

The Divided Economy of Mandatory Palestine

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Main content

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The Divided Economy of Mandatory Palestine by Jacob Metzger. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998. Pp. xxii + 275, bibliography and index. 40.00 [pounds sterling]/\$59.95.

In *Partner to Partition*, Yossi Katz focuses on the Jewish Agency's (the representative of the Jewish community in Mandate Palestine) aims and endeavours to influence partition planning for Palestine in accordance with its own needs and plans. Hence, Katz concentrated his research on Zionist documents, especially those held at the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem. His audit centres on the Royal Commission Report (or Peel Report) of 1937, and the [Woodhead] Palestine Partition Report of 1938, which were to prove the foundations of any subsequent British thinking on the partitioning of Palestine. The picture that emerges is one of an extremely well-informed Jewish Agency whose members determined to carry out their perceived short- and long-term policies, constantly maintaining contacts with British officials at the highest levels, anatomizing their every word, statement, letter and report, so that no stone was left unturned. The Agency was then able to counter with its own arguments and actions -- the latter most notably in land-buying patterns, a subject dealt with in a separate chapter by Katz.

Despite its limited agenda (being primarily the years 1936-39, and an examination of the Peel and Woodhead Reports), *Partner to Partition* includes a number of subjects which were to affect partition planning: the Jewish Agency's role; Jerusalem; plans to transfer the Arab population as part of the partition plans; the projected status and rights of the Arab minority in the future Jewish state; demands for full sovereignty and the question of forming a Jewish state; and the choice of areas for land purchases which were directed at delineating boundaries to conform with the Agency's precedences.

It was during the period of the Royal Commission and the Woodhead Commission that both the British and the Jewish Agency began seriously contemplating the partition of Palestine. Whilst the British considered the broader aspects of Arab, Jewish and His Majesty's Government's (HMG) imperial concerns, the Jews mainly dealt with their own interests and geography of settlement, though certain to look to those of the British. The main issue the Mandatory addressed in its thinking was what Katz called 'the principle of separation' between the areas the Jews bought and those completely or almost so which the Arabs lived in (p.4). The Jewish Agency set itself six basic principles and aims: that the boundary lines have a reasonable chance of being accepted by the British; defensible borders and security for the Jewish state; economic security; a self-sustaining state; and a 'suitable destination' for Jewish immigrants (pp.24-6). The Agency then tried to influence the Royal Commission to embody within the Jewish State as many of the areas as possible which it wanted included. Although there was a large Arab population in the Galilee, the Peel Commission listed it in the regions to be under Jewish control -- but the Agency was unwilling to cede any part of it in exchange...

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THE ECONOMY OF ROMAN PALESTINE THE ECONOMY OF ROMAN PALESTINE Ze'ev Safrai London and New York First published 199 Redefining the Egyptian Nation, 1930-1945 (Cambridge Middle East Studies). Perceptions of Palestine: Their Influence on U.S. Middle East Policy. 00-C0422-FM 10/9/01 1:49 PM Page iii Perceptions of Palestine Their Influence on U.S. Middle East Policy kathleen ch Perceptions of Palestine: Their Influence on U.S. Middle East Policy. 00-C0422-FM 10/9/01 1:49 PM Page iii Perceptions of Palestine Their Influence on U.S. Middle East Policy kathleen ch Jacob Metzger the Divided Economy of Mandatory Palestine (Cambridge Middle East Studies). As Gaza had been occupied and was retained by Egypt, it meant that there was none of the original territory of mandated Palestine left for Palestinian Arabs to call their own. They became, in effect, a stateless people. The Palestinian people had been shattered as a community.