

as in the White Paper of 1939<sup>7</sup> and the Land Transfer Regulations, which restricted the areas where settlers could acquire land. Those measures were taken in response to the increased resistance of Palestinian Arabs, especially during the 1936-1939 Revolt. However, these two measures were seen as coming too late by Palestinian Arabs and, anyway, were not very effective, especially in the case of land acquisitions.

### 1.2.3 Population

There was substantial growth in the population of Palestine during the Mandate. Between 1918, when the country came under British occupation, and 1946, the population increased by more than one and a half times from 748,128 to 1,942,349.<sup>8</sup>

However, the most salient feature of this increase was the change in the composition of the population between the indigenous Palestinian Arabs and the Jewish European settlers.<sup>9</sup> In 1918, the Arab population was 688,957 or 92 percent of the total population. By the end of 1946, the Arab population almost doubled, by natural increase, to 1,324,106, but their share of the total population

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<sup>7</sup>Ibid., 52-3.

<sup>8</sup>Justin McCarthy, *The Population of Palestine: Population History and Statistics of the Late Ottoman Period and the Mandate* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1990), Table 2.18, 37. All subsequent population numbers are from same source.

<sup>9</sup>The great majority of Jews who settled in Palestine during the Mandate were from Europe, although a relatively small number came from Arab countries, and there were other Jews who lived in Palestine before the organized Jewish European settlement.