

Industry in Jerusalem in Shadow of the British Mandate, (1917-1948)

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Abstract

This paper aims at shedding light on the industrial state in Jerusalem during the British Mandate, (1917-1948), through observing the variant industrial domains since the end of the Ottoman Government and until the ends of the British Mandate in 1948. The study will be concentrating on industry, taking into consideration the religious symbolism of Jerusalem, that played great role in the process of attraction and economic expulsion. And also discusses in some subsidiary issues that resulted from labor in the mentioned domains, such as sector of services, and labor movement and else. The researcher can conclude a comparison between the developing industrial economy, in the beginning of the British Mandate period, and the developed one in its termination. Also we can ascribe the causes of this change and transference to the abundant assistance, the Jews received from the Zionist Movement. The matter that made it easy for the different Jewish categories, to control the industrial scene in the city for many other additional reasons, from them is the size of the Jewish capital, and the high technological and technical experiences, and the external support of them.

Keywords: Jerusalem, Industry, The British Mandate.

Jerusalem city is considered with high religious symbolism at adorers from the three religions, so it is enlisted with in the industrial cities in Palestine, except what had been found of light industries emerged for goals of the service of religious tourism. And the industry had been developed randomly non-organized and with small capitals, do not promote to form great economic entities, especially in the period of the Ottoman government. And when subdued to the British Mandate the need to service industries in the city that makes available the appropriate environment for the great openness that happened in the city. The city activated industrially and great capitals flowed in to it, especially the Jewish, the thing that was reflected on the industrial state at a great deal. And the outlook of the Arab industrialist changed to the small professions that had been practiced and the need that had been established for its sake, so he started to enlarge his labors, taking into consideration the sharp competition generated after Jerusalem had subdued to the mandate. The great development that happened in Jerusalem appeared since the beginning of Mandate until its termination, and the distribution of electricity can be formed on the inhabitants of Jerusalem as an indicator through which the industrial development connected with the developments that took place in the city.

The Developing Industry

Jerusalem did not witness existence of industrial sector with the concept, till the beginning of the British government, and the contemporary modern criteria. The Jerusalem community had been characterized industrially with a simple group of the family professional small industries that developed in shadow of the community needs, especially in shadow of the city is dominated by the religious nature. Jerusalem economy had embodied, more trustfully than before in the developing Palestinian economy, affects it and affected by it, in time of the Mandate. This is from one side, and from a second one Jerusalem had lost its historical direct connection with its old provisioning sources, and with its traditional trade surrounding across borders imposed on it by the British Mandate (Farwagi, 1950). The Second World War played an effectual role in forming or reforming the Palestinian economy and Jerusalem economy in particular, it had responded with the needs of the allies forces employed during war, its ties with the world market were firmly established, and in return the market of some agricultural products, for example, reacted, the thing that urged investors to direct their investments to establish industries due to request of the allies forces and their needs. As a result of that, the sector of services as an important sector of the Palestinian economy sectors and from Jerusalem economy in particular (Committee of Jerusalem Day, 1999).

Never to establish a significant industry in Jerusalem in the discussed period, except for the Company of Electricity Generation, and some handicraft and simple disposable industries, and in turn the tourist sector in the city grew very much, and the direct governmental expenditure shared in enhancing the service sector in it, after the administration of Mandate chose it as an administrative center for it. Jerusalem and its zone never had produced abundant goods for exportation, that is it was not ship from it by the railway more than six thousand tons (Al-Husseini, Diene Loco).

The industrial revival that took place in Jerusalem, during the Second World War, was instantaneous left behind it great deformations in the Palestinian economic structure, meanwhile this revival formed a motivation for the Jewish sector to grow on studied bases allowed variance, integration, and establishing a structure able to absorb transformations (Committee of Jerusalem Day, 1999).

