

dominantly Arab Middle East, authors argue, legitimized and enhanced the Zionist role and provided the imperialist forces with a reliable ally in the region (Gozansky,1986; Said, 1978; Chomsky,1984).

Nevertheless, what is of particular concern for the discussion of the expropriation of the Palestinian direct producers is the new reality created as a result of the Zionist and colonial presence.

Primitive Accumulation and the Expropriation of the Direct Producers

In his "The So-Called Primitive Accumulation" Marx provides a classic model for the expropriation of the cultivators from their land (Marx, 1978:667-670). In this model, Marx emphasizes two major issues. On the one hand he argues that the expropriation of the direct producers from their land provides the historical prerequisite for the development of capitalism. "What the capitalist system demanded", Marx says, "was, on the one hand, a degraded and almost servile condition of the mass of the people, the transformation of them into mercenaries, and of their means of labour into capital." (Marx, 1978:674).

In this context, Marx also outlines the extra-economic means used in pushing direct producers off the land. Marx particularly stresses the importance of the following phenomena: the sale of land at "nominal" or "ridiculous" prices or even its relinquishment for no compensation; the consequent massive expulsion of the "hereditary sub-tenants" and the consolidation of their holdings into one unit; the transformation of government laws into "the instrument of the theft of people's land"; and "the ruin of former dwelling-houses, barns, stables.." (Marx, 1978: 675-78). Marx asserts that this process is characterized by the use of force and violence against the