

shed when the Histadrut forced an Arab contractor and his workers out of work". (53)

The Zionist exclusivist policy of Jewish Labour aggravated the exploitation of the working classes in general and of the indigenous Palestinians in particular. For the indigenous Palestinian workers, this policy meant further unemployment and underemployment. It also meant that more and more Arab labourers were forced to sell their labour power at any cost in order to survive.

Racial discrimination practiced by the colonial state and the Zionist authorities, it is suggested, was a major factor in the depreciation of labour power both in terms of working conditions and wages. Moreover, the depreciation of the value of Arab workers was used by independent Jewish capitalists as a means to extract more surplus value from the Jewish labourer by threatening him with the Arab labourer.

One important question which emerges from the analysis so far concerns the reaction of the subjected working population to these exploitative conditions. Was there resistance to this oppression and, if so, what form did this resistance take?

Although most of the literature has tended to belittle the importance of the indigenous Palestinian opposition to British and Zionist rule, historical documents provide ample evidence of Palestinian resistance. Workers' resistance to these policies was not confined to the frequent individual incidents documented earlier. An organized working class struggle also emerged during this period.

In "Colonialism and National Liberation Movements: An analysis of the Palestinian Struggle between 1920-40", I have provided a detailed