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PALESTINE



**REPORT AND GENERAL ABSTRACTS
OF THE
CENSUS OF 1922.**

TAKEN ON THE 23RD OF OCTOBER, 1922.

COMPILED BY

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SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CENSUS.



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REPORT ON THE CENSUS OF PALESTINE, 1922.

In accordance with the provisions of the Proclamation of 1st September 1922, published in the Official Gazette of the same date, a census of Palestine was held on the night of the twenty-second—twenty-third of October, 1922.

2. The instructions issued to District Governors provided for the division of each town and village into areas containing approximately five hundred houses, and to each area an enumerator was appointed who in the majority of cases was a Government Official. In the larger towns it was found convenient to divide well defined quarters into a number of areas, and where the inhabitants of the quarter or village included persons of different religions the number of enumerators was doubled or trebled in order to ensure that each family was visited by an enumerator of the same faith. Though necessary, this procedure increased the amount of work entailed and added considerably to the difficulties of a correct tabulation.

Institutions having a residential personnel of more than twenty persons were treated as separate areas. The head of the institution concerned was requested to fill in the Census Schedule and to summarise the results in the form of abstract tables. This method had the advantage of allowing the heads of ecclesiastical institutions, hospitals, orphanages, boarding schools etc. to complete their own returns which were handed to the enumerators in whose area the institution was situated.

3. Special arrangements were made to deal with sections of the population which were not residing in any fixed locality. Thus, road gangs were enumerated by the road foremen, railway gangs by the Railway authorities, survey parties and archaeological camps by the responsible persons in charge. The Palestine Railway authorities also undertook the enumeration of all persons occupying or present upon their premises during the night of the census; and the Military authorities completed the particulars for all persons, both civilians and military, resident in military areas. The Harbour-Masters at Haifa and Jaffa enumerated all persons within the port enclosures, including those on vessels.

4. To each sub-district or large town, Revising Officers were appointed to superintend the arrangements and to check the results. Each enumerator was allowed six days during which to obtain the necessary particulars by a house to house visit, and on the completion of the schedules issued by him the figures were tabulated and checked by summarising the results in abstract tables. These tables, which formed the basis of the tabulation of the census, were handed to Revising Officers who were responsible for their accuracy. The final check was undertaken at the office of the Superintendent.

5. The following table gives the total numbers of Revising Officers, Enumerators, Areas and Special Areas for each District:—

District.	Revising Officers.	Enumerators	Areas.	Special Areas.
Southern	7	102	67	9
Jerusalem-Jaffa	18	197	149	205
Samaria	5	108	69	19
Northern	8	146	138	63
Total	38	553	423	296

6. In a country which had no experience of a census conducted on a scientific basis, it was to be expected that considerable difficulties would be encountered. Apart from the consideration that the public habitually regard with suspicion the ascertaining from individuals of information of a private nature, there are special difficulties applicable to any territory which had previously formed a portion of the Ottoman Empire.

From time to time the Ottoman authorities had made attempts to enumerate the population. The Law of 14th. August 1914 made provision for a census to be undertaken on modern lines, but in practice the procedure of enumeration was carried out by committees who extended their operations over a period of many months. The object of the census was not for statistical or administrative purposes, but to obtain the names and ages of persons liable for military service or with a view to imposing fresh taxation. The introduction of census legislation by the Palestine Government was therefore an unpopular measure to the urban population and in a lesser degree to the rural inhabitants. Political agitation was also responsible for much doubt arising in the minds of the people. By the date of the Census, October 22nd, these obstacles had been successfully removed.

7. The total population of Palestine enumerated on the 23rd. of October, 1922, was **757,182**. This total includes the military, and persons of foreign nationality.

8. Prior to the Census there existed no systematic arrangements for registering the population of Palestine, but estimates had been prepared by administrative officials of all villages and towns. In most instances the estimates previously made have proved remarkably correct when compared with the results of the Census, and in cases where a marked deficiency has occurred a second enumeration has been made, the results of which differ very slightly from the first. The estimates made in May 1920 and in November 1921 afford a useful comparison with the Census. The comparison is not exact, as from time to time villages have been transferred from one district to another.

