

III - The Land and Its Ownership

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PALESTINE COVERS an area of 27,027 square kilometres (10,435 square miles) of territory of which 704 square kilometres (271 square miles) are under water.

In terms of dunums, the land area comprises 26,323,023 dunums, and the water area 704,000 dunums (Half the Dead Sea — 525,000 dunums, the other half being in Jordan; Lake Tiberias or the Sea of Galilee — 165,000 dunums; and Lake Huleh — 14,000 dunums), making a total area of 27,027,023 dunums.

Table I, which is based on the figures in the 'Village Statistics 1945,' classifies the ownership of the 26,323,023 dunums of land as follows:

Arabs	12,766,524 ¹	or	48.50%
Jews	1,491,699	or	5.67%
Public	1,491,690 ²	or	5.67%
The unassigned 'uncultivable' lands of the Beersheba sub-district	10,573,110 ³	or	40.16%

Table II, classifies the ownership of the 'Cultivable' lands, which include land planted with citrus, bananas and other fruit trees, fish ponds, and land under cereal cultivation, as follows:

Arabs	7,797,129 ⁴	or	84.70%
Jews	1,176,745	or	12.78%
Public	231,664	or	2.52%
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Total	9,205,538		

Table III deals with the ownership of town and village built-up areas and lands classified for fiscal purposes as 'Non-cultivable,' that is, land which was regarded as incapable of cultivation by the ordinary means of husbandry

(1) Of this 142,050 dunums, or 0.54 per cent, are owned by 'Others.'

(2) An area of 49,700 dunums has been deducted from the column of 'Public' and included under the column for 'Arabs' because the plantations thereon are owned by the Arab cultivators who also possess hereditary tenancy rights over the land.

(3) This vast area appears in the 'Village Statistics' under the separate column of 'Uncultivable Land' as distinct from areas appearing under the column of 'Public' because any rights the Government may have claimed therein had not been settled before the termination of the Mandate.

(4) Of this, 49,700 dunums of citrus, bananas and other fruit trees were recorded in the 'Village Statistics 1945' under 'Public' and 81,604 dunums under 'Others.'