

temporary European agriculture, for example, we witness the stabilization of the family farm as the optimal unit of agricultural production was accompanied by a drastic reduction of the agricultural labour force and substantive capitalization of farm inputs. Together with this persistence of the small farmer in the midst of advanced capitalism, we also witness the successful adaptation of the worker-peasant phenomenon to the re-organization of both industrial production and agricultural mechanization. Its future, however, is not so certain. The following example, from Germany, illustrates the conditions of peasant-worker communities in the 1960s:

The part-time holding provided security. On the basis of its residual function a family income, rather than an individual income, was accumulated from diverse sources. But the disproportion between the contribution from the industrial and agricultural parts has grown so great that a change of disposition has become impossible. The part-time holding provided also a physical base, a shelter, which alleviated the worker-peasant of the costs of re-housing as he became incorporated in the industrial system. Increasingly the farm has been retained not for the security of income it afforded but because modern means of transport have widened extensively the economic area accessible from that base. (Franklin, 1971:101)

The stabilization of the relationship between the family farm and commuting wage-labour in the West Bank is similar in many respects to Franklin's illustration, but it was achieved at a much more precarious balance. Agricultural inputs in the Palestinian case were much less capitalized, and indeed farming conditions in the highlands went through actual regression. On the other hand, the conditions of urban employment provide, as in Europe, the major share in the farm income/wage-labour sources of income to the commuting peasant, but at a much lower rate of remuneration, and certainly at a considerable insecurity in work tenure. In this last respect, the Palestinian peasant-worker has much more in common with the Italian Guestworker than with the native German commuting