

economic research among Israeli intellectuals, journalists, and officials. This was particularly noticeable during the early years of occupation when many were attracted by the potentially far-reaching impact of occupation on the economics of Israel and the occupied territories themselves. Among the first pioneering studies in this field were those of Kanovsky¹ and Ben Shazar.²

The above mentioned reports dealt with the economic issues emerging after the 1967 war, with noted emphasis on their effects on Israel's economy under alternative political scenarios. Although of value to politicians and macro-economists, those studies command little value to researchers concerned with specific economic sectors, such as West Bank agriculture.

A prominent source of information on West Bank economic structure is the Research Department in the Bank of Israel, which has established a special office for monitoring the economics of the occupied area. The former director of this office, Arie Bregman, published a series of two reports in the early seventies under the title of "The Economy of the Administered Areas".³ Bregman's reports were widely quoted and have become major references on the subject, especially for foreign researchers.

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1. E Kanovsky et al: The Economic Impact of the Six Day War, (New York: Praeger, 1970).
 2. H Ben Shazar et al: Economic Structure and Development of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, (Santa Monica: Rand Corporation, 1971).
 3. Arie Bregman, The Economy of the Administered Areas, (Jerusalem: Research Department in the Bank of Israel, 1973 and 1974).

Though more reserved than publications published by the Military Headquarters, Bregman's reports are also characterized by a somewhat propagandist image. His estimates of economic growth, supposedly around 18 percent per annum (at fixed prices) have been criticized for over-optimism. Van Arkadie, for example, believes that the real figure may not exceed 9 percent. (This point will be elaborated further in Chapter 5).

The least authentic sources of information on economic transformation in the occupied territories are those released by the Military Headquarters at Beit Eil. The Military Command appears obsessed with portraying its rule in the occupied territories as a historic blessing which has brought about a revolutionary advance in what previously was a backward economy with a retarded standard of living.¹ Much has been published on that theme by various specialized departments at Beit Eil and by the Israeli press. Among the least modest of all are reports published by the Department of Agriculture in the Military Command. A recent publication by the chief of the Planning Unit in the Department of Agriculture estimates a rate of growth in agriculture income during 1968-76 at 15.5 percent and proudly concludes that such a rate of growth is "unparalleled in the world."²

Foreign Literature

Foreign interest in the West Bank's economy has been much less profound than in its politics. Although a great many articles

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1. Example: "The years of Israeli administration have already produced the period of greatest prosperity in the history of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip". Source: Information Briefing 28: Facts about the Administered Areas (Israel Information Centre) p 24.
 2. Moshe Levi, Development of Agriculture in Yehuda and Shomron, 1967-76, (Beit Eil: Department of Agriculture in the Military Headquarters, 1978), p 1.