Outline Lecture 4
Zionist Jewish Immigration to Palestine
The Importance and Distinctiveness of the 2nd Aliyah

I. Even before Herzl, "Zionist" Jewish immigrants to Palestine: the First Aliyah or wave

A. First wave of Jewish immigrants starts around 1882, mainly from (non-revolutionary) Russia, fleeing persecution (the pogroms)
   1. Set up mainly agricultural settlements, "romantic" view of reconnecting with the "soil;" financed and supported almost totally by Rothschild (banking family)
   2. Typical settlement hired Arab workers; 8 or 9 to 1 Arab workers to Jewish workers
   3. Note: period of relative peace in Jewish/Palestinian interactions
   4. Population of Palestine; about ½ million, about 95% Palestinian Arab Muslims and Christians. About 24,000 Jews mainly "pilgrims" or very old families

II. After Herzl, but especially after 1905 revolution in Russia, new, very different, Zionist

Jewish wave of immigrants: the 2nd Aliyah

A. This wave very different: very "socialist" especially in their interpretation of the Jewish problem, of the types of communities they would form
B. Most of the future leaders of Israel after 1948 would come at this time: e.g. David Ben Gurion, Yitzak Ben Zvi (future 2nd president of Israel)
C. Famous for kibbutz agricultural settlements, basically "communal," actually communist life style, property in common, communal raising of children
D. Leftist interpretation of the "Jewish Problem:" Jewish social structure at fault. Jews too "bourgeois;" Jews need to have working class to match the relative size of gentile working class
E. Thus, in addition to the reason of "statelessness" or homelessness for the Jewish problem, the added issue of distorted social structure is part of the problem to fix
F. Slogan: "Not only a new Jerusalem but a new Jew" They are usually identified as "Labor Zionists" or "Left Zionists"
G. Religious factor minimal or non-existent in motivation. That is, most were non-practicing Jews, if not atheists

III. Left Zionists on Palestinian Arabs in "class conflict" interpretation

A. Jewish farmers, Jewish businesses, should fire Arab workers; "Jewish only" labor on Jewish enterprises
B. Any land bought in Palestine would be Jewish land in perpetuity; it could not be sold to non-Jews (bought through the Jewish Agency or Jewish National Fund)
C. Arabs living on land owned or newly purchased by Zionists, would be, should be, removed
D. Boycott of Arab businesses; refusal to buy from Arab shops; punishment of Jews who do so
E. Arab view of these "socialist" policies

IV. Zionist Jewish Community in Palestine during Mandate

A. Zionist "government in waiting" institutions created: Jewish Agency, Jewish National Fund, Histadruth (Zionist Labor Organization/Labor Political Party)

B. Zionists fully endorse the Mandate with its inclusion of the Balfour Declaration, thus gaining British support through the Mandate (contrast with Palestinians)

C. Zionist Program essentials

1. Promote Jewish immigration to Palestine
2. Maintain link to, influence in, British government in London
3. Oppose, thwart at all costs, any effort to restrict Jewish immigration
4. Create foundations for state institutions