

tendencies may also include the opposite trends of the 'biological cycles' examined by Chayanov and his school, namely, the trend towards a decrease in consumption pressures within the household, and the consolidation of the household's productive capacities (ibid.:103). The differentiation process becomes the product of the sum total of mobility patterns generated by centrifugal and centripetal tendencies.

The concept of 'substantive changes' (defined as 'the transmutations of peasant households resulting in the appearance and disappearance within peasant communities' - ibid.:81) has immediate relevance to the notion of 'peasantization' and 'de-peasantization' utilized in this study inasmuch as it deals with structural changes affecting the peasantry as a result of differential factors external (wage-labour 'pull', land availability and migration) and internal (wealth differential, 'fission', etc.) to village life.

But the historical contextual conditions of agrarian dislocation, and differentiation (or actually relative non-differentiation as we shall argue below), are radically different in Palestine from those prevailing in Chayanovian Russia or even the India of Patnaik and Bhaduri. Schematically, the distinguishing features of conditions leading to de-peasantization in Palestine in the last half-century can be outlined here:

1. A precarious existence for peasants qua agriculturalists emanating from the dominance of dry farming with smallholders' plots decreasing in size as a result of regressive parcellization and lack of meaningful consolidation of peasant property.
2. Alienation of the smallholding peasants from their land in favour of big landlords, resulting from the institution of private property in land ('Land Registration') and the