Jerusalem is considered a consumer city more than a productive one; for it consumes abundantly the industries of other countries, it is a city overflowing with religious institutes, cultural and social associations, in it many civilian and military employees, religious men and members of different sects, and this made it an important commercial market for consuming goods and industries it imports from other countries (Al-A'raf, 1961). And Saed Hamadah says: "Industry in Jerusalem, and the commercial drawing off is less organized, than industry and drawing off in the coastal cities, and though Jerusalem is important from part it is an administrative center, and it is the respected city more than any other city, so the economic significance of Jerusalem is that it is a consumer market for goods (Hamadah, 1939).

The industrial development connected in Jerusalem in particular and in Palestine in general with the size of natural resources, and human resources that had been available to the Palestinian economy, and their quality. The natural resources related with the industrial activity had characterized with the general weakness at the level of energy sources, and the rough material necessary for industry, and at the level of diverse of these sources (The Palestinian Encyclopedia, 1990). And it had been found in Jerusalem some traditional industries that were prevailing before existence of the British occupation of the city, they are:

- **Industry of textiles:** this industry was supported by the American Red Cross Society in the beginning, and when the society departed the area, the Society of Jerusalem lovers undertook management of this industry instead of it.
- **Industry of wood:** this industry is done by carving and digging in the Olive wood. Many of specialists in this industry were found in Jerusalem, from it they industrialize accurate library tools and children toys (Al-Jundi, 1989).
- **Egg embroidery:** anciently in Jerusalem this industry was famous, but it activated in time of the British occupation. It consisted of evacuating the egg from its contents, and

then coloring it, or embroidering on it by the needle, and draw on its drawings and zigzagging, and flowers, then laid in beautiful cages made of palm leaves (Al-A'raf, 1961).

- **Faience industry:** society of Jerusalem lovers worked in the Syrian Orphans House (Shinler) in assisting the Service of Acquaintance to vitalize this industry and encouraging it, for it is from ancient industries in Jerusalem (Al-A'raf, 1961).
- **Industry of glass, pottery, and floor tiles:** revival of that industry had been done by the Society of Jerusalem lovers in 1921, also it had received support from the Islamic Waqf (Al-A'raf, 1961).

Industry of Candles: this industry was famous in Jerusalem in particular, its candles were known as Jerusalem candles, the candles had included zigzagging and beautiful curls, and the other some printed upon pictures and flowers. Candles are sold with abundance in feasts seasons and religious occasions (Al-A'raf, 1961). Also the industry of reproducing oils in Palestine before the period of Mandate and during it, and about four hundred factories for this industry had been found, and concentrated in some Palestinian cities, and from them Jerusalem (Al-Husseini, diene Loco). Industry of stones, tiles, and metal tubes, especially in Jerusalem area, the industry of lime was prosperous in the territories in which the limestone was found (Al-Jundi, 1989). Jerusalem was famous for industry of adornment materials, chemical industries, papers, printing and Leathers (Al-Husseini, deine Loco).

The Industrial Competition

The advanced Jewish industry intensified competition with Arab industries, and the Jewish industries depended on the great possibilities that were available for it, such as great capitals, and high technical experience, and they are important factors, the Arab industry was in lack of it, the thing that prevented its development at the hoped form, but misshaped the growth of the Arab Palestinian bourgeoisie and increased its indignation. And inspite of all facilities, that the Jewish industries obtained, numerous obstacles had crossed its track, the most important of which was Arabs abstention from it and then revolution (The Middle East, 1987).

Some factors led to advancement of the Jewish industry in Jerusalem, and else of other Palestinian cities. They are: increase of Jewish emigration to Palestine and what emerges of results. Such as flow of Jewish money to Palestine, as provided that the Jews invested about ninety million Palestinian pounds in industry, their source is out Palestine (The Middle East, 1987). This is in addition to about %48 of the Jewish emigrants to Palestine between 1922-1945 are from handicraft and professions practitioners; for they benefitted by their economic experiences the Jewish economy in Jerusalem and Palestine in general. Also the increase of emigrants numbers and their industrial efficiency activated the industrial movement. It founded an increase of demand on all products of them the industrial (Al-Husseini, diene Loco).

