

families would be insignificant as argued above. Finally, my use of the term *landless peasants* is not to be understood in a literal sense of absolutely not owned any land. They owned the land on which their houses were built. They did not own other land that they could cultivate and which would be one of the sources for their subsistence. I will deal with this issue in more detail in the chapter on the differentiation of the peasantry.

My argument and conclusion are borne out by additional data in the *Census of Palestine, 1931*. The census enumerated a total of 121,516 earners/families of Palestinian Arabs engaged in pasture and agriculture. Of these, 29,957 were agricultural laborers, representing about 25 percent of the total.⁹⁸ This does not include other categories listed in the census such as shepherds and fishermen. The significance of the census for our argument is that it also enumerated what was classified as “partly agriculturists” for each category of occupation that, in our case, meant that these people were engaged in a “subsidiary occupation” to “augment their means of subsistence,”⁹⁹ namely, as “ordinary cultivators” or as receivers of “income from rent of agricultural land.”¹⁰⁰ Of the 29,957 classified as agricultural laborers, only 331 were also included in the “partly agriculturists” category. In other words, only 331 earners were owners or cultivators of land but

⁹⁸Government of Palestine, *Census of Palestine, 1931*, vol. II (Jerusalem: Government Printer, 1931), Table XVI, 282-3; the numbers exclude nomads but includes “others” whose numbers are insignificant.

⁹⁹*Ibid.*, 281.

¹⁰⁰*Ibid.*