

Besides its heavy subsidization, which allowed for intensive methods of production, Jewish European agriculture enjoyed institutional support in every aspect of agricultural settlement in addition to whatever benefits it derived from the government in material form or in tariff exemptions on raw materials or machinery. Arab peasants, as a whole, on the other hand, received only meager support from the government, and their methods of production remained primarily extensive. The costs of more intensive methods of production were beyond the means of most peasants. However, under the impact of increased commercialization and commoditization fuelled and fuelled by changes in land tenure, there developed in Arab rural areas those who introduced or extended more intensive methods of production in varying degrees. In other words, the distinction should be made between the “modernization” of agriculture as a whole and of “modernization” by certain strata in rural areas.

During the Mandate, the appropriation of surplus from the peasantry intensified in all its forms—within the production process, through taxation, and by usury. This occurred in the context of increased commercialization and commoditization, which had a various impact on the peasantry and which accelerated their differentiation. Although because of a lack of complete data, we were unable to assign exact numbers to all the different strata of the peasantry, there was sufficient information derived from official government data and from our own inquiry into the developments in the techniques of production and of the nature and growth of agricultural output to unmistakably establish the