

class interests do not simply dissolve without structural changes in the social relations of production. It is our basic thesis that such changes have occurred in the 1967 war.

If it is found that the new material conditions characteristic of the post-1967 war are, in fact, giving rise to commonality of class interest among a substantial number of Palestinian-Arab and Israeli-Jewish producers, we then have a solid objective base for politicization in the direction of cross-national proletarian alliance in the sense of class unity.

It is on this basic thesis that the link between the practical purpose of this research and the imperative of employing dialectical materialism as the method of investigation lies. This link derives from the view that class locations are structurally determined by places in the production process and by ideological-political relations in the social formation at large.

Since this study involves merely the formation of a Palestinian working class and not class formation in general and the objective conditions for proletarian, but not other class, alliance, it is only necessary to identify the criteria for proletarian class locations, defining the boundaries of the working class.

C. Determination of Proletarian Class Locations: The Boundaries of the Working Class

From an historical materialist perspective, identifying the boundaries of social classes is crucial for interpreting the world and for changing it. Social classes are not mere analytical abstractions or empty