STUDIES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF PALESTINE IN THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES

In spite of all the attention which the problem of Palestine has received little basic research has been undertaken on the recent economic and social history of the Arab population of the country, both before and after 1948.

This book contains four new studies on different aspects of the subject. They include an examination of the first effects of European involvement on the urban and rural economy of Palestine during the mid-nineteenth century and a detailed analysis of socio-economic change in one very important hill region in the 1920s and 1930s: the Jabal Nablus. A third essay looks at the complicated problem of applying the concepts of 'faction' and 'class' to the study of Palestinian Arab society and Palestinian political activity, while a fourth traces the misfortunes of the villagers and refugees living along the new Israeli/Jordanian demarcation line in the years just after the 1948 war.

There is also a long introduction by the editor in which he examines the particular problems and difficulties involved in the analysis of the socio-economic history of a country which was both the colony of a great power and the site of a major attempt to establish a Jewish national home.

Dr Roger Owen, the editor of this volume, is Lecturer in the Recent Economic History of the Middle East and Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford. He is a former Director of the Middle East Centre at St Antony's.

He is the author of *Cotton and the Egyptian Economy, 1820-1914* and *The Middle East in the World Economy, 1800-1914* and the editor or co-editor of *Studies in the Theory of Imperialism*, *Essays in the Crisis in Lebanon* and *Studies in Eighteenth Century Islamic History*.

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Edited by

ROGER OWEN

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Contents

<i>List of Tables, Figures and Maps</i>	vi
<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Notes on the Contributors</i>	x
<i>Note on Transliteration</i>	xi
<i>The Maps</i>	xii
<i>Introduction</i>	1
ROGER OWEN	
1. European Penetration and the Economic Development of Palestine, 1856–82	10
ALEXANDER SCHÖLCH	
2. The Political Economy of the Jabal Nablus, 1920–48	88
SARAH GRAHAM-BROWN	
3. Factionalism and Class Formation in Recent Palestinian History	177
SALIM TAMARI	
4. The Palestinians of Jordan's Border	203
AVI PLASCOV	
<i>Index</i>	243

List of Tables, Figures and Maps

TABLES

1.1 Population of the towns of Palestine in the nineteenth century	57
1.2 Average annual export of the main articles from Jaffa, Haifa and Acre	57
1.3 Main export articles of Jaffa (by quantity)	58
1.4 Value of the three main export articles of Jaffa in various years and their percentage of total exports	59
1.5 Main export articles of Acre, 1872–80 (by quantity)	60
1.6 Main export articles of Haifa, 1872–80 (by quantity)	60
1.7 Cotton exports from Acre and Haifa, 1852–62	61
1.8 Estimate of the average proportion of northern Palestine's cultivated area devoted to certain crops, 1858–62	61
1.9 Increase in exports of main export articles from Jaffa (by quantity)	62
1.10 Exports and imports of Jaffa (value in PT)	62
1.11 Value of exports and imports of Jaffa, 1876–82, according to non-British consular reports	63
1.12 Average value of export prices at Jaffa by quarter and year (in PT)	64
1.13 Average annual export prices at Acre, Haifa and Jaffa (in PT)	65
1.14 Consumer prices in Jerusalem, 1858 and 1880 (in PT)	66
1.15 Main imports at Jaffa, 1874–7 and 1879–82 (in PT)	67
1.16 Daily wages in the building industry in Jerusalem, 1861–3	68

1.17 Occupational structure of the population in Jerusalem in 1877	68
1.18 Traffic between Jaffa and Jerusalem in 1877	71
1.19 Annual income from transport between Jaffa and Jerusalem in 1881 (£T)	71
1.20 Occupational structure in Bethlehem (about 1890)	72
1.21 Occupational structure of Nazareth in 1890	73
2.1 The redemption prices of six major Palestinian crops on which the tithe was commuted, 1924–7 and their market price in July 1930	157
2.2 Share of Jews, Arabs and others in Palestine's foreign assets, 1946	158
2.3 Percentage of population of the sub-districts of Nablus, Tulkarm and Jenin dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, 1931	158
2.4 The relationship of peasant population to agricultural land in the Jenin sub-district	158
2.5 Stages of settlement work reached in the 167 villages brought under settlement at the end of 1935	159
2.6 Number of privately-owned parcels of land in five villages, distributed according to the number of owners of each parcel, 1944	160
2.7 Estimates of the average cost of agricultural production, of income and profit, 1930	161
2.8 Income and expenditure of an 'ordinary fellah' according to Wilkansky (area 80–100 dunums)	162
2.9 Olive propagation: olive trees planted by the government according to source, 1924/5–1936/7	163
2.10 Wholesale prices of Nablusi soap compared with that of the Shemen factory, 1929–40 (£P per 100 kilos)	164
2.11 Exports of soap from Palestine, 1928–40	164
2.12 Average wages paid to labour per 9-hour day in 1929 (skilled and semi-skilled work)	164
2.13 Estimates of wage labour employed outside the village in two Palestinian sub-districts during World War II	165
2.14 Source of income for wage-earners in three Palestinian sub-districts, 1931	165
2.15 Estimated production of Palestinian crops for the years 1927–42	166
2.16 Domestic expenditures of various colonial governments in the interwar period by purpose (per cent)	167

FIGURES

2.1 Types of Share Contract	115
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MAPS

1. Northern Palestine	xii
2. Central and Southern Palestine	xiii
3. The Arab border villages showing the 1949 Armistice line	xiv

Preface

The four essays which form this volume were all written by friends and colleagues with some connection with the Middle East Centre of St Antony's College, whether as students, academic visitors or contributors to seminars. Although each piece of research was originally intended to stand in its own right it is my belief that, taken together, they constitute an important contribution to the study of the modern economic and social history of Palestine.

I was distressed to learn of the tragic and untimely death of Avi Plascov during the proofing of the book. I wish he had lived to see it.

Roger Owen

Notes on the Contributors

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Note on Transliteration

Arabic words and proper nouns have been presented in as simple a form as possible. Those which can be found in *The Shorter Oxford Dictionary* have been presented in their anglicised form (thus, for example, fellaheen, feddan). Place names are given according to the way they appeared on the official maps produced by the Government of Palestine before 1948. Other words and names have been transliterated according to the method to be found in Wehr's *Arabic Dictionary*, but without diacriticals except in the case of the names of authors and titles to be found in the Notes and References sections, where ayns and hamzas have been used.

MAP 1 Northern Palestine

MAP 2 *Central and Southern Palestine*

MAP 3 The Arab border villages showing the 1949 Armistice line