

The latter was not, according to Metzger, the case in Palestine. In Africa, “The colonial administrations typically used their power of coercion to legislate and enforce property rites in land and to regulate key aspects of the land and labor markets.”¹⁰¹

In Palestine, the Jewish settlers were faced with unregulated labor and land markets. Thus, they had to purchase land, and did not have the power to regulate the labor market as witnessed for example by the only partial success to exclude Arab labor. However, Metzger acknowledges that, in some respects, the effects of Zionist policy in the labor and land markets were similar to those in settler colonies: the involuntary dispossession of tenant-cultivators and the “persistence of wage differentials” in the labor market.¹⁰² In addition, unlike the settler colonies, the “economic edge” of Jewish European settlers was derived from their “own comparative advantages” and not because of government allocations and actions.

Thus, Metzger tells us what he thinks European Jewish settlement was not but does not clearly say what it was, except that “the economic history of Palestine [was such that] mostly European Jewish immigrants established a modern economic entity under the Mandatory umbrella, separate from the indigenous population.”¹⁰³

¹⁰¹Ibid., 201.

¹⁰²Ibid., 202.

¹⁰³Ibid., 201.