

the transfer was in fact "low" and "reasonable". (13)

Yet, the price offered in the sale contracts was not for land only. For the price offered, "all the buildings, mills, trees, forests, the two water sources..and the diggings" were supposed to be included in the transfer. (14)

The "Land development Company" in fact paid for the land without first having it surveyed. Their own survey conducted after the sale, however, showed that more land was obtained than was actually paid for. Thus, in one case only, the village of Maa'lul (in the Marj deal), the size of the land entered in the sale document was registered at 17,813d. After the land was surveyed its actual size was estimated at 19,500d. (15)

It is important to note here that the sale documents includes contradictory information. The direct correspondance between the purchasers (the L.D.C) and the sellers (the Sursuks) refer to 71,356d. as the actual size of land to be purchased. However, correspondance between the Zionists themselves, that is between the Zionist Organization, Palestine branch and the Zionist Organization, London main branch, reference is usually made to 100,000d. which the L.D.C believed it will obtain after the transfer.(16)

The discussion so far reveals that the so-called "high" price paid for the Marj land was, to say the least, not the sole reason for the sale. If this was not the main reason then what could it have been? In the following, it will be shown, that a larger political force, namely, British colonial policies were involved in this case. These policies which included both legal and violent means were the determining force in the process of land transfer. In 1856 when the Ottoman Land Ordinance was introduced, it included specific clauses