

settlement is as follows:

A group of pioneers, strongly committed to the Zionist ideal arrived first to Palestine in late 19th century..They found the country wild and unpopulated...They started from scratch to work the land and prepare it for successive pioneers....More pioneers followed and all began to dry swamps, revive their culture..(Frenkel and Bichler,1984:14)

The view of Palestine as a barren land, was reiterated recently by another Israeli writer. In his 1987 "The formation of Working Class in Palestine", Ben-Porat suggests that the "Jewish pioneers", which were composed of the class of independent farmers and workers, built everything from scratch. 'They imported their socialist ideologies and organizational skills from Europe and created their own conditions of labour, their own modes of production and their autonomy' (Ben-Porat,1986:pp.446-456). Only once in this article does Ben-Porat mention the indigenous population.

This framework, moreover, places particular emphasis on the policy of "Jewish Labour". It is argued that the introduction of this policy ensured the process of separation and contributed further to the autonomous status of the Jewish economy. Jewish settlers, it is maintained, did not want to be seen as colonizers exploiting other nations. They therefore introduced the policy of "Jewish Labour" which forced them to rely on their own national labour power (Sussman,1974:68-70; Kimmerling,1983:51).

The contention that Palestine's economy was composed of two separate sectors has been strongly criticised. Non-Marxist and Neo-marxist scholars alike reject the notion that the capitalist economy developed independently from the indigenous peasant economy (Zureik,1979; Sussman, 1974; Flapan, 1979; Carmi and Rosenfeld, 1980).