

In the West Bank, a much higher proportion of the labor force is employed in construction and agriculture than in Gaza. This is probably due to the fact that the majority of the West Bank Palestinians are not refugees;¹⁸ thus, they have more access to land ownership and sense of permanence; hence, the higher weight agriculture and construction have in that economy.

It may sound logically contradictory, however, that the Palestinians in Israel, who, unlike those in the West Bank, were during the pre-1967 experience constantly subjugated to Zionist land expropriation, seem to be, despite that, the most highly represented in agriculture and construction of all the other groups.¹⁹ In reality, these figures simply reflect two different kinds of employment of Palestinians: in the modern construction sector in the case of Israeli citizens and in semi-subsistence traditional construction industry in the case of the West Bankers. In Israel, Palestinians build mainly for Jewish immigrants; not for their direct consumption.

Finally, the prominent concentration of Palestinians of the West Bank and Israel in agriculture is expressive also of the supply, and not only demand, side of labor. The West Bank as well as the Galilee and the Small Triangle within Israel are the only regions populated by Palestinians who have never been totally uprooted and "transferred" from their Palestinian soil.

In this sense, the considerably high weight of agriculture is, in part, a reflection of the predominantly peasant class background of this