

Home Page: <http://ocininitiative.maeda1.jp/EnglishTop.html>

[\(Japanese Version\)](#)

[\(Arabic Version\)](#)

[\(Table of contents\)](#)

## **" The Peace on The Horizon - 70 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East" (11)**

By Areha Kazuya

E-mail: [areha\\_kazuya@jcom.home.ne.jp](mailto:areha_kazuya@jcom.home.ne.jp)

### **1-5(11) Israel independence(3): Palestinian Arabs extruded by incoming Jewish immigrants**



The Jewish population of the world is approximately 14 million. Most of them live in the US and Israel. Jewish population in Israel is 6.3 million, equivalent to 45% of the total. They consist of the third- quarter of the country's population of 8.5 million.

However, Jews were not so numerous during the Palestinian era before Israel's founding. The total population of Palestine in the early 1920s immediately after the World War I was 750,000, of which the Jews were about only 80,000. The ratio of the total population was only 10%. Compared with current figure, the number was one 80th, and the ratio was about one eighth.

With the support of the Zionism movement and the Balfour Declaration, numerous Jews from all over Europe moved to Palestine, or "the land of Zion" before and after the World War I. It was called "Aliyah". Nearly 200,000 people were rushing into Palestine during the first and fourth Aliyah from the late nineteenth century to the 1920s. When the Holocaust of Nazis in Germany began, the Jews escaped from Europe. Most of them headed to the US. The rest moved to Israel, and its number reached 250 thousand (Fifth Aliyah). As a result, the total population of Palestine, which was 750 thousand immediately after World War I, doubled to 1.5 million during just after 20 years.

The land of Palestine was not so wide. It was not a barren desert only. The land that could be cultivated has already been cultivated by Arabs who were indigenous people, and sheep and camels were grazing on land unsuitable for cultivation.

The newly migrated Jewish immigrant needed the farmland at first. They were relatively poor in the Jewish community in Europe. Needless to say that people look for new horizon because of poverty. In contrast, rich people do not think about emigration. Relatively wealthy Jews who had a plan to migrate

abroad aimed at rich developed countries such as the United States, not Palestine.

How did Jewish in Palestine get the farmland? Did the Jews kick out the indigenous Arab farmers by force? No. If Israel had own independent nation like now, they could clear off Arabs by force. But the Jews of those days have no such power. The means they took was to buy the land from the landlord. Arab farmers are peasant farmers and the land belongs to absentee landlords of the Ottoman Empire.

The Jewish settlers showed a lot of money and bought the land from the absentee landlord. It was unlikely that they had emigrated with such a lot of money. It was a rich brotherhood who remained in Europe like Lord Rothschild, or a donation from a successful brother in the United States. Some of rich Jews stayed in Europe, or Jews with talent and academic background moved to the United States. Most Jews who emigrated to Palestine were poor people who had no money, no talent and no education. Jews who escaped Russia's Pogrom (Pogrom means persecution against Jews, and "destruction or destruction in Russia) in 1909 settled the joint farm "Kibbutz". Kibbutz was the cooperative agricultural society combined with socialism and Zionism. New type of firms prevailed to other Jewish settlements.

When they acquired the land, next step was the eviction of the Arab farmers. Arabs could not complain because land ownership was the rights of Jewish immigrants. Arab farmers either had to be employed as laborer by the Jews, or if they did dislike it, they would have had to move to neighboring Arab countries such as Jordan. They became refugees under the umbrella of their relatives in Jordan. It was the beginning of Palestinian economic refugees.

Political refugees, however, who occupy the majority of Palestinian refugees had grown in the Arab-Israeli War. Approximately 700,000 Jews flowed in during three years after Israel independence, almost the same number of Palestinian Arabs became political refugees and rushed into Jordan. Arabs were pushed out by Jews. In refugees, there were two families, The Shatilas and the Al-Yassins who had been living next to each other in the town of Tulkarm on the West Bank of the Jordan River. The father of Shatilas was a teacher and the father of Al-Yassins was a doctor. Shatila escaped to Jordan with his sixteen-years son, Amin.

(To be continued ----)