

ABSTRACT

THE PROLETARIANIZATION OF PALESTINIANS IN ISRAEL:

A STUDY OF DEVELOPMENT AND CLASS FORMATION

by

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This thesis examines the emergence of a Palestinian proletariat in Israel in light of a historically-held commitment by the Zionist movement to an exclusive Jewish proletariat in Palestine. This commitment derives from socialist Zionism, identified here as the ideological/theoretical foundation and plan of action underlying the capitalist settler-colonial social formation that Israel represents.

The study involves identifying the causes underlying the current proletarianization of Palestinians by Israeli capital and the implications this process may have on the class struggle. It hypothesizes that this process creates an objective basis for potential proletarian alliance between Palestinian-Arabs and Israeli-Jews.

The theoretical background for this analysis is the law of uneven development and the method is dialectical materialism.

The starting point of this thesis is the view that development is the outcome of the contradictory unity of the forces of production and the relations of production in which the latter predominates. This unity involves interaction between objective forces (material conditions) and subjective forces (theory, social consciousness, etc.).

The relations of production which predominate the development process are class relations. They are thus relations to economic, political and ideological apparatuses by which the boundaries of social classes are defined.

In Israel today, the proletarianization of Palestinians is an aspect of class formation which was prohibited under the historical domination of socialist Zionist relations of production. It, therefore, involves transformation of these relations in the three spheres (economic, political and ideological). Evidence from this study suggests that this aspect of class formation represents the synthesis of qualitative change in the relations of production and quantitative change in the degree of development of the productive forces characterizing Israel in the aftermath of the 1967 War.