

imposition of duties on cereals from other countries.

In spite of the increase in total agricultural production, the area and output of cereals, the main source of subsistence for peasants remained basically the same, while at the same time, the Arab population doubled. Besides the obvious lack of intensification of production, that also meant that most peasants remained dependent on extensive cereal cultivation to differing degrees. It also indicates that at a time of increase in wage labor and cash cropping and the concentration of land holdings that a process of differentiation was underway. The price increase during WWII did not benefit all in the rural areas, and those who benefited did so in varying degrees. The benefits from the price increase were determined by the surplus available after satisfying the family's subsistence needs. That, in turn, depended on the size and nature of the land and crop, and the possession of other means of production. Obviously, those who were landless or had no surplus beyond their needs did not benefit from the price increase but actually were hurt from it to the extent they had to purchase certain goods.

Although Arab agriculture showed the beginnings of development along capitalist lines, it faced the competition from European settler agriculture (and capitalism) that was heavily subsidized and primarily used intensive methods of production. Accordingly, although European agricultural production was increasingly linked to industry by using modern methods of processing and packaging, the processing of agricultural products by Arabs employed primarily basic traditional methods.