

exposition of the political history of the area and a description of various institutions bearing on the process of economic development.

Bull's views on the historical, social and cultural transformations are often sketchy, and sometimes inaccurate. For example, not many would agree with her categorical condemnation of workers in rural areas that they "have ingrained attitudes of distaste for manual labour, even if it is of a technical nature."<sup>1</sup> Her contentions about the impact of Islam on social and economic change are also questionable. She interprets Moslems' spiritual conviction that God is the ultimate Cause of change and Mover of man as "willingness to subscribe almost anything to the will of Allah."<sup>2</sup> In the researcher's opinion Moslems would consider this not only a wrong conception, but also insulting.

Bull's review of West Bank agriculture is the book's weakest spot. After she sums up change in West Bank agriculture during the early years of occupation as "the beginnings of an agricultural revolution"<sup>3</sup>, she cites numerous examples based on casual observation, repeatedly describing the remarkable progress achieved under Israeli guidance, giving little attention to pre-67 developments or to post-67 weaknesses. Evidently, Bull drew heavily on the opinions she was offered by the senior officials in the Military Administration. In contrast, she made very little use of primary sources of information, such as farmers, businessmen and local officials.

1. Vivian Bull, (Lexington - Massachusetts; Lexington Books, 1975).
2. Ibid, p 32.
3. Ibid, p 73.

Bull's analysis of economic viability is the best part of her book. She describes at length the inherently ambiguous definition of viability, and notes that:

"If economic viability refers to a basic independence of foreign aid, then few developing nations would be considered to be economically viable. If the term applies to the balance of payments deficit, again few countries would be viable."<sup>1</sup>

In the light of her argument on the noticeable ambiguity of viability concepts and their intricate connection with several other variables, Bull concludes that the West Bank (she makes no mention of Gaza Strip) may prove economically viable but not independent. Consequently, it will have to develop strong economic ties with its neighbours, especially with Jordan and Israel. In the very last paragraph of her book, Bull asserts that "the future of the Middle East lies in the establishment of peaceful regional development. A Palestinian region might be the first building block in such a scheme."<sup>2</sup> That appears to be a call for establishing a Palestinian state.

A less reserved view on the question of viability is expressed by Tuma and Drabkin, and Collard and Wilson. Tuma and Drabkin<sup>3</sup> have embarked on the formidable task of outlining a blue-print for a Palestinian state consisting of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They argue that such a state could be made viable enough to support an eventual population size of about three million. With the aid of

1. Ibid, p 12.
2. Ibid, p 152.
3. Elias Tuma and Haim D Drabkin, The Economic Case for Palestine (London: Croom Helm, 1979).