

tigate carefully the underlying causes, as in Syria and Lebanon as well, industrial capital was and still is crippled simply by the predominance of the merchant class.

The absence of a Palestinian industrial bourgeoisie, however, must not obscure the emergence of a Palestinian proletariat, subject to the logic of capitalist accumulation on a world scale; this will be the subject of discussion in an ensuing section. In the following section we demonstrate that as the commercial fraction of the ruling class was crushed by British colonialism, it was the feudal fraction of the ruling class that was liquidated by Zionist land acquisition policy and, correspondingly, the peasantry itself. The following also highlights the contradictory effects of Zionism as far as unifying/dividing Palestine from the Levant. How land purchases resulted in the very liquidation of the Palestinian and absentee feudal classes, transforming some into merchant capitalists who were, in 1948, re-integrated into the unifying class of the Levant.

B. Characterizations of Jewish Settlement Under the Hegemony of Proletarian

Zionism

It was not until the second Aliyah* (1904-1914) that the historical practices of Labor-Zionism began. The first Aliyah, beginning in 1882 and led by the Hovevi Zion (the Lovers of Zion) movement, was not guided by socialist Zionist ideals; rather, by the pioneering ethos and the return-to-the-soil slogan. European-Jewish settlers with capital were brought in

*"Aliyah" is a Hebrew word meaning ascent, refers to "Jewish immigration to Palestine", and is distinguished from "Yiridah", meaning descent, which refers to "Jewish emigration from Israel." The first, second, third, fourth, and fifth Aliyahs refer to the major waves of Jewish immigration to Palestine before Statehood.