

This chapter explores effects of the implementation of Land Code reforms in Palestine. It seeks to gauge, in the post-Tanzimat years, the degree of internalization by the rural population of the new vocabulary of property tenure and new methods of claiming and proving this tenure. It likewise seeks to evaluate economic effects of these reforms on rural agriculturalists. The methodology chosen is case-study.

Groups of villagers from Taffuh, Idhna, and Bayt Kahil each separately brought to Hebron's sharia court in 1894-1895 apparently unrelated disputes regarding their tenure of farmlands in an area called Jamrūra. The geographical and chronological concurrence of these disputes makes them suitable for comparative study. The timing of their occurrence, two decades after the systematic *Esas-ı Emlak* tax-assessment survey in Hebron and likely about twenty-five years from the beginnings of systematic implementation of the Land Code in the district, offers an opportune window through which to view the progress of the adoption and functioning of reform measures. Further, each of the three cases to be discussed below deals with different, yet typical problems encountered during what I consider to be a phase of internalization of and adjustment to the new procedures and norms introduced by the Land

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