

Official prejudice against West Bank residents went beyond political control. The economic policies of successive Jordanian governments were aimed at transforming the West Bank's economy in ways that would make it subservient to that of the East Bank. Public and private investment in industry, trade, services and agriculture were linked into East Bank sectors in compliance with inequitable developmental policies.

A clear indication of the impact of Jordan's discriminatory economic policies is given in Table (III-1) which shows a remarkably faster expansion in East Bank industrial development, as measured by the number of industrial firms and the size of the employed labour force.

Table (III - 1)

Comparative Industrial Development in Jordan 1954-1963

	West Bank		East Bank	
	1954	1963	1954	1963
Number of firms with 4 workers or more	254	353	171	461
Number of employed workers	3562	5504	4512	12710

Sources: 1. Census of Mining and Manufacturing Industries in Jordan, 1954, (Amman: Department of Statistics, 1955).

2. A Survey of Employment in Institutional Firms, 1963, (Amman: Jordan Development Board, 1965), derived from Tables 3 and 4.

The differences in industrial development were not only in the number of employed workers but also in the average size of firms.

A survey conducted by the Jordan Development Board revealed that the number of firms with 50 workers or more was, in 1963, 20 firms in the West Bank against 38 in the East Bank.<sup>1</sup>

1. A Survey of Employment in Institutional Firms, *op cit*, quoted from Jamil Hilal, *op cit*, p 180.

Discriminatory policies were sustained through the pre-1967 era so that by 1967 the West Bank's share of the government's investment in economic ventures amounted only to 8 percent of its total investments.

Jordan's discriminatory economic policies led to severe ramifications on the West Bank's economic and social life. Unemployment and under-employment rose sharply and were ameliorated only by massive emigration. Thousands of emigrants settled in the East Bank, where the economy was growing at a higher rate, but most of them went to the Gulf states. Wage levels in the East Bank were also considerably higher, eg. 70 percent higher in Amman than in Jerusalem. Per capita income in 1966 amounted to \$245 in the West Bank against \$322 in the East Bank.<sup>1</sup> This was reflected in sharply different standards of living in both parts of Jordan as evidenced, for instance, by rates of electrification, availability of running water, and ownership of major household appliances (see Table III-2). It is reasonable to assume that differences between East and West Banks increased further by the mid-sixties.

Table (III - 2)

Comparative Standards of Living (1961)

	Percentage of total
Houses connected to electric power	
- All Jordan	17
- West Bank alone	13.3
Availability of running water	
- All Jordan	21.3
- West Bank	11.7
Ownership of refrigerators	
- All Jordan	2.6
- West Bank	1.4

Source: Population Census, 1961 - derived from Tables 3/8, 4/8, 5/8.

1. Jamil Hilal, *op cit*, p 181.