

1924-7, as well as being levied by force. (70) The only change of note involved the form of the tax. The "Rural Property Tax" was introduced as a more efficient mechanism for coping with the increasingly capitalistic nature of the Palestinian economy.

Large-scale expropriation accompanied with excessive taxation carried out particularly in the 1920s had severe social and economic consequences on the Palestinian direct producers. Between 1929 and 1931 several official commissions of enquiry concluded, unanimously, that the Palestinian peasants (fallaheen) were heavily indebted and impoverished. Of particular significance was the finding which confirmed that landlessness among the peasants was a direct consequence of Jewish settlement. Before examining some of the data of these enquiries, it is important to look at the circumstances which prompted the government to conduct massive research in this period.

In 1929 a general peasant uprising took place. In this uprising the peasants demanded that the government put an end to Jewish immigration, stop land transfer, and change its taxation policy. The "violent disturbances" as one official report referred to the uprising, forced the government to look into the demands of the indigenous population. (71)

In an attempt to review its taxation policies, the government appointed a committee of enquiry to examine the "economic conditions of the agriculturists and fiscal measures of government in relation thereto". The report of this committee, known as the Johnson-Crosbie report, suggested that the "agriculturists" were heavily indebted and poor, and that many of them had even lost their land. The report recommended that the government change its 1920 "Land Transfer