

the sudden movement of population and the more recent physical dismemberment of village holdings, subject to the strategic and demographic plans of Israeli settlements has reigned havoc on any standard features which those villages may have had in common.

Yet Zbeidat exhibits most of the crucial trends which have characterized the recent history of rural life in the Western Valley:

1. It is a village where "peasantization" has run its full cycle, in the double sense that a semi-nomadic tribe has transformed its material base of subsistence from seasonal migration to permanent settlement, and in the sense that a dispossessed community of refugee agriculturalists have become full time farmers.
2. The relations of agricultural production in the village exhibit virtually all the forms of tenure relations that prevail in the Valley today: owner-cultivation, share-tenancy, cash rentals, and wage labour. Only plantation type agriculture is absent.
3. Zbeidat farmers' relation to absentee landlords of neighbouring holdings, to commission agents and wholesalers in the city of Nablus, is typical of the small farmers' dependence on suppliers of credit and market outlets that characterizes class relations in the whole Valley, East and West.
4. The introduction of drip irrigation methods in Zbeidat reflects a conversion in intensive farming which has been replacing both canal (farrow) and sprinkler irrigation throughout the