

such acute plunder on the part of the oppressive rulers, accumulation of surplus value was by no means guaranteed as one of the basic conditions for entrepreneurship, i.e., the protection of the merchants' identity and property was denied.¹⁸

As is the case in almost all other colonies, in Palestine also British colonialism fostered neither the development of local industry (except for the extractive industries) nor the formation of a Palestinian bourgeoisie. Unlike the case in other colonies, however, British colonialism in Palestine did not foster even the development of a money capitalist class, or an intellectual ruling elite organically linked with British colonialism as its indigenous ally, as was the case in India, Egypt, etc., since it had found a better local ally among the Western Jewish colonial settlers.

Following Ottoman feudal plunder, British-Zionist colonial collaboration had obstructed the development of a genuinely independent Palestinian ruling class of any kind. The emerging Palestinian dominant class itself sought an ally in British powers against both Ottoman oppression and Zionist invasion; and by so doing, it promoted Zionism itself, and played an insignificant and rather misleading role in leading the struggle of the Palestinian masses in the economic, political and ideological spheres for decolonization.

Also unlike the typical case, in Palestine British colonialism was not primarily to extract raw materials, but rather to control and use the strategic location of Palestine: strategic for its international trade and industrial undertakings. British capital was therefore invested primarily in infrastructural projects: construction of roads, ports, railways, oil pipelines, etc., and only secondarily in agricultural production, specifically citrus plantations.