

decreased to 69 percent. On the other hand, the Jewish population, due primarily to immigration, increased from 58,728 or 8 percent of the total population in 1918 to 602,586 or 31 percent by the end of 1946. In other words, there was an increase of more than half a million immigrant settlers in less than thirty years.

That pace and size of European population movement into other lands was unprecedented in the early stages of any other European settlement, and in some cases, for example in Rhodesia, was never achieved throughout the years of settlement. While obviously there are differences in time and space, some population figures from other regions nonetheless help provide a useful perspective of the general impact European settlement had on the small society and country of Palestine. In the American colonies of what eventually became the United States, it took 100 years, from 1620 to 1720, for the European population to reach half a million.<sup>10</sup> In the areas that became known as the Union of South Africa, it took more than 250 years, from 1652 to 1911, for the European population to reach 1,275,000 but which represented only 21 percent (23.5 percent if the Asian population is added) of the total population.<sup>11</sup>

The comparison with Rhodesia is even more instructive as European settlement started there (1890) at almost the same time as in Palestine when the indigenous population of both countries was comparable (about half a million). In

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<sup>10</sup>U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Historical Statistics of the United States* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1975), Series Z, 1168.

<sup>11</sup>Rodney Davenport and Christopher Saunders, *South Africa: A Modern History*, 5th ed. (New York: St. Martin's Press, Inc., 2000), 428.