

As for Ruppin's estimate of about 85,000 Jews in 1914, McCarthy again shows that these numbers were not based on Ottoman figures as Ruppin asserts, who, as McCarthy suggests, had "little understanding of the Ottoman registration system."<sup>40</sup> Moreover, McCarthy suggests that perhaps Ruppin, being a Zionist colonization official, had a vested interest in inflating Jewish numbers. McCarthy's own estimate, reached by correcting Ottoman statistics for undercounting and a critical analysis of the number of Jewish migrants and deportees, whose numbers were exaggerated by Ruppin, derives a total figure of 57,000 Jews in 1914. This includes the 39,000 Jewish citizens and the 18,000 estimated noncitizens. In other words, Jews in 1914 represented 7.7 percent of the total population of about 740,000 (McCarthy's estimate of 722,000 plus the 18,000 noncitizens).

Nonetheless, the number of European Jewish settlers (i.e., excluding the Palestinian Jewish citizens) was too insignificant to have any meaningful impact on the socioeconomic structure of the country. However, their impact, because of their demand for land, was instrumental in the commoditization of land. These early settlers, moreover, provided, by their trials and errors, important lessons for subsequent settlers as to the appropriate forms of settlement conducive to their goals.

---

<sup>40</sup>For a full analysis of these issues, see McCarthy, 17-24.