

Palestine, the two economies were “divided along ethno-national lines.”

So, after choosing his theoretical model, which fits in with his assumption of two economies and by default determine the units of analysis, Metzger sets out on a long empirical journey in the tradition of the so-called cliometric historians to verify his “thesis.” In Chapter 2, Metzger starts with a comparative discussion of the “demographic and socioeconomic traits” of the Palestinian Arabs and the Jewish European settler community. He begins with “the pace and sources of population growth” in which he illustrates the well-known fact that the increase in the Jewish population was predominantly because of immigration and grew at a much faster pace than the increase of the Arab population, which was because of natural increase. Other vital statistics discussed show the differences in birth, death, fertility, and mortality rates—all of which show higher rates among Arabs as compared to Jews. Those differences are then related to the broader issue of health in terms of resources and services available, again pointing to a gap in favor of the Jewish European community.

Another “developmental difference” was in the area of education where Metzger compared the availability of educational services and rates of employment for the two communities where the Jews “scored” higher in both; in addition, this gap was reflected in the negative correlation between illiteracy and per-capita income. Finally, he derives a human development index for thirty-four countries in addition to the Jewish community in Palestine and the Palestinian Arabs for 1939 that also, not unexpectedly I might add, illustrates the gap between the two in