

mode of production and, therefore, that their path to transition followed a specific route which requires a different treatment (Rey,1982; Wolpe, 1980).

The notion of "articulation" was developed by Pierre-Philippe Rey (1982) as a conceptual approach to the question of capitalist transition in non-feudal economies. The notion was elaborated on later by Harold Wolpe (1980) who referred to it as the "articulation theory." Articulation is concerned with understanding transition in Third World social formations as expressed through the relationship between capitalism and the non or pre-capitalist form(s) of production. In this notion capitalism and pre-capitalist mode(s) provide the historical point of departure and are logically interrelated. For analytical purposes, however, this chapter will deal with the model at two levels: one, its perception of pre-capitalist formations and, two, its position on capitalist transformation. Both levels will be critically examined.

#### **Articulation and Third World Precapitalist Social Formations**

To begin with, the fact that adherents of the articulation of modes of production theory [hereafter called articulationists] consider capitalism as their historical point of departure, is by implication a recognition of one history, ( i.e., that of capitalism) and a denial of history prior to capitalism. Nonetheless, an examination of Rey's (1973, translated into English in 1982) and Wolpe's (1980) theoretical contributions in this regard would illuminate the articulationists' position on pre-capitalist formations.

Rey argues that in their Articulation or transition to capitalism, pre-capitalist social formations undergo three consecutive stages. In