

agriculture and rural areas at a macroeconomic level without addressing the differential impact that socioeconomic change had on the different strata of rural inhabitants or concluded, given the overall growth and development in agriculture, that it benefited everyone.

Third, this being a study of the genesis of peasant dispossession and the role of Jewish European settlers in it provides a better understanding of the nature of the present relationship between the Palestinians and the state of Israel and the latter's continued expropriation of land. More importantly, it has far-reaching implications for the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It puts additional focus on the necessity of addressing the critical issue of the dispossession of the Palestinian peasantry whose great majority is living in refugee camps at present. As stipulated in international law, they have the right to restitution and repatriation. Without the implementation of those rights, it appears, if the history of the conflict for the last half century is any guide, that the conflict is likely to continue.

This first chapter includes the purpose of the study, provides some background to the study, presents a critical literature review, establishes the theoretical framework, and specifies the hypothesis of the study. The chapter concludes with a brief outline of the chapters of the study.

1.1 Purpose of the Study

The general purpose of the study was to investigate and analyze the nature and extent of rural change in Palestine. This general purpose was used as a