Authorities of the British Mandate played a positive role in developing the Jewish industry, by issuing laws and legislations made labor of those industries easy, like decrease of taxes for example. Also the need of those authorities to the Jewish industrial products for the sake of providing their military forces existing in Palestine during the Second World War, had increased the activity of those factories and their effectiveness (Al-Husseini, diene Loco). And began to appear in the Palestinian economy the phenomenon of duality, that is after the appearance of sectors of the Jewish economy, and from the prospects of the Jewish sector existence: is that new small Jewish industrial companies began to appear, and capitals started to flow with the new emigrants in very great quantities, the relative weight of industries in Palestine became incline to the Jewish side from part of the industrial units number, size of these industries and number of workers at every foundation, and the most important of that is the size of capitals that continue in the sector of industry. And the doors of the Palestinian economy had become, especially at great cities, accommodate entering and penetration of the associations and the British monopolizing companies in investments beside the Jewish capital, and

since that time the process of subordination started, and connecting the Palestinian economy with the world economy (Roya, 2004).

The flow of the American and Western capitals on Palestine increased and Jerusalem obtained a proper share of them, and the British occupation besieged a fence of customs protection around the Jewish industries, and made to decrease prices of produced goods (Jeryes, 1981).

The Zionist associations monopolized syndicates of the English and American industries and else of international industries, and on the effect of intense pressure of the Jewish industrial presence in the Palestinian markets, and the violent competition that left those industrial for the developing Arab industries. An Arab committee for boycotting the Jewish trade and goods in Jerusalem and this movement extended from the city till covered the rest of Palestine and its villages (Al-Kayyali, 1968). The Jewish money played a great role in insuring the necessary support for the Jewish industry in Jerusalem, especially in the financing domain. The employed Jewish investments in Palestine all increased in 1922 from four hundred and eighty five Palestinian pounds to two million Palestinian pounds in 1930 (Roya, 2004), and the year 1924 witnessed great efforts from those associations to activate the Jewish industry at the domains, and their example in the coffees, light industries, industry of macaroni, food salt, soda, water, carpets and else. Soon at the advent of 1925 till spread the Jewish industries in most parts of Jerusalem. (The Middle East, 1987).

Many of the industrialist Jews in Palestine do not know about the internal circumstances in the country and requirements of the local consumption, and the quality of the required industrial production, there upon those essential considerations were never taken into account at building the new industrial foundation, so many industries faced a shortage in the capital invested in it, beside that the reserve finance and loans, were less than the hoped lowest limit. The quantity of importing the foreign capital to the Jewish sector in Palestine including Jerusalem in the period 1922-1939 amounted one hundred and nine million Palestinian pounds, and in the period 1940-1947 eighty six million Palestinian ponds were transferred to Palestine, and so the size of the foreign capital imported from abroad by one side is about one hundred and ninety five million Palestinian pounds. At distribution of these money and their rate to their incoming original sources, it was found that the process of transferring capitals by the emigrant Jews, is the first means to strengthen the pillars of the Jewish economy and comes after it, the Jewish capital transference associations (Roya, 2004).

At the end of the British mandate in Jerusalem, (67) sixty- seven acting factories, forms of industries were abundant in it, such as metals, gold smothery, textiles, foods, papers and printing, leathers, wood, pottery, and else (Segev, 1999).

A. Jerusalem Electricity

In January 27th., 1914 the Ottoman state granted the Greek citizen “Mavromattes” a concession to generate the electric energy and distributing it, and submit some other services in the city of Jerusalem (Segev, 1999).

Engineer Pinhas Rutenburg at the beginning of the Mandate submitted an application to the authorities to generate and distribute the electrical energy in Palestine and exploit the River Jordan for this purpose, so Greece due to request of its citizen, Mavromattes brought a lawsuit in front of the permanent international court of justice in Lahai about this subject. The court confirmed Mavromattes’ concession (Al-Muharrir, 1988).

The agents of the British government signed as a result of the above mentioned decision in February 1926, on behalf of the High commissioner in Palestine, an agreement with Mavromattes in which he gives up his Ottoman concession in return for a new concession to generate the electric energy and distributing it, and providing other general services, at an illusionary circle its center is the middle dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and half of its diameter is (20) kilometers and this agreement authorized by a law of issuance at its time (9/77091/187/C0.733,1930).

