

is, of course, “*all of the lands*”. Even in the villages of Hebron in which the entirety of agricultural lands was registered as undivided communal property in the tax register of 1876, the villages’ houses were registered separately. This was accepted as complying with the letter of the law, as the fact of its registration clearly demonstrates. Image 3.1 on the following page maps the villages which have been documented as having held agricultural properties in musha.

As the map illustrates, reference has been found to eight villages with agricultural properties held communally as musha. As it shows, not all musha found to exist in Hebron in the last quarter of the nineteenth century was declared as such in the *Esas-ı Emlak* register. In 1876, only four villages in the Hebron district registered some of their properties as musha. Two of these were among the most populous villages in the district, Dura and Yaṭṭa, with 320 and 176 residences, respectively. Samu’, located not far from Dura and Yatta in the southern part of the district, had 64 residences. Shuyukh, in the eastern part of the district, was relatively smaller. To understand the function of musha for these villages, we will consider each in turn.