

the implementation of reforms in Hebron, it is therefore advisable to first review the chronology of the promulgation of the reforms in the Empire and their implementation in Palestine. Four sections comprise this chapter. In the first section, we will discuss the promulgation of relevant land-tenure reform laws. The subsequent section discusses property-tax reform. The third section will bring together available evidences that shed light on the progress of the implementation of, if you will pardon the pun, reforms on the ground in Palestine. Following that, in the fourth and final section, the introduction of registration commissions to Palestine will be discussed.

### **Land-Tenure Reform: The Legalistic View**

Following the April 1858 Land Code, additional related regulations and modifications were announced periodically over the coming decades. Title deeds for *mülk* (private property) were not issued until 1274 (1291 H), and the law regarding title deeds for endowed properties was promulgated only the following year.<sup>47</sup> Article 3 of the Land Code defined *tapu* as a payment made to the government for the right to possess *miri* lands.<sup>48</sup> Book One of the Code treats *miri* lands in detail. Its first part defines the right of usufruct (*tassaruf*), including what can and cannot be done on *miri* lands and how permissions to improve *miri*

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<sup>47</sup> The former on 28 Rajab 1291 (10 September 1874) and the latter on 6 Rajab 1292 (8 August 1875). For the texts of these laws, see Ongley 229-238, 249-256.

<sup>48</sup> Ongley, 3.