

much less than the total expenditure figure indicates. Nonetheless, the average annual expenditures for 1933-1934 to 1944-1945 of about £P 179,000 was still inadequate given the general conditions of Arab agriculture and peasantry. At any rate, the average annual expenditure figure belies the fact that most of the expenditures were during WWII.

It is obvious, by and large, that a colonial power is by definition and historical evidence not in the business of pursuing the development of its colonies except in ways that fall within the framework of its own interests. This was the case in Palestine where government expenditures and efforts increased during WWII in order to assure greater agricultural production as part of the overall war requirements. The fiscal policies of the mandatory government were in accord with the usual practices in Britain's other colonies where each colonial administration was required to generate its expenses locally without any burden on the treasury in London. It did not matter that Palestine was, "legally speaking," a mandated country and not a colony.

The reason for investigating the extent of the government's efforts in agriculture were rather to show that without meaningful support, Arab agriculture as a whole could not have "modernized," in spite of some inroads in that regard. In addition to the inadequacy of government support, Arab agriculture was, more crucially, faced with the competition from implanted settler capitalism with relatively massive resources.