

Although Halevi and Klinov-Malul confined their discussion of British economic policies primarily as to their effect on the Jewish community, especially in the areas of immigration and land acquisitions, which they characterize as restrictive, they nonetheless recognize the irrefutable role of the overall policies in the development of the Jewish economy. This role was acknowledged, albeit in general terms, in the following way:

It is unfair to say, as many Jewish authorities have said, that the mandatory government did its best to hamper the development of Jewish Palestine: certainly the tremendous growth of the Jewish sector contradicts such a view, unless one also accuses the British administration of complete incompetence!³¹

On the other hand, nothing is said about the impact of British policies, economic and otherwise, on the indigenous Palestinian Arabs. Similarly, there is no discussion of the impact of European settlement on the indigenous as a whole or on agriculture. The impact of land acquisitions, dealt with in the context of what they perceive as restrictive government policy, was confined to minimizing its effects in the displacement of peasants and positively in “that the standard of living of Arabs, including farmers, had risen considerably.”³²

Halevi and Klinov-Malul conclude their arguments as follows:

The two communities were really two separate economies. In addition to land, Jews bought some agricultural goods from Arabs and sold them some industrial goods, and many Arabs worked in Jewish agriculture and building. But it has been estimated that in 1936 total intersectoral trade and final and intermediate goods and

³¹Ibid., 30.

³²Ibid., 35.