

Emergence of entrepreneurship in Transjordan during the late Ottoman empire

Lily D. Burke

lilyb@andrews.edu

Behavioral Sciences Department, Andrews University

Øystein LaBianca, Research Mentor

Abstract

How did Ottoman policies influence the emergence of entrepreneurship among elites in Transjordan from 1850-1914? During the late Ottoman period there was an economic transition from subsistence farming and herding to the development of large-scale, for-profit farms, privately owned by elites. The current study hypothesized that Ottoman government policy prioritizing cash crop farming over subsistence farming and nomadic living created conditions that allowed elites in Jordan to develop entrepreneurship. From thematic analysis of two case studies, the hypothesis was supported and expanded upon.

Previous Research

- prior to ca. 1880, majority of Transjordan inhabitants were pastoralists migrating with animals (LaBianca, 1990)

-during mid 1800s, Ottomans aimed to increase tax revenue from Arab lands (Rogan, 1999)

Methods, Procedure, Subjects

As I read, I tracked when the text mentioned one of the elements I was looking for using two scales. My case studies were two chapters from *Pioneers Over Jordan* (Abujaber, 1989).

Findings

ABUJABERS		ABUJABERS	
<u>Entrepreneurship</u>		Mentions of Ottoman government influence	
☆ build up of overhead capital	Abujaber brothers were merchants first	Government actions	
Technological revolution in agriculture		☆ Laws	Ottoman land codes of 1858, allowed private ownership of land
☆ General rise in population	Encouraged emigration of farm hands	Military involvement	
☆ Disproportionate rise in urban populations	Abujabers would hire farmers to come live during the season in the town, made their town the meeting place between two neighboring tribes	☆ taxes	Abujabers reported smallest possible population of town to get favorable tax assessment
Expansion in exports financed by more efficient production			
Marketing of natural resources			
HINDAWI		HINDAWI	
<u>Rostow Stages</u>		Mentions of Ottoman government influence	
☆ build up of overhead capital	Hindawi was exempt from taxes for the first year after he got deported	Government actions	
Technological revolution in agriculture		Laws	
☆ General rise in population	Hindawi encouraged his relatives to come move near him and become farmers	☆ Military involvement	Government sending in cavalry to kill the tribes interfering with farmers
☆ Disproportionate rise in urban populations		☆ taxes	After his year of being tax-exempt, Hindawi worked closely with the government to pay his taxes, he therefore kept the rights to his land
☆ Expansion in exports financed by more efficient production	Hindawi exported his surplus of grain to Damascus		
Marketing of natural resources			

Discussion

Results supported and expanded upon the hypothesis. The Ottoman policies prioritized farming ventures, allowing elites to practice entrepreneurship and establish for-profit farms. An emerging theme was hospitality traditions pre-adapting elites to be successful entrepreneurs.

Bibliography

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