

Landscape and Power in Mandate Palestine (1917– 1948). The Industrial Development of the Dead Sea and Its Consequences

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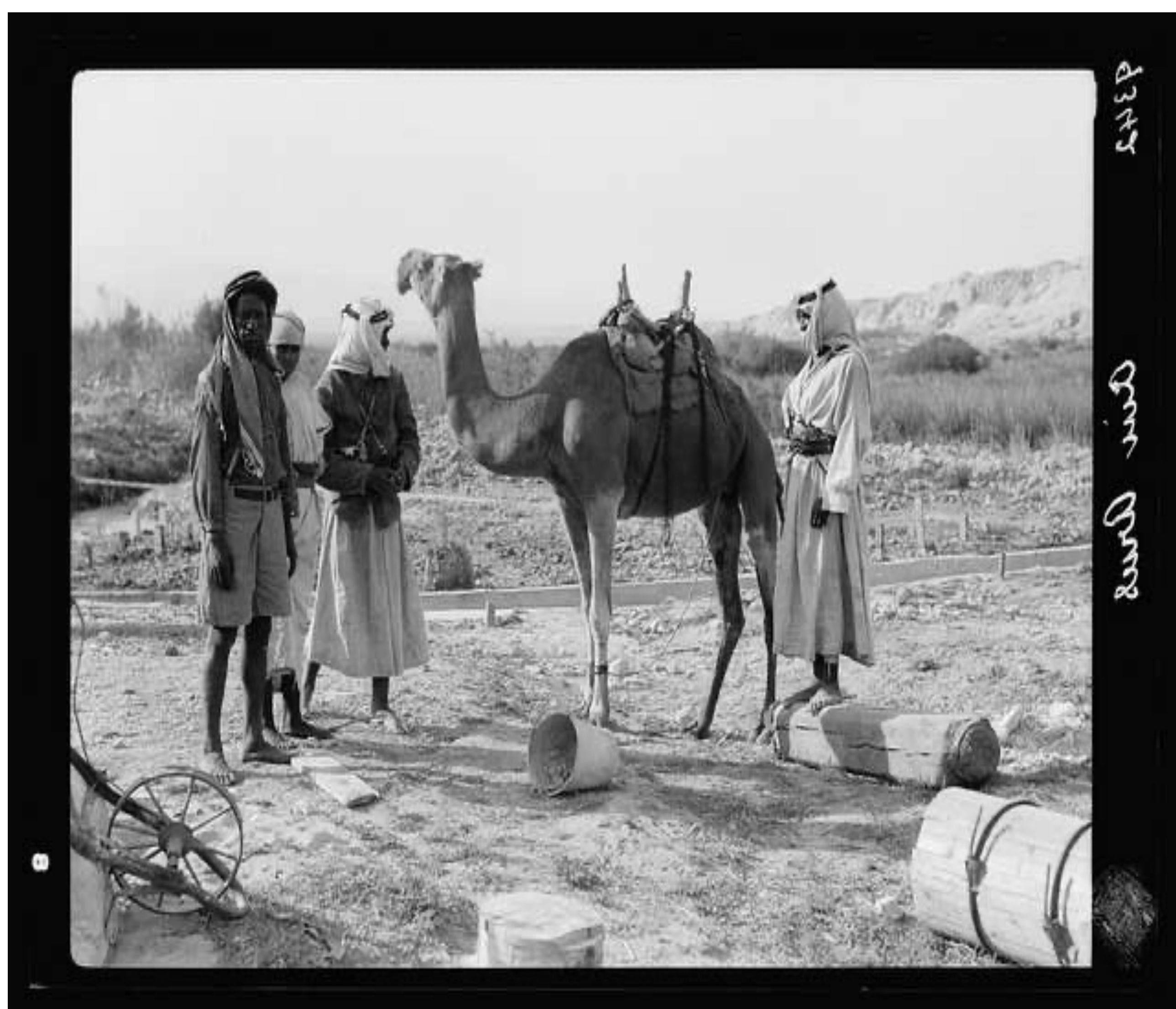
18:15–19:45 Uhr

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The British Mandate for Palestine was established in 1923. The most promising natural resources of Palestine at the time were the minerals of the Dead Sea, especially potash, which was used as a fertilizer and in chemical industries. In 1930, the British Mandate Government granted the concession for the extraction of the Dead Sea minerals to Palestine Potash Ltd. (PPL). Under the leadership of its Jewish founder Moshe Novomeysky, the company developed into one of the most important industrial endeavors during the British Mandate period in Palestine. Setting up a large-scale enterprise at the Dead Sea significantly altered the landscape of the Dead Sea itself and its immediate surroundings. However, the company's impact was much more encompassing: To support the business and to be able to export the extracted minerals, a system of infrastructure was built that connected the lake with the newly built ports of the Mediterranean. PPL also had political significance for the British Mandate power, the Zionist Movement, and the Arab populations surrounding the lake. This presentation will trace some of the physical and political landscape changes PPL was involved in.



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Historisches Seminar

Forschungskolloquium der Professur für Wirtschafts-, Sozial- und Umweltgeschichte
(Prof. Dr. Melanie Arndt)