

## Conclusion

In these concluding pages, I wish to re-evaluate, briefly, the main conceptual and empirical findings of this research study, suggesting some areas which deserve more attention and warrant further investigation.

This study has examined some major aspects of change and development undergone by the Palestinian socio-economic structure in the first half of the twentieth century, with particular emphasis placed on changes in the class structure.

In setting the ground for examining these processes, the first task of the study is to establish a conceptual framework capable of placing Palestine within its historical context. This has been done by examining, critically, a variety of theoretical frameworks introduced by a number of schools including, the Marxist, neo-marxist and "Orientalist" paradigms for analysing change and development in Third World social formations. We have singled out two particular conceptual frameworks, the "Asiatic Mode of Production", and the notion of the "Articulation of Modes of Production" applied largely to describe African socio-economic experiences.

Our critical examination suggests that the concepts advanced were, to say the least, inadequate for grasping pre-capitalist social formations. An alternative conceptual approach which would take into account the dynamic history of Palestine was, consequently, formulated. Comparative studies done in various parts of the Third World, and consulted throughout our enquiry, along with both old and fresh empirical data on Palestine, furnish an adequate basis for using the Marxist method of Historical Materialism. This approach, it is