

# **To "live with" Earthquakes: An attempt to build a better relationship between the Humanosphere and the Geosphere in Istanbul, Turkey**

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## **Abstract**

In the modern world the reexamination of the worsening relationship between the Humanosphere and the Geosphere is a major concern. In Turkey, the Marmara Earthquake that hit the northwestern part of the country in 1999 provided an opportunity to reflect on the relationship. I will develop an alternative perspective of the relationship by examining the consequences of the disaster. In Istanbul, the biggest city in the country, the attention to the Geosphere was increased following the catastrophe. Although quite a few people perceived the earthquake in an Islamic way, they tried to make their understanding of the mechanisms of the Geosphere, uniting scientific knowledge transmitted through the media and information released by the local government (hazard maps etc.). Of course this was not an abrupt change but partly a result of slow "crustal movements" surrounding contemporary Istanbul. People recognized Istanbul's vulnerability to future earthquake and followed scientists' call: To learn to "live with" earthquakes. They attempted to develop their own logic and practices as a hybrid of science, religion, and traditional values. Although their struggles to cope with the risk were confronted with problems and were also followed by backlash, they suggest us the direction we head. Here a better relationship between the Humanosphere and the Geosphere could be observed.