

region since the early seventies. Its social consequences, however, have not been uniform.

5. The landholdings and water resources of both Zbeidat and Marj Na'je have been subject to extensive seizure and confiscation by Israeli colonial settlements. Although Israeli land encirclement has been more intensive here than elsewhere in the Valley, the pattern of relationship between the Military Government, Jewish settlers and Palestinian farmers has been the same.

In many ways the above features of agrarian change have been displayed in Zbeidat (and in neighbouring Marj Na'je) at their sharpest development. As such, their study may reveal trends that are still in their formative stage elsewhere.

Zbeidat and Marj Na'je: The Growth of Two Refugee Villages

Zbeidat and Marj Na'je constitute two contrasting examples of the reconstitution of refugee farming communities in the Jordan Valley: Zbeidat emerging from a cohesive tribal unit whose kinship network and place of origin (Beersheba) are homogeneous; Marj Na'je from successive waves of agricultural settlements based on a number of dispersed families hailing from the Central plains of Palestine and the Galilee. (Map 11:1 traces the different origins and respective physical movements of the present inhabitants).

The name Zbeidat refers to both the village located 36 kilometers north of Jericho in the Ghor el-Far'a region of the Central Jordan Valley, and the tribal unity inhabiting it. Originally a semi-nomadic clan from the hinterland of Beersheba, in southern Palestine (now Israel), the clan