

study, only the discriminatory policies of this agency will be analysed.

The Histadrut was not just a "labour" organization. Established by the World Zionist Organization in 1920, the Histadrut functioned as the most powerful political body in the colonization process. With blank immigration certificates supplied to it by the government, the Histadrut exercised full authority over the immigration process. It decided who could immigrate, who should be sent to the co-operative settlements and also who would not be admitted as an immigrant.

Far from being "egalitarian", "socialist" or "democratic" as various writers claim, the Histadrut, in principle and in practice was moulded by racially discriminatory policies. (44) By definition, the Histadrut excluded all non-Jewish workers from its membership. Class and racial discrimination were at the core of the Histadrut policy of immigration. Intended immigrants were prioritized according to a set of categories established by it. While "a free hand", to use the words of the Investigating Committee into the Histadrut's Immigration Policies, was given to capitalist settlers, restrictions were placed on poorer classes. An investigation of the Histadrut's policy of immigration revealed that settlers in the agricultural co-operatives were threatened by the Histadrut that unless they paid back loans given to them, they would be replaced by other settlers. (45)

A vital criterion in the Histadrut's policy of immigration was also the ideological or political creed of the settler. (46) Writing on this issue, Simpson observes: "In the great majority of cases the immigrant would have no chance of a permit, unless he were persona grata. (47) The "persona grata", as the Chief Immigration Officer