

increased greatly over this span of time: From 11,540 people to 37,250 or by over 240 per cent between 1922 and 1931. One decade later, i.e., from 1931 to 1941, the population of the Moshavot increased by about 280 per cent.

Their relative population, however, declined. This is largely attributable to the development of Moshav and Kibbutz forms of settlements.

Zionism and "Workers' Co-operatives"

The extensive body of literature on the co-operatives is largely inaccurate and deficient. By lumping together all forms of co-operative settlements, the literature fails to account for the fundamental difference between the Kibbutz and the Moshav as well as the differences within the Moshavs themselves. Authors have also ignored the actual and potential social contradictions inherent in these forms of production.

Virtually all uncritical writers present these co-operatives as "socialists" or "primitive communist" communities or even, in one case, as the "ideal society for the fulfillment of human dream". (Tabenkin, 1985; Bettelheim, 1971; Rinehart, 1971; Eisenstadt, 1985; Spiro, 1972) Yet, as various authors have correctly noticed, the co-operatives have always been integral parts of the capitalist mode of production (Rayman, 1981; abu-Rjeyli, 1970). To this analysis we will now turn.

A common set of assumptions shared by most Israeli and other romanticizers of these forms of labour organizations involves the two fundamental components of these settlements, landed property and wage labour.