

II. Practical Aspects of the Study

A. Rationale

This aspect focuses on the effects Palestinian labor penetrating Israel's labor market may have on objective conditions favoring and opposing the potential for cross-national proletarian alliances among Israeli-Jews and Palestinian-Arabs.

The current controversy within the Palestine liberation movement, the Israeli public, and the international community concerning a Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza highlights the relevance of the question posed above. No State or a State and what kind of State will substantially, yet differently, affect the participation of Palestinians in Israel's labor market and the terms of exchange involved. This gives a sense of urgency to this study before the present conditions are seriously altered. Findings may be of some use to political strategy and positions.

A class analysis of Palestinian participation in Israel's labor market may help in identifying criteria for the assessment of whether or not the establishment of a Palestinian State in this conjuncture is a progressive step. The criteria can thus be the extent to which the establishment of a Palestinian State is likely to promote or retard the possibility of Jewish-Arab proletarian alliance as a basis for genuine solution of the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

Our research question is thus political in character. The challenge is how to answer it scientifically. We do not pretend to know how, yet we feel urged to try because most important questions faced in life are political, and avoiding them is ignoring the real world.