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THE POPULATION OF PALESTINE  
(census of 1922 and annual estimates as at June 30th)  
*by Religions*

(not including members of the British Forces and their families).

Year	Total	Moslems	Jews	Christians	Others
1922 . . . .	752,048	589,177	83,790	71,464	7,617
1923 . . . .	778,989	609,331	89,660	72,090	7,908
1924 . . . .	804,962	627,660	94,945	74,094	8,263
1925 . . . .	847,238	641,494	121,725	75,512	8,507
1926 . . . .	898,362	663,613	149,500	76,467	8,782
1927 . . . .	917,315	680,725	149,789	77,880	8,921
1928 . . . .	935,951	695,280	151,656	79,812	9,203
1929 . . . .	960,043	712,343	156,481	81,776	9,443
1930 . . . .	992,559	733,149	164,796	84,986	9,628
1931 <u>a/</u> . . .	1,023,734	753,812	172,028	87,870	10,024
1932 . . . .	1,052,872	771,174	180,793	90,624	10,281
1933 . . . .	1,104,884	789,980	209,207	95,165	10,532
1934 . . . .	1,171,158	807,180	253,700	99,532	10,746
1935 . . . .	1,261,082	826,457	320,358	103,371	10,896
1936 . . . .	1,336,518	848,342	370,483	106,474	11,219
1937 . . . .	1,383,307	875,951	386,074	109,762	11,520
1938 . . . .	1,418,619	895,159	399,808	111,796	11,856

a/The census taken on November 18th, 1931, gave the following results: Total 1,035,821; Moslems: 759,712 (including 66,553 nomads); Jews: 174,610; Christians: 91,398 (including 2,507 members of the British Forces and their dependants); others: 10,101.

During the period of sixteen years from the census of 1922 to the end of 1938, the total population of Palestine has thus increased by 683,293, or approximately 91% (average annual increase: 5.7%).

The number of Moslems has increased by 311,079.

The number of Jews has increased by 327,473.

The number of Christians has increased by 40,519.

To this table should be appended the estimate of the Palestinian population as at December 31st, 1938: total 1,435,341 divided as follows between the *religious*

*communities:*

	Moslems		900,256	
	Jews		411,263	
	Christians		111,983	
	Others		<u>11,839</u>	
			1,435,341	

This increase was partly due to immigration and partly to the excess of births over deaths. It may be of some interest to note the extent to which these two factors have respectively contributed to the total increase:

	All religions	Moslems	Jews	Christians	Others
Total increase of the population...	683,293	311,079	327,473	40,519	4,222
Increase by immigration a/...	287,111	18,281	259,371	9,208	251
Excess of the number of births over deaths ...	396,181	292,798	68,102	31,311	3,971

a/ The figures for immigration include about 10,000 persons inhabiting districts which were incorporated in Palestine in 1923, as a result of a modification of the frontier between Syria and Palestine. Of this number, about 300 were Jews and the remainder Moslems.

It is particularly interesting to note that the increase in the Moslem population due to the excess of births over deaths considerably exceeded the increase in the Jewish population due to immigration, and that the total increase in the Moslem population was not far short of that of the Jewish population.

In order to obtain a clearer idea of the expansion of the population of Palestine, the figures for the birth and death rates should be studied. The following table gives the number of *births* per 1,000 inhabitants, for the whole settled population and by communities, during the period 1922-1938.

#### *Birth Rates.*

	All communities	Moslems	Jews	Christians	Others
1922-1925 (average rate)	46.34	50.09	34.81	36.37	49.36
1926-1930 (average rate)	48.58	53.45	34.29	38.55	46.17
1931-1935 (average rate)	44.66	50.24	30.33	35.84	44.92
1936-1938 (average rate)	42.12	50.00	27.60	34.68	45.72
1938 .....	39.89	47.12	26.42	34.15	42.09

Though the *birth rate* has decreased by about 14% for the whole population (but only by 6% in the case of Moslems), it still remains very high (especially among Moslems) and it is considerably higher than in any European country. Thus, whereas, in 1938, the birth rate in Palestine was 39.9, it varied in European countries between a minimum of 14.1 (Austria) and a maximum of 34.2 (Albania). During the five-year period 1931-1935, the Moslem population of Palestine rose by natural increase at an average rate of 18,000 inhabitants per annum, that is to say by 2.5% annually.

Let us now consider the statistics for *deaths*. The following table shows the number of *deaths* per 1,000 inhabitants, for the total population and by communities, during the period 1922-1938:

*Death Rates.*

	All communities	Moslems	Jews	Christians	Others
1922-1925 (average rate)	23.73	26.83	13.62	16.13	22.10
1926-1930 (average rate)	24.34	28.31	11.66	17.91	25.06
1931-1935 (average rate)	20.98	25.34	9.32	15.04	21.48
1936-1938 (average rate)	16.67	21.15	8.23	12.99	19.83
1938 .....	14.99	18.64	8.08	12.44	16.61

During this period of sixteen years, the death rate in Palestine has therefore *decreased* by about 37%.

In this connection, the statistics for *infant mortality* are particularly striking and satisfactory. The following table shows the number of deaths of infants less than 1 year old per 1,000 live births:

*Infant Mortality.*

	All communities	Moslems	Jews	Christians	Others
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1922-1925 (average rate)	178.70	190.39	122.90	144.35	115.92
1926-1930 (average rate)	178.09	193.46	95.83	158.56	146.73
1931-1935 (average rate)	151.35	166.41	77.99	136.28	161.05
1936-1938 (average rate)	128.87	137.68	61.32	115.01	132.89
1938 .....	112.00	127.58	58.22	103.98	90.18

For the whole of the Palestinian population, the infant mortality rate has thus decreased by 37% in the course of the sixteen years 1922-1938. The infant mortality rate in Palestine for 1938, 112 per 1,000, was lower than that for Egypt, a neighbouring country (163 per 1,000), and than those of ten European countries: Malta (243), Roumania (183), Bulgaria (144), Yugoslavia (144), Poland (140), Portugal (137), Hungary (131), Czechoslovakia (121), Spain (120) and Lithuania (113).

(K. Stein 7/30/08)

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