

posts, built on the eastern ridge of the Samarian highlands reinforced the presence of the Valley bed settlements.

2. Reorientation of settlement's character from semi-military outposts to permanent civilian villages, based on water-intensive agriculture (after 1974). This was accompanied by a shift from the collective form of agricultural production (moshav shiftui) to cooperative farming (simple moshav) to allow for an independent small holding agriculture oriented towards the export of winter vegetables.
3. Urban network (1975-1977): creation of regional urban centres in Ma'aleh Efraim, Ma'aleh Adumim, and Kiryat Arba' (Hebron). The aim of these centres were (a) to buttress the scanty demographic presence of agricultural settlements with an industrially based Jewish population in the rift; (b) to create a network of Jewish urban population linking central Israel to the rift and separating the highland Palestinian population from the Arab world (i.e. from geographical continuity with Jordan); (c) to create an urban-regional infrastructure to provide services and light industries for the agrarian-based villages (Harris, 1970:114-115).
4. Demographic breakthrough (1978-present): the publication of the Drobbles Plan (World Zionist Organization) in 1978 calling for settlements not only "around the settlements of minorities (sic), but also in between them" (Drobbles, 1978:1) marked a turning point towards the physical annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. In the Jordan Valley the