

argued, allows for a more comprehensive and credible treatment of Palestine's twentieth century's history, by examining it in continuum, linking changes in its social and class structure to developments prior to the advent of the modern colonial era.

The empirical data provided on changes in the class structure in rural Palestine over the period from late nineteenth century to 1947, have tended, largely, to support our theoretical propositions. Thus, the analysis of late nineteenth century Palestine, (Chapter, 11), established that Palestine's socio-economic formation was already experiencing important changes affecting its forces and relations of production. These changes, it was shown, were generated from within (i.e., internal) and without (external) the national economy.

Data based on relatively new historical material and particularly the two manuscripts related to land tenure systems in Palestine have consolidated and given further credence to this approach, facilitating, in the process, our understanding of the pre-capitalist mode of production. Palestine's pre-capitalist mode of production, we conclude, was neither feudal, nor "Asiatic," nor for that matter "linear or tribal." The characteristic features of Palestine's socio-economic structure were analysed, using concepts specific to that particular history. This structure, it was demonstrated, was not immobile or stagnant but continually changing under internal and external pressures.

By the early 1920s, and with the beginning of British and Zionist colonization, Palestine's rural economy and its class structure had already begun to undergo a significant, albeit uneven transformation process, thus preparing the grounds for the expropriation of the