PALESTINE IN THE YEAR 1914

BY

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PART I
ABSTRACT

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The fundamental position of this study is that 1914 was the last year in which the inhabitants of Palestine lived in relative peace with each other under a government nominally acceptable to them. The intent of this research has been to study Palestine topically rather than communally from 1856 to 1914 in order to develop new insights.

Five major aspects of Palestine's development have received attention here:

I. General economy, geography, communication, industry, commerce, transportation, and tourism.

II. Health, education, and welfare (with particular attention to halukah (charity) in the Jewish millet).

III. Agricultural economy, governance, and society of the Bedouin, fellaheen, Christian millenialists (American Adams Colony in Jaffa and German Templars), and Jewish agriculturists.

IV. Urbanization and demographic analysis of the population with particular attention on the development of Acre, Bethlehem, Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv.
V. Ottoman governance (administration, legislation, justice, military, police, taxation), millets (Armenian, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, and Roman Catholic), and nationalism (Arab, Jewish, and Turkish).

As a result of our research, we have arrived at the major conclusion that the various millet communities of Palestine developed along parallel but separate lines. Economic and social factors, in addition to the political forces previously studied by other historians, aided the development of the various peoples of the Holy Land along sectarian lines. Although there was a considerable amount of modernization in Palestine, there was no integration of the various millets to form one cohesive society. Each millet contributed to the progress of Palestine, but they failed to become linked together into a social, economic, and political framework independent of Ottoman authority. This lack of integration on the local level in Palestine seems to reflect the general lack of social integration among millets in the late Ottoman Empire.