

basis of the following logic: wage labour opportunities have contributed to the marginalization of agricultural land and diminishing social differences based on variations in the ownership of family plots. On the other hand, wage-labour has demonstratively not created any significant amount of wealth to generate capitalist investments in the village. Wealth differentials continue to obtain as a result of remittances sent by migrant relatives of the wealthier households to their kin, but here 'internal remittances' from wage labour acted dramatically to offset the earlier impact of outmigration.

(d) To the extent that some wealth has been accumulated in the hands of individual villagers, it has been invested in 'low-risk' enterprises: in olive presses, hauling trucks, electric generators, and real estate in the district centres, all of which generating minor developments in the village economy. The average peasant, after saving some money, tends to invest it into an additional housing unit (or an extension) for members of his nuclear household, and converts the rest into gold jewellery for his womenfolk. Capitalist relations in agriculture have little possibility of development in the central highlands given the nature of the soil (and terrain), and the unchecked process of plot fragmentation. Even where optimal ecological conditions allow for commercial agriculture to develop economic growth in West Bank villages will remain stunted in the absence of infrastructural institutions that provide efficient transport, credit facilities, and electric grids.

(e) Peasant household production continues to play an important, though declining, role in supplementing the income of the rural household. But here it is the structural dimension of peasant production that defines its relationship to wage labour. In common with the earlier relationship between South African industries and surplus labour from the tribal Reserves, the subsistence component of Palestinian agriculture