

interlocked within the one process. However, they are, at first, dealt with separately.

2.1 Land Tenure

As in the rest of the Ottoman Empire, land in Palestine was classified into five legal categories. Although these categories previously existed, they were codified in the Land Code of 1858.¹ First was *Arazi Memluke (Mulk)* (i.e., freehold). These lands included mainly building sites within and on the border of villages and towns. The holder of *Mulk* land had the *raqaba* (absolute ownership) and *tasarruf* rights (usufruct of).² Second was *Arazi Mirie (Miri)* (i.e., crown or state land). *Miri* constituted the bulk of land in the Ottoman Empire. On *Miri* land, the *raqaba* belongs to the state, but the *tasarruf* belongs to the individual. However, as in the case of *Mulk* land, *Miri* land could be both inherited and the usufruct sold. Third was *Arazi Mevkufe (Waqf)*, which was held for a charitable or religious purpose. Fourth was *Arazi Metruke* (i.e., abandoned land). Fifth was *Arazi Mevat (Mewat)* (i.e., dead or uncultivated land). However, *mulk* status could be conferred on *mewat* land by order of the sultan upon reclamation of such land

¹These categories were taken from translated excerpts reprinted in Z. Y. Hershlag, *Introduction to the Modern Economic History of the Middle East* (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1964), 298-300.

²Doreen Warriner, "Land Tenure in the Fertile Crescent," in *The Economic History of the Middle East, 1800-1914*, ed. Charles Issawi (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1966), 73.