

workers shut down large sections of the economy. In April of that year, 50 Arab workers at the Iraqi Petroleum Company went on strike for higher wages and improved labour conditions. In a show of solidarity, 90 other workers from the mechanical section of the I.P.C. joined their strike. Later, they were also joined by the electricians and depot workers who made up about 130 workers. According to one British report, the strike of the I.P.C. spread to many other places. Over 500 workers, mostly Arabs in the Railway and Harbour sectors went on strike during the same period. (61)

Labour organizations contributed substantially to the growth of class awareness among the Arab workers. Through literacy campaigns and the establishment of special committees to relieve distressed peasants and unemployed workers, labour organizations during the 1930s began to attract large sections of the Palestinian working population. (62)

Working class influence was best demonstrated in the strong alliance they formed with the fallaheen during the 1936 revolution. In an unprecedented move, demands were, for the first time, raised against the indigenous ruling bourgeoisie. Throughout most of the revolution, peasants refrained from paying taxes or tithes. They burned large estates and in 1937 peasants and workers gained control of a large part of central and northern Palestine. (63)

Despite the Zionist attempts at segregating them from their Jewish counterparts and the harrassment of the Labour Guards, Arab workers demonstrated a clear understanding of their political environment. Class solidarity across national lines, i.e., between Arab and Jewish workers was attempted more than once during the 1920s. In 1924 Jewish and Arab Workers in the Railway sector formed together their first