

through their own labor. The question is how the conditions of production and reproduction are determined by the operations of capital (in particular social formations and at the level of world economy) and of the state.¹³¹

Asad's study fits, in general, in this variant. I already discussed its main drawbacks specific to Palestine.

Within the structural/historical approach, there are differences on a variety of issues, but a "central debate" concerns that between those who adopt a "differentiation perspective" and those who adhere to the notion of a "specific peasant economy." This study adopts the former while at the same time recognizes that there are counteracting factors, in different contexts, that may slow down the process of peasant differentiation. There is no need here to comment on the extensive theoretical literature of this debate. It is sufficient to say that peasant differentiation, to whatever extent, is and was an observed phenomenon in rural areas. On the other hand, the "specific-peasant-economy" perspective offers some insights on the ability of peasants and their "farms" to survive and how they interact with, adapt to, and respond to capitalism. The existence of such peasants and "family farms" sit side by side with large numbers of marginal "farms" and landless households.¹³²

The structural/historical approach is the one used in this study. It considers the environmental, technological, and demographic factors and the relationships

¹³¹Henry Bernstein, "Notes on Capital and Peasantry," *Rural Development*, ed. Harriss, 160.

¹³²Harriss, "Introduction" to Part Two, 120.