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### **The Turkish Cyanide Controversy: A Social Uptake of Risk**

“Profit expectancy” has become the driving motive in most of the human actions in our modern world. However the idea of unlimited consumption and profit gained by technological development have been challenged and limited by the unintentional social consequences of technological change and the risks that are inevitably tied to them. People are now aware of the pollution, environmental degradation, resource depletion and many other risks that come together with modern technologies.

However, since the perceptions of related actors differ due to several economic, cultural and political reasons, debates about a risk issue inevitably turn into conflicts.

The purpose of this study is to analyse the economic, political and cultural motives lying behind such a conflict that aroused in a rural village of Turkey, namely Bergama, due to the siting of a multinational gold mine using cyanide in its production. Intended for this aim, the media materials and related studies were examined, interviews with rural peasants, locals, lawyers of the locals, experts, workers and managers of the gold mine were conducted. The analysis is made with the help of the conceptual tools of the social arena theory. Moreover, by employing an integrated study of the realist and constructivist approaches to risk, this particular social experience of risk is studied for a more comprehensive analysis.