

The Shibh-Muu'dameen and the Muu'dameen, together with a section of the fallaheen Mullak constitute what Marxists term, the rural proletariat. This rural proletariat often engaged themselves in work other than agricultural labour. Marxists have placed a particular emphasis on this phenomenon because of its significance to both the urban and rural bourgeoisie. Thus, while Lenin stresses the economic benefits the rural bourgeoisie draws from employing the proletariat peasant, Wolpe emphasizes the advantages gained by the capitalist industrialist from this semi proletariat class (Lenin,1977:178; Wolpe, 1980:296-98).

Researchers interested in examining the question of class differentiation among the fallaheen can hardly depend on any of the official censuses of rural areas, since all surveys during this period were made with one aim in mind, to perfect the British taxation system (Stein, 1984; Gozansky, 1986). The only report which allows for the creation of a meaningful class analysis is that of Johnson-Crosbie, mentioned earlier in the chapter. For, unlike other reports, this one related the question of land holding to the general question of sources of income and survival.

The 1930 "Enquiry into the Economic Conditions of the Agriculturists", conducted by Johnson and Crosbie is quite comprehensive. It covers 104 villages or about one quarter of the total villages in Palestine with an area of about 1,177,000d. and includes 23,573 families or one third of the total fallaheen families. The findings of the Enquiry strongly suggest that all estimates of land size provided then, including its own (at 100d.) were too small for any fallah family to survive on without outside wage employment.

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