impact on the functioning of democracy and the shaping of government policies. NGOs can influence government policies through participation in policy-making processes, public engagement, advocacy, and monitoring activities. As noted by Edwards and Hulme (1995), NGOs play a crucial role not only in the provision of aid and services but also in the policy-making processes.

NGOs directly participate in or indirectly influence the policy-making process, playing a crucial role in the formulation and implementation of government policies. Through research and reports, policy recommendations, and public debates, NGOs provide information to policymakers and shape the political agenda. Their influence is particularly noteworthy in areas such as human rights, environmental protection, and social justice (Clark, 2000).

NGOs impact government policies through public engagement and advocacy activities. These organizations raise awareness about societal issues through media

and campaigns, creating public pressure on government policies. As emphasized by Batliwala (2002), the advocacy efforts of NGOs can draw attention to specific issues, encouraging policy changes.

Furthermore, NGOs contribute to enhancing transparency and accountability in the monitoring of government policies and practices. By monitoring and evaluating policy implementations, NGOs ensure that governments and public institutions become more transparent and accountable (Goodin, Bovens, 2014).

The contributions of non-governmental organizations to government policies are a fundamental part of democratic processes. Through participation in policy-making processes, public engagement, advocacy, and monitoring, NGOs ensure that government policies are more inclusive, effective, and accountable. These contributions are vital for improving overall societal well-being and strengthening democratic governance.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The influence of Türk-İş Confederation of Trade Unions on government policies in Türkiye represents a dynamic process that has led to significant changes in the social and economic structure. As a prominent representative of labor rights and the trade union movement, Türk-İş' s active participation in policy-making processes and its role in shaping economic policies are integral parts of democratic processes and societal transformation.

Türk-İş' s impact on government policies in Türkiye represents a dynamic process leading to significant changes in the social and economic structure. This influence is an integral part of democratic processes and societal transformation. The activities of the union highlight Türk-İş' s substantial impact on government policies and emphasize its significant role in shaping them.

This study delves into a comprehensive examination of Türk-İş' s influence on government policies in Türkiye. The findings from the literature study on the impact of Türk- İş Confederation of Trade Unions as a civil society organization on legislative processes in Türkiye offer valuable insights that warrant detailed examination from various perspectives.

Firstly, the study illuminates the diverse interpretations of the concept of civil society by different scholars, highlighting the complex and multidimensional nature of civil society. This underscores the need for a nuanced and comprehensive approach to understanding the role of civil society organizations in societal dynamics and governance processes.

Furthermore, the thesis emphasizes a crucial finding regarding the factors influencing government policies, particularly the significant role played by economic conditions. It illustrates that economic circumstances serve as a decisive factor in shaping government policies in Türkiye, directly impacting the influence of civil society organizations. This aspect underscores the intricate interplay between economic dynamics and civil society activism in the policy-making arena.

Additionally, the study delves into Türk İş's establishment in 1952 and its efforts to find a place in Türkiye amidst processes of internationalization and globalization. This historical context sheds light on the evolving nature of civil society organizations within the changing global landscape, reflecting the impact of international dynamics on local organizations' strategies and goals.

However, as indicated in the thesis, Türk İş faced challenges of inadequacy and limitation in its initiatives, particularly after the 1970s due to the effects of privatization and liberal economic policies. This finding highlights the complex interplay of political, economic, and global factors that influence the expected impact of civil society organizations on legislative activities in Türkiye.

In conclusion, the findings serve as a foundational starting point for a deeper understanding and evaluation of Türk İş and other civil society organizations' impact on legislative processes in Türkiye. Continued research in this area is crucial for comprehending and enhancing civil society's role in democratic processes and governance, ultimately contributing to a more robust and inclusive democratic framework in Türkiye.

Türk-İş and similar civil society organizations encounter a myriad of challenges that impede their ability to effectively influence government policies and advocate for labor rights. One crucial recommendation is to proactively address the hesitations and obstacles in establishing a unified base among workers. Strengthening solidarity and fostering a sense of unity within the labor force can significantly enhance Türk-İş's collective power and influence. This can be achieved through initiatives that promote collaboration, inclusivity, and shared goals among workers, ultimately enabling Türk-İş to better represent and address the diverse needs and concerns of its members.

In addition to addressing internal unity, Türk-İş should prioritize efforts to navigate and adapt to changing economic conditions that have weakened workers' activism. Implementing strategic initiatives to empower and mobilize workers, especially in challenging economic climates, is essential for Türk-İş to maintain its relevance and effectiveness in advocating for labor rights. This includes providing resources, support networks, and advocacy platforms that empower workers to actively engage in shaping policies that affect their livelihoods.

Furthermore, addressing challenges related to the lack of capital is paramount for Türk-İş to make strategic moves and effectively engage with key stakeholders, including the private sector. Developing sustainable funding mechanisms, forging strategic partnerships, and leveraging financial resources effectively are essential steps to strengthen Türk-İş's capacity to negotiate and influence policy decisions that impact workers' rights and well-being.

Moreover, Türk-İş must prioritize collaboration and unity within the broader trade union movement by actively working to resolve inter-union opposition and fostering a culture of cooperation and collective action. A unified and cohesive trade union movement can wield greater influence and present a more formidable force in advocating for policy changes and addressing societal challenges that affect workers' rights and welfare.

The decline in idealistic unionists and workers underscores the critical need for Türk-İş to revitalize and inspire a sense of idealism and purpose within the trade union movement. This can be achieved through education, training, and outreach programs that promote the values of solidarity, social justice, and collective action among workers. By reigniting a sense of purpose and commitment among unionists, Türk-İş can bolster its societal impact and effectiveness in advocating for labor rights and shaping policies that promote social and economic justice.

Lastly, addressing cultural decay within the trade union movement is essential for Türk-İş to regain prestige, credibility, and influence in advocating for labor rights. Reinforcing ideological foundations, promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical leadership, and fostering a culture of inclusivity and diversity are crucial steps in revitalizing Türk-İş's societal impact and ensuring its continued effectiveness in shaping social and economic policies that benefit workers and society as a whole. Moreover, taking a critical stance against government policies could enhance Türk-İş's credibility and reputation among the public. A critical approach emphasizes the union's commitment to social and economic justice, garnering increased support from both the working class and the general public. This would position Türk-İş as a more effective actor in social dialogue and societal transformation processes.

These recommendations provide a strategic roadmap for Türk-İş and the broader trade union movement to play a more effective role in labor rights and social

justice areas. Türk-İş's adoption of these strategies not only strengthens labor rights and the trade union movement but also contributes significantly to the democratization process in Türkiye and the formulation of social and economic policies. In conclusion, this study contributes significantly to academia by examining the impact of Türk-İş and similar organizations on government policies and their reflections on Türkiye's overall societal and political structure. It suggests that Türk-İş, with an independent and critical stance in its relations with the government, could play a more effective role in advocating for labor rights. This approach not only guides Türk-İş's future strategies and goals but also positions it as a critical factor in shaping Türkiye's social and economic policies.



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