

Valley, the Hula, Baisan, and Haifa sub-district, western parts of the central plain (Sharon plain) and lower Galilee (Fig. 1.7).

- Sedentary areas. These included the costal plain, the peasant highlands (the Galilee, Nablus, Jerusalem and Hebron mountains) and the town of Jericho in the Jordan Valley.

- Peripheral semi-nomadic and sedentary areas. These were juxtapositions of lowland-highland areas: the southern, western and northern slopes of the central highlands, the southern slopes of lower Galilee and the Hula Valley (after 1835), and the Haifa sub-district.

Since the focus of this chapter is on sedentary rural settlements, the first and third categories (semi-nomadic and peripheral areas) will be discussed only in relation to rural sedentary settlements or, in other words, in terms of how the presence of Bedouin communities influenced rural settlements.

THE BEDOUIN-PEASANT RELATION

Only those aspects of Bedouin life that influenced peasant settlements will be considered at length here. Even though the Bedouin in Palestine have always been a relatively small proportion of the total population, 7% in 1922 (Barron, 1923: 4), 6.4% in 1931 (Miles, 1933: 330), and 1% in 1961 (Mushav, 1956: 265-380, and Amiran, 1963: 247), one should not underestimate their influence in the history of sedentary settlements up to the turn of this century.

Unlike the Bedouin in Syria and Arabia who tended to roam with their herds and animals and cover a large area, the Bedouin of Palestine had a base to which they always returned. Areas of influence and control were very well defined among the Bedouin tribes. The Naqab area was inhabited by three tribes: Tayayha, Al-Azazmeh and the Tarabin. Each of these tribes had a well defined area over which it had complete sovereignty and control. Protection tax (khuweh), had to be paid to the sheikh of the tribe before any