

In advance, we emphasize that as a study of only one aspect of class formation, namely, the formation of a Palestinian working class, this research, despite its practical orientation, is of little value to political practice unless complemented by an up-to-date analysis of other aspects of class formation in Israel and of the class distribution of Palestinians in Israel and exile.⁴⁵

B. Limits of method

The theoretical background for this study is dialectical materialism, a paradigm which is universally applicable. Despite this, our task presents a methodological problem, namely, the theoretical concepts available in relevant literature have not been developed in analysis of the novel settler-colonial formation which Israel represents. Therefore, these concepts must be reworked for the concrete case being studied. While this is necessary in any concrete case, the settler-colonial social formation is not one which has been analyzed elsewhere.

In the literature developed in the analysis of the Palestinian-Israeli context we are unaware of an adequate treatment of this problem and the attempt to provide more appropriate concepts. The fact that this study is, itself, done abroad in a context alien to its content, does not allow for development of such concepts.

These limits of method may, yet, involve a positive effect in the sense that only in the context of the general or universal can the specific be more adequately comprehended. Further, it is only when the specific is analyzed in terms of generalizable concepts that it may become of value to general theory.