

types, then 'typicality refers to the statistical averaging of disparate aspects of agrarian structure which can nowhere be seen in a concrete representative village'. Furthermore, once we go beyond representation in the sense of population size, land area, and age-sex composition, regional and historical specificities begin to impose a virtually limitless criteria of choice on the researcher.

In what sense, then, is this study concerned with the issue of representation in the choice of village cases? There is, firstly, the negative anthropological concern, referred to above, of avoiding 'freak' cases. Villages that were statistically too large and too small (hamlet size) were avoided. So were settlements whose composition was ethnically marginal, or were incorporated in larger townships, or as a result of bordering the suburban regions of cities, their agricultural land has been transformed into real estate property.

In the more positive sense, however, the theoretical problems raised in this thesis determined the choice of villages studied. Here I was guided by two main considerations:

- (1) That the villages chosen corresponded to the zones of rain-fed agriculture, and irrigated agriculture respectively. These ecological conditions have historically, as I have established, evolved contrasting forms of peasant communities. In the case of rain-fed agriculture (which prevails in the highlands of the West Bank) it generated a substantial rural surplus, and marginalized farmsteads. Irrigated agriculture, on the other hand, evolved into intensive farming communities which lent itself to considerable mechanization since the 1960s. The processes of 'peasantisation' and 'de-peasantisation' capsule these major developments.
- (2) That the villages selected offer a suitable arena for the location and grounding of the mechanisms of agrarian transition delineated