

Chapter V

Capitalist Agriculture and Zionist Colonization

While Marxists generally agree that in order for capitalism to predominate agriculture both the forces and relations of production must change and acquire capitalistic features, they differ in terms of the emphasis they place on the components of the capitalist mode of production. One approach, found particularly within the discipline of economics, places a special emphasis on the level of development attained by the forces of production (Bagchi, 1982; Szentes, 1976). Political economists on the other hand, insist that the capitalist mode of production is composed of a totality of relations and forces of production. In this view, attention is drawn to the importance of production relations in indicating the character of the mode of production (Lenin, 1960; Murray and Post, 1983; Patnaik, 1983).

Both camps agree that certain changes must occur in order for capitalism to predominate in agricultural production. These are: 1) Capital investment in agriculture; 2) The mechanization of agricultural production; 3) The development of intensive agriculture; 4) The production of commercial and industrial crops; 5) The consequent replacement of small-scale agricultural production with large-scale industrial production; And finally, that hired or wage labour must be the main source of surplus value in capitalist agriculture. (Lenin, 1960; 1979; Kautsky, 1976; Patnaik, 1983; Saleh, 1979)

Changes within Palestine's agricultural economy strongly suggest that capitalism was rapidly replacing pre-capitalist forms of agricultural production. This tendency, it will be shown, was prevalent