

British Mandatory authorities, on the other hand, provided a constant support to Jewish industry and trade at the expense of the Arab. They provided Jewish capital with both political and economic protection and privileges (e.g., the exclusive concession to exploit the Dead Sea in 1929, protection from tariffs imposed on Arab trade, and the privileged tax deduction subsidized by the heavy taxation of Arab industry).¹⁹

British oppressive policy, the competitiveness of the more technologically advanced Jewish industry, and the enforcement of the Zionist slogan: "Boycott Arab Produce", inflicted detrimental effects on Arab industry. Between 1930-1935 the total export of the Arab "shell" industry declined from 11,533 to 3,777 pounds, the number of soap factories in Jaffa alone dwindled from 12 in 1929 to 4 in 1935. The latter should not be mistaken for concentration of capital, as total production in the soap industry (one of the basic Arab industries in Palestine) declined between 1931-1934 from 119,941 to 71,532 pounds.²⁰

It is only natural that such decline occurred in Arab industry in the face of two more competitive manufacture systems (British and Jewish) and the imposition of unfavorable terms of trade. Moreover, the gap between the indigenous industry and the settlers' only widened as the British authorities in Palestine granted 90 percent of the foreign privileges to Jewish industrialists at the expense of the natives.²¹

The figures in Table Y are indicative of the uneven development and distribution of means of production and reproduction in Arab versus Jewish industry, and how unevenness was perpetuated by British privileges and protection policy.

It was only during the Second World War, when the British army in Pales-