

Palestine will show that share-cropping was compatible with the transitional and capitalist economy and, in all its forms, signified a departure from pre-capitalist relations of production. Peasants in all forms of share-cropping were at least partially displaced from their land; share-cropping in at least one case involved the mechanization of agricultural production and the production for the market; and, finally, the emergence of share-cropping within the village/Hamula structure was a social force causing further peasant differentiation.

Colonialism and Capitalist Accumulation

The process of peasant differentiation in Palestine had reached a historic turning point at the turn of the century as a result of British colonialism and Zionist capitalist development in Palestine. Capitalism developed during British colonialism and Zionist settler rule was not imposed on a barren land or a stagnant history but had to articulate with and further expand the process of primitive accumulation already existing in Palestine. Two forms of accumulation have been articulated: original or "primitive" accumulation, which was generated from within Palestine, and capitalist accumulation, which was largely enhanced by "external" forces. It is in the context of this history of the articulation of two forms of accumulation that a proper understanding of change and transition in Palestine can be attained.

Colonialism: A Speeding Force For Capitalist Development

The imposition of colonial capitalism on Third World countries facilitates, but does not initiate, capitalist development. In the first half of the twentieth century the Palestinian socio-economic