

worker strata encompassing one-third of the total labour force. On the other hand, Israel's continued encroachment over Arab lands, and the physical challenge to the Palestinian's continued survival in their traditional communities, renders the seemingly stabilized relationship between the residual peasant farmstead and the peasant-workers' involvement in the urban sector, into an increasingly insecure proposition. What restrains this insecurity in the peasants' ability to survive is Israel's own dependence on this precarious balance.

Note

1. The possibility of employing Egyptian workers in Israel after the peace treaty between the two countries in 1980, became a source of considerable concern for Palestinian workers in the occupied territories who feared both their displacement by the potentially cheaper Egyptian labour, and the lowering of wages such an influx might entail. See, for example, "Gaza District Workers Unaffected by Unemployment in Israel", in al-Quds, March 26, 1980 (in Arabic).