

(*) Data presented here do not include rate of inflation. Had the latter been included prices would have been lower.

The conditions created for the fallaheen as a result of the development of capitalism in its settler colonial form is further exemplified by the case of wheat production.

The Fallaheen and Wheat Production

The following case history of wheat production in Palestine during the settlement period sums up the main arguments in this chapter. It links the destitution, ruination and eventual proletarianization of the fallaheen with the development of agricultural capitalism. It also exemplifies different mechanisms used by a particular form of colonialism, that is the Zionist settler movement, in reproducing and expanding the new mode of production. These different mechanisms, it will be shown, are the combination of economic competition and political practices of boycott. The process undergone by Palestinian wheat producers was double-edged. Colonial records and other official correspondence acknowledged the presence of a problem referred to as the "dumping of foreign wheat". They attempted to justify this "dumping" by claiming that there was a preference for foreign white over native black wheat. Yet serious concern about the consequences of this "dumping" was also expressed by colonial administrators.

What is at issue here is the import of large quantities of wheat to a country in which wheat was the major agricultural crop. The "dumping" of foreign wheat was viewed by both British officials and later by some writers, as a market phenomenon, a simple economic problem. Surplus wheat production in Europe and some of the European colonies were blamed for the dumping (Stein, 1984:143). So far as the