

He suggests that the pattern of 'internal colonialism' which occurred between 1948-1967 in the Galilee is repeating itself in the West Bank (Zureik, ibid.). Here a dual process of 'de-peasantization' (West Bank farmers deserting their farms to work in Israel as wage labourers) and 'de-bourgeoisification' (my expression, not Zureik's, referring to professionals and businessmen emigrating to Arab countries) is also taking place.

It is our contention however, that the social structure of those Palestinian communities which sought refuge in the Arab states and those that remained in the West Bank and Gaza cannot be understood in the same terms applied to the Palestinian experience under the first phase of Israeli rule (1948-1967). Moreover, changes which have occurred within Israeli society itself, both in the realm of Arab national consciousness, and in recruitment patterns of Arab employment, warrant a re-definition of Palestinian class structure in Israel since that period.

In order to grasp the character of this transformation, especially since 1967, I submit the following general propositions on the relationship between the notion of de-classment and the varieties of the experiences of the segmented Palestinian communities:

1. The declassment of the Palestinians in Israel in the past contain no inherent impediments for their proletarianisation in the present.
2. A more complex pattern of social differentiation and adaptation in the West Bank and Gaza is evolving under Israeli rule (1967-1981) than the one experienced by those who remained originally in Israel (1948-1967).