

capitalism in general and the expropriation of the cultivators in particular. Of particular importance here is taxation which took a tremendous toll on the direct producers.

#### Taxing the Rural Population:

Within the Marxist literature, the role of taxation in expropriating the direct producers and preparing the grounds for capitalist development is widely emphasized (Marx,1978; Luxemburg,1951; Bradby,1980).

As with other formal colonies, Palestine was expected to pay its own way financially as well as to support the cost of the local garrison. The budget of the civil administration was totally based on the revenue collected from the local population. Moreover, over half of the administration's expenditures, Stein writes, "continuously went toward supporting the gendarmerie and strengthening Britain's strategic presence in Palestine" (Stein, 1984:31).

These revenues came primarily from direct and indirect taxation. Between 1920-33 direct and indirect taxes accounted for more than 50 per cent of the government's revenue. While 15 per cent came from the tithes only, 35 per cent came from custom duty on imported articles for consumption (Gozansky, 1986:94). The burden of indirect taxation fell mainly on the shoulders of the direct producers, since items like sugar, salt, matches and tobacco, which they consumed were heavily taxed. (40) Yet, it was the direct taxation, its magnitude and the means of collection which was of utmost significance in terms of its toll on the rural inhabitants.

In 1920 the government in Palestine adopted all Ottoman laws concerning taxation. The three major forms of taxes levied under the Ottomans, tithes, werko and animal tax continued to be levied from the