

chases from the British Administration in Palestine. This is probably because the British, by virtue of their political power and means, had assisted Zionist land acquisition in a rather indirect, but more effective, way. In 1922, for example, Shmoel, the British Mandatory High Commissioner to Palestine (el-Mandoub es-sami), imposed a law prohibiting the export of oils and grains (the main indigenous crops and the basis of the country's wealth) so that, in effect, peasants failed to pay taxes and repay agricultural loans and, therefore, were forced to sell their land to Jewish settlers. Shmoel went even further: he eliminated the Ottoman Agricultural Bank and demanded the immediate repayment of loans, leaving the Palestinian peasants with no other alternative but to sell their plots of land and to become landless with nothing but their labor power.<sup>45</sup>

On July 24 of the same year, a mandate was issued by the British facilitating Jewish immigration and providing the Zionist movement with the right to el-Amiri and el-Mowat lands (the commons), usually controlled by the political authorities, the "State".<sup>46</sup>

Moreover, the Mandatory authorities provided the Zionist companies with the exclusive privilege, accompanied by political and economic protection, to develop the Lake Houlah region, which alone constitutes one-third of Palestine's arable land.<sup>47</sup>

In the late 1920s, the British authorities granted Zionist companies 82,000 donams of agricultural land, in addition to lands provided for industrial development by Zionist monopolistic companies.<sup>48</sup>

This is to give only a few examples of the role of the British colonial authorities in the dispossession of the Palestinian peasantry, and the enhancement of Jewish settlement.

As far as the creation of labor surplus is concerned, the worst effects