

individuals, families, and villages of the Hebron region, as a contribution to both Palestinian history and Ottoman rural history.²⁹

Based on the assumption that no one did conduct a survey of villagers' feelings about property-tenure reform, I have looked elsewhere for the roots of this assertion. When the *Tahrir-i Nufüs ve Emlak* law on the registration of individuals and properties was issued in late-November 1860 (14 Jumadi I 1277), a similar observation was made in the text of the law. In Chapter II, which detailed the procedure by which registrations were to take place, Clause 7 states,

It is known that hitherto, owing to the insufficiency of the measures adopted for registration, the notables and nobility of the population have been daring to conceal persons and their wealth with a view to save their children from military service, and to pay less taxes than other people, and that they have been neglecting to show the wealth and person of other people so as to buy their silence.

²⁹ Historical studies on Palestine that deal with the rural sphere have been overwhelmingly concentrated on the Mandate period, and *fallahin* are rarely the subject of investigation. Main works in the field in recent decades include: Kenneth W. Stein's *The Land Question in Palestine, 1917-1939* (1984); Ylana N. Miller's *Government and society in rural Palestine, 1920-1948* (1985); David Grossman's *Rural process-pattern Relationships: nomadization, sedentarization, and settlement fixation* (1992); Warwick P.N. Tyler's *State Lands and Rural Development in Mandatory Palestine, 1920-1948* (2001); Amos Nadan's *The Palestinian Peasant Economy Under the Mandate: a story of colonial bungling* (2006); and David Grossman's *Rural Arab Demography and early Jewish Settlement in Palestine: Distribution and Population Density during the late Ottoman and early Mandate periods* (2011) To find villagers at the fore, we must look to other scholarly fields, and even then, to 'extraordinary' periods in which the rural role cannot be overlooked. Two exemplary researches which deserve mention are anthropologist Ted Swedenburg's *Memories of Revolt: The 1936-1939 Rebellion and the Palestinian National Past* (1995) and legal scholar Zeina Ghandour's *A Discourse on Domination in Mandate Palestine: Imperialism, Property and Insurgency* (2009). Both make extensive use of oral history.