

During this time period, Palestine was integrated in the world market through its trade with Europe. However, this integration had no direct impact, as of yet, on the socioeconomic structure of the rural areas.

The peasants' access to land was maintained in spite of the rise of large holdings. Any loss of land that may have resulted from the latter, the extent of which cannot be determined, was mitigated and compensated for by the Western expansion of cultivation that not only benefited big landowners, merchants, and moneylenders but also peasants and whole villages. The threat to peasants' access to land began to be threatened with the commoditization of land whose legal basis was set by the Land Code of 1858 and the 1867 law and actualized by the acquisition of land by European settlers. The demand for land by European settlers was instrumental in the process of the commoditization of land. However, beyond that impact, their relative small numbers and agricultural failures did not, as of yet, have any major effect on the rural areas.

The relatively substantial growth in the three sectors of the economy, urbanization, and exports, in addition to increased monetization and changes in the legal aspects of land tenure before 1882, had important theoretical and historical implications. On a theoretical level, it undermines the proposition held by some dualists and others that so-called traditional agricultural societies cannot and do not respond to "market signals" nor are they able to "modernize" without external forces acting upon them. This observation is obviously not a new finding but reinforces other historical studies on and theoretical explanations of the