

countries of Europe, such as Germany and France. As in Europe, the Palestinian peasant-worker household underwrites a substantial portion of the costs of reproducing the labour-force through the secondary contribution of the family farm. It also contributes to the partial resolution of rural poverty by injecting the village economy with an external source of income, while retaining traditional features of peasant social organization. Unlike the situation in Europe, however, the peasant-worker phenomenon exists in a much more precarious balance, given the peasant's insecurity in relationship to his land-title and conditions of urban unemployment.

(b) Another specificity peculiar to the Palestinian highlands (the West Bank) is the absence of urban centres of any considerable size. What exists are a number of large townships which are virtually ruralized concentrations of population dominated by merchant capital. The lack of any large-scale urban investments, manufacturing enterprises, or public sector worthy of the name, means that demographic pressures in the countryside were bound to find their outlet in external migration much earlier than in countries embodied with a similar agrarian régime, while the stark dichotomy between village and city that we observe in Egypt or Brazil is characteristically weak in the West Bank. Rural notables and potentates, except for a few expected cultural obstacles, find it possible and frequently realizable to assume positions of power and high status in the townships.

(c) Finally, Israel's imposition of its colonial rule over the Gaza and the West Bank since 1967 has created new deflections in the path of Palestinian agrarian transformation that further set it apart from earlier trends of development. On the one hand, the opening up of its labour market to the surplus rural force, put an initial brake to the endemic tendencies for rural outmigration and consolidated a peasant-