

played a much greater role in these transactions than did pure economic motivation. They also show that when land was transferred the peasants were often removed by force. Even more importantly, these cases are indicative of a wider and more comprehensive process of change, the dynamics of which affected the majority of the peasants.

The process of land and peasant expropriation, it was shown, was not limited to individual villages. This process, enhanced by the British taxation system, affected the whole socio-economic structure of the peasant economy. While expropriation created more poverty, taxation served as a mechanism for further expropriation. The ultimate result of this process, it was shown, was poverty, indebtedness and destitution.

The detailed analysis of the issue of peasant and land expropriation provided in this chapter was necessary for illuminating two focal points. On the one hand, it has been shown that the role of the colonial state in the process of land transfer from the indigenous Palestinians to the European (Jewish) settlers cannot be ignored or understated. Legal and political mechanisms used in the process, it has been shown, were crucial to the 'transfer of land' and to the expropriation of land and peasants. Moreover, this chapter has demonstrated that the colonial state did not operate alone in Palestine. Zionism, vaguely defined at this stage of the study as the ideology of the European Jewish bourgeois class, has played an equally important role in the process of expropriation.

Colonialism in its Zionist form, this chapter showed was not solely based on the economic exploitation of the indigenous Palestinians. Data gathered on land 'transfer' here provide that the Zionist