

the West Bank is somewhat different to the extent the structure of the peasant household has been dismembered by large scale migration abroad. Ammons (1978) has shown how the differential impact of emigration and internal community of peasant workers has had unanticipated, and contradictory, consequences for the peasant household. While the former, migration abroad, contributed to the strengthening of the extended unit and a conservative social outlook among the remaining family members; the latter (internal commuting) hastened the process of breakup and nucleization, in part because younger bread winners in the family established an independent source of earning from their fathers (Ammons, 1978:213, 219).

The adaptation of the peasant household to land marginalization and to the loss of family members to work opportunities abroad as we shall see below in the case of Ras el-Tin, has been variable and dependent often on the initiative of the head of household to maintain his sons involvement in agriculture. The size of the plot in hilly dry farming seems immaterial to this continued cohesion of the extended family since beyond a certain limit the land is usually farmed out on a share-cropping basis. We will suggest here three factors that continue to bind residentially nucleated extended households: (1) the ability of the patriarch to reconcile his married sons' urges (and now ability) to break away from their parental bonds with his appeal for their help in working the land during periods of heavy demand for agricultural work; (2) the degree to which remuneration from wage labour and remittances leads the whole family to neglect the land and live as rentiers. In this case, as Ammons has noted for Ballata, the extended family is augmented by wives and children of emigrants' abroad and the traditional authority of the patriarch is strengthened regardless of his relationship to the land; (3) the ability of the head of the household to harness the labour of