

intensified commoditization of land and the spread of market relations.

The government's taxation policy had a differential impact on urban and rural areas. The rural areas paid proportionally more taxes than did the urban areas. The latter did not have an income tax instituted until 1940-1941. In the rural areas, Arab peasants paid a higher proportion of their net income in taxes than did the Jewish farmers.

Indebtedness during the pre-Mandate period did not necessarily mean loss of land or access to the use of land because market relations were very limited as was the commoditization of land. During the Mandate, the increase in debt ultimately led to the loss of land or parts of it by many peasants. The loss of land by and the pauperization of peasantry offer the main explanations, in addition to nationalist reasons, for the participation of peasants in the 1936-1939 Revolt. It was the landless and poor peasants who were the major force behind and the ones who sustained the revolt.

However, in spite of the pauperization of most of the Arab peasantry, agricultural production grew substantially for the country as a whole and in terms of Arab production with the exception in the number of animals. However, the rate of growth varied between and within the two communities. It also varied within crops, with cash crops becoming dominant in value terms. The increase in cash crops reflected the increase in wage labor and intensive cultivation. Within cash crops, citrus production was predominant whether measured in value, exports, or the use of wage labor. It also received preferential treatment by the government