

work centres to the village) and ecology (dry farming under conditions of land parcellization); the other is the significance of sharecropping as a re-distributive mechanism in Palestinian agriculture, leading to ascendancy of the small peasant holder in some cases (Chapter 5), and to a redefinition of relations of exploitation in others (Chapters 10 and 12, below). The West Bank, largely for political reasons, is also characterized by an almost total absence of a land market - a phenomenon which renders the growth of 'kulak-type' holding, and the consolidation of plantation agriculture, almost impossible.

In my analysis, I have adopted this framework for the analysis of agrarian transition, utilizing the land tenure system (fragmentation, partible inheritance, etc.), wage-labour, out-migration, and the changing composition of the peasant household, as the key variables affecting agrarian transitional forms. The rationale for the choice of the villages selected for the case studies is discussed in the introduction to Part III below.

Notes

1. It is an open and debated question as to whether the Palestinian provinces of the Ottoman empire constituted a society with autonomous cultural and socio-economic attributes within greater Syria. By 1920, however, Mandated Palestine evolved into a delineated colonial formation, with its own state, hegemonic landlord-mercantile élite, nationalist movement, and internal market.
2. Elia Zureik (1979) applied the concept of internal colonialism primarily to the Arabs in Israel where, in the sense discussed above, it has less applicability given the enfranchisement of Palestinian citizens and where a system of ethnic and national discrimination operates rather than one based on apartheid-like regulations and territorial separation.
3. The main exception, of course, is the existence of the colonial and colonial-settler relationship which does not and did not exist in Turkey.
4. The use of the term 'kulak' and 'kulak-type' in reference to peasant capitalism may be unfortunate here since under the original Russian meaning it referred to usurious and parasitic elements among