

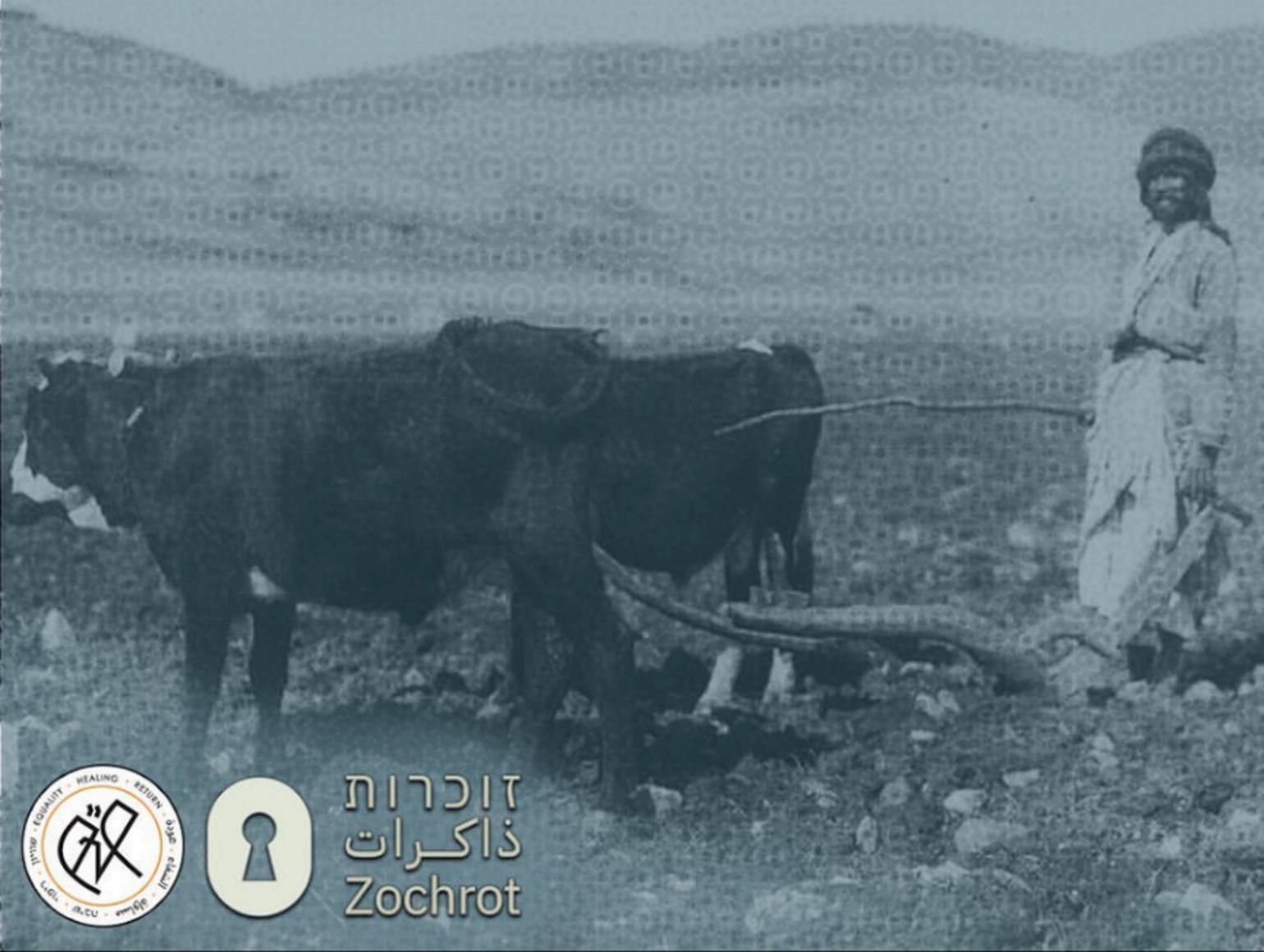
BREAKING ZIONIST MYTHS: UNDERSTANDING THE NAKBA



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MYTH 3:

Palestine was a mostly barren desert before the Zionists arrived.



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This myth is not only racist and orientalist but also false. The idea of "making the desert bloom" perpetuated by Zionism suggests Palestinians lacked the capability to use the land effectively, echoing colonial attitudes. In fact, **the Jewish National Fund's (JNF) control over land aimed to Judaize the territory and landscape, and in doing such disrupted the natural biodiversity and undermined indigenous Palestinian ecological practices.**



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Already in 1891 the Zionist thinker Asher Zvi Greenberg (Achad Ha'am) wrote critically about this myth: "We who live abroad are accustomed to believe that almost all Eretz Israel is now uninhabited desert and whoever wishes can buy land there as he pleases. **But this is not true.** It is very difficult to find in the land cultivated fields that are not used for planting."



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Unlike the Zionist narrative suggests, the Naqab/Negev was never barren, it was inhabited by Bedouins who have long practiced traditional farming and water preservation techniques. **Records show Bedouin cultivation in the Naqab surpassed that of Zionist settlers in 1944**, debunking the myth of Zionist prosperity.



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Scholars like Mansour Nasara, Ahmad Amara, Amnon Cohen, David Grossman, and Yehoushua Ben-Arieh have refuted the notion that Palestine was a desolate land, demonstrating Palestine's historical vibrancy as part of the Eastern Mediterranean. **Palestine was undergoing its own journey of modernization and nationalism.** It was far from being a barren land awaiting prosperity.



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