

normally arise as a result of land expropriation were, as a result of European Jewish settlement, diverted from within the rural economic structure. Instead, they emerged between the indigenous Palestinian proletariat and the foreign class or agencies of of landowners.

Moreover, under the pressure of the economic development of agriculture, and the policies of the Zionist authorities, the growth of the existing and potential indigenous rural bourgeoisie was severely checked. Market competition brought in by the development of certain large-scale industries whose commodities were already being produced on a small-scale within the rural economy forced large sections of this rural industry out of business.

Furthermore, the national exclusivist ideology practiced by the Zionist authorities in Palestine had also left its imprint on the class structure of the Palestinians. Of particular significance in this context was the Zionist boycott of indigenous products, which will be discussed later in this chapter with particular reference to sesame and wheat.

The economic, political and ideological forces involved in the process which suppressed the indigenous rural bourgeois class simultaneously gave birth to a dominant European Jewish bourgeois class. By dictating the direction and route of the economic development, the colonial and Zionist forces managed to divert the focus of class contradictions from within the indigenous rural economy into outside that economy.

### **Classes in Rural Palestine**

The intensification of the economic differentiation within the Palestinian peasantry, partly due to the expropriation of land and