

the labour market? Are there any tendencies for whole villages, or clusters of regional villages, to 'specialize' in certain forms of unskilled labour? And, finally, what are the likely consequences of a major recession in the Israeli economy, or a closure of the Israeli labour market for Palestinian peasant-workers, for the seemingly stabilized occupational and socio-economy patterns analyzed in this essay?

- 6 -

The concept of 'peasantisation' has been defined in this study to designate 'the process of accession by landless agriculturalists and sharecroppers to the status of smallholders through one of two processes: one was the assumption of landholding status by dispossessed peasants through sharecropping contracts of the mugarasa and musaqah nature; and the second, acquisition of land through the rejuvenation of unexploited land' (p. 15). The two processes find their consumation in my analysis of the adaptation of landless refugee peasants to the conditions of intensive farming in the Jordan Valley.

The genesis and future of the communities of Zbeidat and Marj Na'je (Chapters 11 and 12) is shared in many respects by the majority of Palestinian villages in the upper Valley, such as Jiftlek, Makhrouq, and Auja. The 'revolution of agricultural technology' exemplified in the introduction of commercial farming and drip irrigation in the seventies to the region, has had a drastic effect on reversing patterns of disintegration in these peasant communities. My study of the recent history of Zbeidat and Marj Na'je has led me to conclude that disintegration was imminent as a consequence of the following combined conditions: (a) the integration of the Jordan Valley into the agricultural commodity market resulted in the rapid rise in the cost of agricultural inputs for the