

debt over selling it when no regular or permanent alternative source of income was available; his land would at least provide some subsistence goods. This is a good example of the use of neoclassical theory that concentrates on individual decision making, which could be useful in certain select instances, but which ignore or dismiss the overall context and processes in which individuals make their decisions.

Metzer addresses the unavoidable issue of evicted Arab tenants as a result of the acquisition of land by Jewish European settlers and calculates an “upper-bound estimate” of 8,000 tenant households (16,000 tenant workers) or about 9 percent of the total Arab labor force in 1931 for the period 1921-1947.⁴⁸ Metzer compares his estimate to one by Kamen⁴⁹ of 8,200 displaced households of tenants and owner-cultivators. Since Kamen included owner-cultivators in his estimate, Metzer argues, his estimate is actually higher than Kamen’s.⁵⁰ However, what Metzer fails to point out is that Kamen’s estimate was for 1930-1945 only. Given that by 1930, settler acquisition of land amounted to about 60 percent of their total acquisitions and the well-known fact that most of the tenant-cultivated land was sold prior to 1930 (including the pre-Mandate period), the number of evicted tenants may be much higher, although lack of data does not permit a precise quantification of their numbers. At any rate, what is equally important

⁴⁸Ibid., 93.

⁴⁹Charles S. Kamen, *Little Common Ground: Arab Agriculture and Jewish Settlement in Palestine, 1920-1948* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1991), Table 8, 156.

⁵⁰Metzer, *Divided Economy*, 93.