

wealth. The wealthiest, a son of one of the two mukhtars, has only five dunums to his name, and the highest holding amongst those considered rich does not exceed a hundred dunums. Indeed, there does not seem to be a correlation in dry farming areas today between a peasant's wealth and the cultivable area he owns. Israeli occupation of the West Bank in 1967 was a landmark in further re-ordering the occupational structure among peasants by opening up employment opportunities outside the village on a scale unprecedented before, but without forcing the peasant out of the country. The consequences of the new political situation in creating a new stratum of peasant wage-workers can be better observed by contrasting the ramifications of the two periods in Ras el-Tin:

Before 1967: Both the increase in surplus labour and the scarcity of outside employment in the fifties encouraged many farmers to plant new olive seedlings and to pay extra attention to the existing groves. The result was an increased yield of olive oil per dunum of olive trees by the early sixties. By then the first emigrants to Lebanon, Colombia, and the Gulf States began to send money to their immediate relatives who had stayed in the village. Divisions between Baraghteh and Fallahin clans were still important, since the former families controlled the best lands and they had better connections with government circles and urban merchants. The Baraghteh also constituted the bulk of the small professional intelligentsia of the village, whose members -- upon receiving a university education -- had moved to Jerusalem, Amman, and Ramallah. However, new lines of differentiation emerged, separating those who received income from brothers and sons abroad from those who depended exclusively on local employment and/or their farm income. Village stores became an important instrument for the accumulation of wealth; both by selling items at a considerably higher price than their retail value in neighbouring Ramallah,