ATTITUDES OF ZIONIST INTELLECTUALS TO THE ARAB
POPULATION IN PALESTINE AS EXPRESSED IN
THE LITERATURE BEFORE THE YOUNG
TURK REVOLUTION OF 1908

BY

CHANA SOSEVSKY

October 1980

A DISSERTATION IN THE DEPARTMENT
OF HISTORY SUBMITTED TO THE
FACULTY OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT
FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF
PHILOSOPHY AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
AT WASHINGTON SQUARE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003
ABSTRACT

ATTITUDES OF ZIONIST INTELLECTUALS TO THE ARAB POPULATION IN PALESTINE AS EXPRESSED IN THE LITERATURE BEFORE THE YOUNG TURK REVOLUTION OF 1908

by

Chana Susevsky

Thesis advisor: Professor Max Kortopeter

This study describes the attitudes of the Jewish intellectuals in Palestine and Europe to the Arab population in Palestine in the very early period of Zionist activity, beginning with the first Aliyah in 1881 until the Young Turk Revolution of 1908.

Following a brief introduction to the history of Zionism and Arab Nationalism, the works of Theodore Herzl and Avraham Haas are examined as each provided impetus and leadership in terms of policy and attitudes. The periodic literature and the fiction of the period are then used to provide important insights into the temper of the time, while a discussion of the "conquest of labor" issue serves as a case study of a sensitive point of contact between the two peoples. A short epilogue points out that the 1908 Young Turk Revolution aroused a legitimate concern in the Jewish community about a hostility on the part of an organized and articulate nationalistic Arab community.

This thesis concludes that prior to 1908 Jews had been for the most part able to discuss lightly the nationalistic flavor of the Arab aspirations in Palestine. Much of their literature therefore expresses a sympathetic and admiring attitude towards their neighbors. The literature also reflects their moderate reaction.
to the human dilemma involved in the return of a nation to its ancestral homeland which has been settled by another people.