

the process of land expropriation. Although all the literature alludes to the same example, the sale of the land previously owned by the Sursuks, no evidence has ever been provided to demonstrate why it was more beneficial for the owners to sell the land than to utilize it themselves for capitalistic purposes. Most importantly, though, is the fact that underlying all these explanations is the assumption that the transfer was a peaceful process.

In the following, three cases of land 'transfer' will be discussed, The Marj land, referred to as the "Sursuk's sale", Zeita village and the village of Wadi al-Hawareth.

#### Case One: The Sursuk's Transfer of the Marj:

One of the major sources of land appropriated by the Zionist colonial companies was the so-called Sursuk Sales. The Sursuks were said to own a large area in Palestine estimated at about 500,000d. Part of this land was in the plain of the Esdrealon or the Marj and the other part in the Huleh plain. What is of particular concern here is the land estimated at 240,000d. in the Marj plain.

The whole area of the Marj was estimated at 400,000d. of which 372,000d. were cultivable. (4) In the early 1920s, most of this land, estimated at 240,000d. and comprising over 20 villages were transferred to certain Zionist colonial companies.

The 'transfer' of this land resulted in the expropriation of thousands of peasant families, who for generations had worked this land as their only source of living.

To comprehend the case of the Marj transfer, the question as to why this land was chosen as the first colonial enterprise will be dealt with first.

Views on the importance of the Marj to the Zionist colonial project