

minimize and marginalize that role.

As for Stein's statement that "farm servants, field laborers, crop watchers, manure carriers, ploughmen, threshers, herdsmen, and shepherds *sometimes* worked on land without possessing either formal title to it or formal written tenancy agreements with a landlord," that too is a curious and confusing choice of words. These people *never* worked on land while possessing title or tenancy agreements. They were paid in kind or money for their services. However, the fact that they provided those services does not, in any way, mean they were landless. As discussed above, these people provided these services to supplement their income from their own lands.

It is ironic that Stein questions Hope-Simpson's motivations and position concerning Jewish settlement given that one of the major recommendations of Hope-Simpson's report was the intensification of Arab agriculture in order to release more land for Jewish settlement,<sup>96</sup> a recommendation that Stein points to as the same as that of the Jewish Agency.<sup>97</sup>

Given the above analysis, and lacking any explicit figure for landlessness during the Ottoman and Mandate periods, it may be said that the 29.4 percent figure from the Johnson-Crosbie survey, while not precise, is an acceptable approximation of landlessness. Again, it may be that included in the figure were some families who owned land but did not cultivate it, but the number of such

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<sup>96</sup>Hope-Simpson Report, 142, 153.

<sup>97</sup>Stein, 108-9.