

besides numbers is that whole villages and communities were uprooted in the process.⁵¹ In addition, Metzger's exclusion of owner-cultivators of small plots who were displaced by European acquisitions is characteristic of his whole study that focuses on directly observable and quantifiable phenomena while ignoring the underlying and more complex process of the overall impact of European settlement, in this instance, on the indigenous rural areas.

Another example of underestimating or ignoring altogether the impact of European settlements on Arab rural areas is when Metzger deals with the Zionist policy of, after the acquisition of land, the prohibition of its sale or lease to Palestinian Arabs or other non-Jews. He states, "This unilaterally imposed segregation, besides its territorial-political connotations in the Arab-Jewish conflict, also implied a reduction in the overall land-buying options of non-Jews."⁵² Thus, at a time of increasing Arab population in a primarily agricultural society, the exclusivist Jewish land policy is reduced to simply a "reduction in options." Then after he correctly points out "that inequality of ownership of large estates rose substantially" between 1919 and 1936 among Palestinian Arabs, Metzger continues:

This finding suggests that whatever the effect of large tracts being purchased by Jews on reducing the size of the remaining Arab holdings, as far as the changes in the size distribution of Arab land is concerned, concentration of ownership within the Arab sector seems to have dominated the scene, alongside the continued

⁵¹Elia Zureik, *The Palestinians in Israel: A Study in Internal Colonialism* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1979), 46.

⁵²Metzger, *Divided Economy*, 87.