

Sources: (1) Author's 1980 Zbeidat Household Survey, (2) 1978 land survey. Shahabat possessions include 10 dunums which are outside the surveyed areas.

Close to half (49.6%) of the total cultivated area was lost by Zbeidat villages as a result of the June war. Out of the original 500 dunums land-grant 179.31 dunums, composed of rich soil by the river basin, were fenced-off by the army for "security" reasons. The remaining 68.83 dunums were granted to three farmers in compensation for land confiscated for the benefit of Argaman settlers. All three farmers are absentee landlords whose land is currently being share-cropped by Zbeidat peasants.

The fencing-off of border land occasioned a new redistribution of land in Zbeidat and a process of internal differentiation not only between sub-clans but within each sub-clan. Since the lost land affected some farmers and spared others, those families who remained in the Valley cultivated their own land and collectively tilled the parcels of those relatives who migrated across the river, sending them half the cash yield in the usual share-cropping fashion. By the second year after the war (1968-69) it became evident to Zbeidatis that this sacrifice could not go on, especially when the remaining 68 dunums of "absentee" families were also seized. The elders of each hamulah met and decided to redistribute the parcels over the remaining households taking into account the altered membership of the sub-clans. Map 11:3 illustrates the consequences of the redistribution patterns for each sub-clan. Thus, al-Mahameed sub-clan lost 84% of their land (with 5 households only remaining in the village) as opposed to Shahabat who retained most of their land (17% lost). In addition, three factors which had determined the earlier distribution of plots were taken into account this second time: (a) the size of each household; (b) the "social weight" of certain leading families -- e.g. the mukhtar and other sub-clan elders; and