

that it benefited everyone.

The main finding of this study is that there was a fast and substantial process of differentiation in the rural areas during the Mandate. This differentiation was reflected in increases in the concentration of holdings in Arab ownership, the continued acquisition of land by European settlers, landlessness, and wage labor in agriculture and public works. At the same time, the process of differentiation was accompanied with only limited capitalist development in the Arab rural areas. However, what stands out was the extent of the dispossession of peasants from this process; it involved the majority of peasants. Land dispossession was total for some peasants and partial for others, but in the latter case, most peasants were left with a piece of land insufficient for subsistence in varying degrees. However, in spite of this dispossession, the majority of peasants still owned land by the end of the Mandate.