

structure was undergoing various processes of change. One such process was the intensification of differentiation amongst the peasantry. This process involved various forces working simultaneously. During the first decade of British rule massive land and peasant expropriation emerged, rendering a large segment of the peasants landless. A full analysis of this process will be provided in Chapter Three.

Peasant differentiation was further enhanced by the introduction of capital and technology to agricultural production (see Chapter Four). The competition which accompanied this process took a special toll on the small scale based agrarian economy. With the further development of capitalism in agricultural production (see Chapter Five), the indebtedness of various sections within the peasantry and the ruination of others was also escalated. The culmination of peasant differentiation (see Chapter Six) was crystalized by the further polarization within the Palestinian peasantry and by the emergence of a strong class of proletarians. Peasant differentiation, however, was not confined to the economic forces involved in the process. Under colonial settler forms of rule, economic changes were themselves facilitated by political, legal, ideological and other mechanisms which in turn require a precise analysis.

Wolpe's thesis that "...the state has been utilized at all times to secure and develop the capitalist mode of production..." and that "...racist ideology and policy and the state [were used as] means for the reproduction of a particular mode of production..." (Wolpe, 1980: 293) will be carefully examined. Similarities between the role of the South African state and the White settlers ideology on the one hand and British colonial rule and the Zionist ideology on the other will be pointed out in various chapters and particularly in Chapters Five