

Jewish settlements in distinction to the local Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza. (These consequences of colonial mediation are dealt with in detail in Chapter 3 of this thesis.) There are, however, a second set of peculiarities that are not related to the absence of a national state sector but still endow the Palestinian case with attributes not shared with most peripheral agrarian formations. Those are related to the persistence of features of Palestinian agriculture that pre-date Israeli and Jordanian rule. Among these features, some of which are common to the Levant and other dry farming regions, are the absence of substantive differentiation among the peasantry, the weakness of the internal market, and non-urbanization of regional centres, despite considerable demographic growth (Chapters 5 and 6). One major consequence of these features has been the phenomenon we refer to here as 'halted proletarianization', exemplified by the persistence of the family farm, and seasonal agriculture simultaneously with the massive transfer of the surplus rural labour force to wage labour in Israel and abroad (Chapter 7). In part this was possibly due to the physical proximity of the Israeli work centres to the village surplus labour, and to the nature of arbor cropping in the highlands.

Those peculiarities of the Palestinian agrarian régime, therefore, imposed themselves on the search for a theoretical model appropriate for the interpretation of the empirical data and still relevant to placing them in the context of existing development and agrarian studies.

I will discuss here three relevant theoretical excursions which have been utilized in this thesis - not always with the same degree of explicitness - and which have provided interpretative depth to the issues raised above. These theories are: the concept of 'internal colonialism' and cheap labour-power developed by Wolpe in relation to South African capitalism and the tribal Reserves; secondly, features of