

rural dwellers, Christians and Moslems. On the eve of occupation in June 1967, the West Bank population was estimated at 843,000, about 200,000 less than the figures projected by the relevant natural rate of increase. In contrast, Palestinians in the East Bank increased rapidly until they reached 40 percent of the total population in 1961 and 58 percent in 1972.

The June War witnessed a repetition of the intricate evacuation tactics which were successfully tested in 1948. During the few days of actual combat and in the few subsequent weeks, about 178,000 people left their homes seeking shelter in the East Bank.² In September 1967 the population of the West Bank was ascertained in a general census conducted by the Israel Army and the Central Bureau of Statistics and was reported at 664,494 (see reference in Table II-13).

Population growth during Israeli occupation proceeded at erratic and very low rates (see Table II-14). The scale of population drain could be properly perceived in view of the unusually high rate of live births in the country, which averaged during the seventies at around 4.5 percent and a rather modest mortality rate of about 1.5 percent. By the end of 1980 the West Bank population (including East Jerusalem) amounted to 820,600 which is 88,000 less than the population projected at the modest annual net increase of 2.5 percent. This indicates that emigration during the period 1968 - 79 exceeded 10 percent of the projected West Bank population for 1980.

Table (II - 14)

Population increase 1968 - 78

	<u>Population at end of year</u> (,000)	<u>Annual increase (%)</u>
1968	581.7	0.7
1970	603.9	1.5
1972	629.0	1.9
1974	661.6	2.4
1976	670.9	0.9
1978	690.4	1.4
1979	699.6	1.3

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel No 30, 1979, p 717.
Above figures exclude East Jerusalem, whose population by the end of 1979 is estimated at 106,000.

Census of Population 1967 (Jerusalem: Central Bureau of Statistics) Publication No (1), p IX. The figures reported above do not include those of East Jerusalem.

The basic motives for emigration were again economic, particularly after 1972 when Israel moved into economic recession and steadily rising inflation rates. Furthermore, the official policy was being particularly effective in driving out educated young people who were not attracted by the only open employment opportunity, manual labour in Israel. Consequently, graduates found themselves obliged to emigrate in pursuit of employment in the expanding economies of Jordan and the Gulf States.

Geographic distribution of population

The West Bank population is distributed among seven districts. The boundaries of these districts have been noticeably altered by Israel following occupation, in response to various security and political motives. (See Map No 6 for 1967 boundaries of various districts). Table (II-15) shows distribution of population (by district) and area of districts as revealed in the IDF census of 1967. By then, Hebron district had the largest