

within the village. It had become more difficult for the colonial authorities to depend on their class allies among the urban landlords and rural potentates. But contrary to the dichotomy made by Taqqu, this trend was already taking form by the mid-thirties, as evidenced by the 1936 rebellion.

Another dislocating influence of this early proletarianization was its downward impact on the standard of living and organizing capacities of bona fide urban workers (Carmi and Rosenfeld, 1974:478; Taqqu, 1980: 281). Nevertheless, a thin crust of urban skilled workers managed to maintain its privileges and relative isolation from the flood of Egyptian (mostly from al-'Areish region) and Syrian (mostly from Hauran) migrant labourers who combined with the native peasant migrant workers in establishing their temporary residence in the coastal cities and army camps. Thus this newly formed stratum remained transient and their links with the urban proletariat insecure.

Landlessness and Emigration

While wage labour opportunities supplemented the marginality of peasant cultivation under conditions of dry farming, outmigration was occasional in Palestine with the total alienation of land following the 1948 war. However, it is not our contention here to imply that marginal farming is causally related to internal (peasant-worker) migration in the same way that land alienation is related to outmigration. In both cases the availability of, and access to, alternative work opportunity both at home and abroad have been crucial determinants of the peasant's relations to his village (and in the case of the peasant refugee, to his camp).