

between them. It also includes an examination of changes in the techniques of production and, more importantly, the relations of production in agriculture. It specifically addresses the issue of the differentiation of the peasantry. It specifically uses Patnaik's approach to differentiation, which is seen as appropriate for rural areas that had only limited capitalist development.¹³³ This study also addresses the integration of the rural areas and producers into the world market and its impact. All of this is done in the context of the interaction of government policies, settler capitalism, and the socioeconomic structure of and changes in the Arab rural areas. In other words, the changes in the rural areas cannot be separated from their interaction with government policies and impact of the European settlers, all forming part of a process that encompasses all. It should be stressed here that the use of the structural/historical approach to rural change in this study is informed by the *colonial* nature of government policies and Zionist settlement, while also cognizant of their specific features. In other words, the structural/historical approach is used within a broader colonial framework of analysis.

1.5 Hypothesis

The thesis of this study is that British policies and the activities and nature of European Jewish settler capitalism, in their interaction with the indigenous Palestinian Arabs, undermined the rural economy, set in a process of

¹³³Utsa Patnaik, "Class Differentiation Within the Peasantry: An Approach to the Analysis of Indian Agriculture," *Economic and Political Weekly* 11, no. 39 (September 1976): A82-A101.