District.	1920.	1921.	Census (1922).
Southern	138,994	143,267	200,920
Jerusalem-Jaffa	246,107	280,808	262,198
Samaria	138,364	154,949	135,880
Northern	149,728	182,772	158,184
Total	673,193	761,796	757,182

A comparison of religions for the same periods is as follows:—

Religions.	1920.	1921.	Census (1922).
Mohammedans	521,403	585,271	590,890
Jews	66,574	81,263	83,794
Christians	77,801	88,049	73,024
Others	7,415	7,213	9,474
Total	673,193	761,796	757,182

9. The information available in regard to the pre-war population is accessible from Turkish sources, and, though not strictly accurate, it provides data of an interesting nature. The following record was taken in 1914:—

Mutessariflik of Jerusalem (Southern & Jerusalem-Jaffa Districts).	398,362
Mutessariflik of Nablus (District of Samaria).	153,749
Mutessariflik of Acre (Northern District)	137,164
	689,275

It is difficult to obtain any reliable figures regarding the division of this population into religions, but from other sources¹ the Jewish population in 1914 was calculated to be 84,660 of whom 11,660 were in Jewish Colonies and the remainder in towns.

10. During the war there was a great decrease in the population of Palestine. The exactions of military service and the extensive policy of deportations pursued by the Turks arrested the growth of the population and has been the cause of very numerous casualties. Thus, if the figures quoted by Dr. Ruppin (*Der Aufbau des Landes Israel*, 1919) can be taken as a guide, the Jewish population in 1914 was in Jerusalem 45-50,000 and in Jaffa 12,000. In 1916 these numbers had been reduced to 26,605 and 6,309 respectively, while in the colonies the effects of the war were probably no less severe. Since the British Occupation numbers of persons have returned from Syria, from Asia Minor and from Europe.

(1) *Syrien als Wirtschaftsgebiet*, von Dr. A. Ruppin, 1916.

11. The pre-war estimate of the Christian population was 70,000 but a proportion of the male inhabitants was drafted into the Turkish armies or deported during the war.
12. The only section of the population from which census statistics were not obtained was the Beduin tribes of Beersheba. The chiefs were unable to convince their tribesmen that the object of the Census was not for the purpose of enumerating the males with a view to military service, and the tribes, following the precedent set by those of Sinai Peninsula and of Egypt, could not be induced to fill in an amended form of schedule designed to suit the special requirements of the Beduin. As a Census could not be obtained the numbers had to be arrived at by estimation.

To assist in arriving at as accurate an estimate as possible the lists of tithe payers were utilised. Tithe lists exist from the year 1918, and contain the name of every person who pays tithe or who cultivates land within the tribal areas of the sub-districts of Beersheba, Gaza and Hebron. The information supplied by the principal sheikhs, together with the experience of administrative officials in the district, provided information in regard to the numbers of families in each tribe and sub-tribe, and from the figures thus submitted the Beduin population of the Southern District was calculated at 72,892. In the Baisan sub-district the tribes had submitted to the usual census procedure so that for this area accurate figures are available.

13. As a check upon the Beersheba figures the number of families and the numbers of persons per family in the Baisan tribal area were compared with the Beersheba figures taken in conjunction with the tithe records. If this comparison had been accepted as a basis the population of Beersheba would have been largely increased, but on the other hand the Baisan area is in a more settled condition and is more densely populated. A somewhat lower ratio of members of a family to tithe payers was therefore adopted. The difference between the provisional estimate of the population made by the District Governor in 1921, and the figures thus arrived at for the Beersheba sub-district in the census may appear somewhat high, but there can be no doubt that the former estimate was much too low. The Ottoman authorities in 1914 placed the tribal population of Beersheba at 55,000, and since that date there has been a migration of tribes from the Hejaz and Southern Transjordan into the Beersheba area mainly as a result of a succession of adequate rainfalls and of pressure exerted by other tribes east of the River Jordan.

