

both the Turks and the British, in particular the latter, contributed to this change. However, the most crucial factor was, and still is, the impact of Jewish colonial settlements commencing in 1882 and continuing until today.

These changes can be summarized by listing major events which resulted in changes in aspects of the physical surface of certain areas, and the erasing of almost all features of nineteenth century Arab Palestine in areas such as the coastal plain.

1882 onwards: The beginning of a continuing process of establishing Jewish settlements in Palestine (Fig. 1.3).

1900 onwards: The "success" of the prevailing government's ability to control the Bedouin community and hence the curbing of Bedouin raids on villages. The provision of security (in favour of peasants) allowed for the spread of sedentary settlements into formerly Bedouin domains.

1917- 1948: Rapid growth of Jewish settlements and a general westward movement of important urban centres and rural population, both Jewish and Arab (Migdal, 1980: 2-31).

1948 - 1952: The establishment of the Jewish State of Israel and the growth of Israeli Jewish settlements. Eastward flight of Palestinian refugees, and a decline in Arab urban and rural settlements. The eradication of approximately 410 Arab villages inside the state of Israel (Fig. 1.4).

1952 - 1967: More Jewish settlements in Israel. Urbanisation and growth of east urban centres. An increase in Arab villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. An increase of 50% (132) in the number of Arab villages on the West Bank: villages in the Jerusalem and Hebron districts increased by 144% and those in the Nablus area by 25% (Efrat, 1977: 99). More Arab villages in