

One, in which the emigrants and their relatives at home originate from the lowest segment of the peasantry, and those sections of the medium-sized holders who eventually accumulate enough wealth to challenge the position, life-style and hegemony of the traditional potentates in the village. In Baytin, which seems to fit into this pattern, the returning emigrants even physically moved into a separate quarter (Lutfiyyeh, 1966: 20, 27). Similar situations occur in Birzeit, Taybeh and Bituniah villages - all in the Ramallah district.

A second type occurs when the earlier migrations occur among the wealthier peasants, those with connections in the urban centres and with enough money to support the initial settlement and search for employment abroad. This seems to be the case among the Bani Zeid villages discussed below. In those cases the upper stratum peasant families, particularly during Jordanian rule, were able to reinforce their hegemony and even extend their landholdings through the remittances sent to their relatives from abroad.

A third type of migration is one not associated with any differentiation among peasant classes but is relevant to the household composition within the family itself: that is the number of sons and relative that can be 'spared' by the household. Since this feature of migration applies to the first two types discussed as well, its distinguishing feature is the destination to which migrants head to. The high migration rates to the Gulf states which took place in the 1960s and 1970s, fall within this category. In contrast to the Americas, the short distance and relatively modest savings required for migration to the Gulf, made it possible for poorer migrants, but also for professionals and skilled workers, to establish themselves temporarily in the Gulf and return to the village periodically.