Mavromattes established Jerusalem Company of Electricity and Public Limited Services and the flowing of concession started on December 1st., 1928 for the period of forty four years pliable to

renewal for sixteen additional years (9/77091/187/C.0.733,1930), knowing that electricity was reaching to Jerusalem city since 1923 (The Middle East, 1987) and the capital of the company raised from five hundred thousand to six hundred thousand and Palestinian Pounds (Al-Difa' Newspaper, 1938).

The company in Jerusalem established a new generator of electricity in 1938 to be able to accept the abundant application on the electricity energy (Al-Difa' Newspaper, 1938). Then it had been signed in March, 1948 with the administration of Mandate on new agreements, in accordance with it the company owner of concession gave up from some of its rights in the Western Jerusalem in accordance with it for the interest of Palestine Electricity company (Rotenberg Project), this agreement had been authorized with a law issued due to origins. By that Jerusalem had been divided electrically, supervised by the delegate State and became two acting companies they are: Palestine Electricity Company (Rotenberg Project) that became afterwards the Israeli Qatari Electricity company, and Jerusalem Electricity company that continued to provide services after the disaster and performance of Israel in the Arab section of Jerusalem, then its registration returned in accordance with the Jordan Laws in 1953 (AlMuharrir, 1988). And Jerusalem Electricity company had monopolized providing the city of Jerusalem and surrounding with electricity along the period of the British Mandate. The rate of increasing the quantity of consumption had amounted from the year 1925 to 1940 to what approaches %100, this if we suppose that 1925 had represented the rate %1 (The Middle East, 1987).

B. Labor Wages in Jerusalem

The Arab worker lived in wealth, and gained suitable wages if compared with wages gained by workers in other Palestinian cities, where the average of the Arab worker's wage raised in Jerusalem to seventy five mils a day, and it is from the high wages compared with worker's wages in Haifa, Gaza and Nablus, and less than what was in Jafa, in which the Arab worker's wage raised to ninety four mils a day (Afniri, 1986). And most of wages in the city of Jerusalem were paid out to building workers, where the worker gained a good salary, and the least salaries were paid out to road-workers, where the worker gained 25 mils in one day in the year 1942 (Al-A'ref, 1961).

The Jewish worker lived in comfort, that is because of multitude of parties that perform his support in the different sides of life. And when unemployment sharpened in their troops, and Jewish projects were unable to absorb them, the government performed the haste works for them as happened in 1927 when asked plenty of Jewish workers to work in guarding cities (Palestine Newspaper, 1921).

The Jewish manpower increased greatly more than Arab in all Palestine, till amounted to thirty seven and seventy workers, that is, at rate of %75.6 of manpower in Palestine (The Palestinian Encyclopedia, 1990).

The Arab workers remained submit complaints at constant from to the Department of the High Commissioner, because of the Jewish favoritism at work, and wages in addition to taking into consideration that the work itself was done by Arab workers, but when the responsible is Jewish, there will be bias and one-sidedness to the Jewish workers and this made the Arabs demand repeatedly and many times that responsible at any type of works to be from the English men (Palestine Newspaper, 1921).

Conclusion and Results

Industry in Jerusalem, at the beginning of Mandate, was rotating in the orbit of simple service industries that depend on manpower mainly and established by the action of demand from visitors of the city. Jerusalem is consuming city more than a productive one, and soon showed the harbingers of the Second World War till the condition started to change, because of the need of the Allies to what is being made in the city. And the industrial competition sharpened between the Arabs and the Jews in Jerusalem and the scale was inclining to the interest of the Jews, because of their possession of many great money capitals, then the type of emigrants was concentrating on high technical experience, the

Arab experience do not compete them. This is in addition to the firm economic relationship between the emigrants and the strong industrial environment from which they came.

People of Jerusalem approached greatly to possess electricity, the matter that pushed in the direction of opening the gate of competition among the previous companies to distribute that service, although the labor wages were not high in Jerusalem as they are in Jafa for example, but they were high if compared in the Palestinian cities.

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