openings for professional and academic employment in the West Bank are most limited.

Conclusion

The turning point in the transformation of Natufa from a peasant community to a diversified rural settlement seeking its livelihood outside the agricultural realm occurred several decades ago, probably around World War I. The constellation of demographic and ecological factors, operating in the West Bank highlands, have led to the disintegration of the peasant communities in both Natufa and Ras el-Tin. But depeasantisation has had different outcomes in each village. Instead of the resident peasant-worker and the homogeneous social structure generated by the proletarianization of Ras el-Tin, Natufa produced a highly diversified, and mobile, social occupational structure. The impact of outmigration and educational attainment has been to create simultaneously significant class polarization and general prosperity in the village.

Notes

1. If we assume all present refugees in the village to be Muslim, then Christians would constitute 1,351 out of a total "native" population of 1,714, or 79% of the total.

2. Natufa Municipal Records, 1980. In my view this is an exaggerated rough estimate, based on local tax records, and has considerable overlapping, especially in the categories "resident" and "emigrant."

3. Allowance must be made here for a different definitions of households and undercounting in the 1974 Survey.

4. 144 households (47.2 percent of the total) indicated that at least one unit in the household has practiced family planning (NHS, 1974).

5. Since, in many cases, first children are still attending school (30.2 percent of them are below the age of 15 -- NHS:28) the difference in educational attainment is likely to be greater than what appears in our data.