

2. The class-, or potential class-, identity of Palestinian workers in Israel is constantly being modified by their ethnic identity; by the daily confrontation with Jewish contractors, bosses, workers and Israeli culture in general - much more than would be the impact in the case of Turkish peasant-workers in Germany, for example.
3. This class factor, as we shall see, is complicated by the preponderance of Palestinian village workers in one particular branch of Israeli employment, construction, which imposes certain work processes, modes of promotion and mobility, and general work instability.
4. The mode of recruitment of Arab labour in Israeli enterprises is much less institutionalized, and therefore, much more subject to purely market forces and hence exploitation by labour contractors - both Arab and Jewish - and Israeli bosses than is the case with European migrant workers. This is especially the case in the construction sector where the fragmentary nature of the work force, and the presence of "illegal workers" (i.e. circumventing labour exchanges) prevail. Some control over these factors of manipulation (market forces and contractors) seem to come only from the efforts of organized Jewish labour to project itself from the wage-depressant impact of unorganized Arab labour over its standard of living.¹ Arab self-organization has so far played little or no role in this regard.