

yet have clerks to register properties.<sup>113</sup> In early 1874, however, the Grand Vizier would announce that land-registry and tapu clerks were in place everywhere across the Empire.<sup>114</sup>

Toward the end of the summer that year, the system of title deeds that had begun in 1858 with the Land Code for usufruct on *miri* lands, and which was broadened in early 1865 with regulations providing for tapu certificates for leasing rights on waqf lands, was expanded to provide title deeds for *mülk*, as well.<sup>115</sup> The 1874 *Emlāk nizamname* has been discussed above.

### **On the Ground in Palestine: Early Beginnings of Land-Tenure Reforms**

Voluntary tapu registrations in the Jerusalem region began in the early years of land-tenure reform. Evidence shows that individuals were registering property with the tapu in Jerusalem as least as early as 1861. In the late fall of that year, for example, villager Mustafa b. Muhammad Musa of 'Isāwiyya, near Jerusalem, recorded in the sharia court of Jerusalem his purchase from a fellow villager of nine *qirāṭs* (shares of twenty-fourths) of a parcel of farmland. The parcel was described in the court record by its number (255) and the declared

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<sup>113</sup> ISAM, *Salname* 1291, 86-88.

<sup>114</sup> Ongley, 89.

<sup>115</sup> *Emlak-ı sırfa için Defterhane'den verilecek senedata dair nizamname* (Code of regulations regarding the title deeds that will be given by the *Office of the Registry [of Landed Properties]* especially for properties (of 28 Rajab 1291 / 10 September 1874. See the text of the law in translation in Ongley, 229-238,