14. The age return, civil condition and other returns for the tribal area of Southern Palestine have been calculated on the ratio for the remainder of Palestine.

15. I desire to acknowledge the help and assistance given by all Revising Officers and Enumerators who have spared no efforts to ensure the success of the Census. The willing co-operation of these officials has lightened my own labours to a very marked degree.

J. B. BARRON,
SUPERINTENDENT OF CENSUS.

Jerusalem,
February 10th 1923.

Erratum -

Page 5 - Table I.

For Total Jews	'83,694',	read 83,794.
For Christians, Northern District	'19,913',	read 20,913.
For Total Sikhs	'808',	read 408.

TABLE I.

POPULATION OF PALESTINE BY RELIGIONS

Religions.	Southern District	District of Jerusalem-Jaffa	District of Samaria.	Northern District.	Total.	Percentage
Mohamedans	198,928	155,333	132,453	104,176	590,890	78.03
Jews	858	62,517	747	19,672	83,694	11.06
Christians	1,120	42,685	2,306	19,913	73,024	9.64
Druses	11	8	3	7,006	7,028	.92
Samaritans	—	8	155	—	163	.02
Baha'is	—	—	1	264	265	.03
Metawilehs	3	—	—	153	156	.02
Hindus	—	1,242	212	—	1,454	.19
Sikhs	—	405	3	—	808	.05
Total	200,920	262,198	135,800	158,184	757,182	

TABLE II.

POPULATION OF PALESTINE SHEWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS IN MUNICIPAL, VILAGE, AND TRIBAL AREAS.

District.	Municipal Areas.	Villages.	Tribal Areas.	Total
Southern	45,400	82,622	72,898	200,920
Jerusalem-Jaffa	138,565	111,560	12,073	262,198
Samaria	23,875	107,065	4,940	135,880
Northern	56,477	88,287	13,420	158,184
Total	264,317	389,534	103,331	757,182
Percentage	34.91	51.44	13.65	

TABLE XXI.—LANGUAGES HABITUALLY SPOKEN IN PALESTINE.

Language.	Southern District.	District of Jerusalem—Jaffa.	District of Samaria.	Northern District.	TOTAL.
Abyssinian	—	77	—	2	79
Albanian	—	—	—	5	5
Arabic	199,982	187,490	134,606	135,482	657,560
Armenian	5	2,758	25	182	2,970
Bulgarian	—	33	2	1	36
Chaldean	—	—	—	1	1
Circassian	3	9	—	644	656
Dutch	—	13	—	1	14
English	48	2,341	188	521	3,098
Flemish	—	3	—	—	3
French	3	497	3	213	716
German	3	973	1	804	1,781
Greek	7	1,044	19	245	1,315
Georgian	—	4	—	—	4
Gipsy	—	7	—	—	7
Hebrew	829	60,236	706	18,625	80,396
Hindustani	—	1,998	59	4	2,061
Indian Dialects	—	769	1	—	770
Japanese	—	—	—	1	1
Italian	—	318	5	132	455
Jurkhali	—	—	5	—	5
Kurdish	—	—	8	10	18
Magyar	2	77	2	16	97
Mahratti	—	—	176	—	176
Maltese	—	12	—	26	38
Norwegian	—	—	—	2	2
Persian	—	173	1	280	454
Polish	4	28	—	20	52
Portugese	—	1	—	—	1
Pushtu	—	31	5	—	36
Roumanian	—	37	1	7	45
Russian	10	772	4	91	877
Serbian	—	15	18	3	36
Sudanese	—	35	—	2	37
Spanish	3	295	—	59	357
Swedish	—	15	—	2	17
Syriac	—	422	—	—	422
Turkish	12	314	41	267	634
Welsh	—	—	—	4	4
Yiddish	9	1,401	4	532	1,946
Total	200,920	262,198	135,880	158,184	757,182