

a primarily agricultural economy with limited cash crops, and limited development of employment opportunities in urban areas, could not possibly have supported 29.4 percent of the rural families or anything close to that number as agricultural or urban wage laborers.

Stein's choice of words: "very *lengthy* process of small-landowner alienation and *accompanying* large-landowner accumulation" obfuscates what actually happened [emphasis mine]. Words such as "very lengthy" and "accompanying" imply extensive differentiation in rural areas. However, to the extent there was "small-landowner alienation" accompanied by large-landowner accumulation, it was a *very slow* process given the nature of the economy and the whole Ottoman social formation it was part of.

On the other hand, with the start of the Mandate, the country abruptly found itself controlled by a colonial power that was one of the most developed capitalist countries. In addition, there was the facilitation and rapid growth of a European settler community that, along with the colonial power, would deepen and widen the country's integration in the world capitalist market. The massive and cumulative impact of the intertwined processes of increased debt, price drop, bad harvests, and heavy taxation, now demanded in cash, forced many peasants to sell their land. This became possible, of course, with the increased commoditization of land primarily because of European settler demand. So, while Stein accuses Hope-Simpson of wrongly holding Jewish European acquisition of land and settlement the "responsibility for the creation of a landless rural Arab class," he tries to