

THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS IN ISRAELI PROPAGANDA

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INTRODUCTION

ISRAELI ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROPAGANDA

Propaganda may be defined as the art of inducing others to behave in a way in which they would not behave in its absence. Propagandists adopt several techniques for gaining the attention of their audience.⁽¹⁾

Political scientists consider propaganda as an important aspect of the use of power in politics. Thus, some countries attempt to reflect an image which is an exaggeration of their actual achievements.

We may distinguish between propaganda and information in the following manner. Propaganda is a means of changing the views of a particular audience which would not change were the audience left to consider them logically while information is a means which allows people to acquire a set of facts which are undistorted.

Israel uses propaganda as an instrument of its foreign policy and its achievements are considered the backbone of its propaganda. Israeli achievements are represented primarily in its economy which has experienced rapid economic growth since Israel came into existence in 1948. It has absorbed immigrants

(1) Doctor Adil H. : *International Relations, An Introductory Study*, Vikas Publications, New Delhi, 1969, pp. 129 - 145.

who usurped the indigenous Palestinian people of their rights. It is of great importance to take into consideration the inputs and outputs of the Israeli economy. This will enable us to destroy the myth of the miracle in the deserts.

There is a lack of Israeli economic independence because it is in need of foreign aid for financing its import surplus. The Balance of current payments of Israel has consistently been more and more in deficit. Unilateral transfers were and still are the main component of capital imports such as the restitution and reparation agreements with West Germany which, throughout the years, have constituted the largest share of foreign aid to Israel. Another important item is the institutional transfers which have proved to be the most constant and most reliable source of foreign aid. These institutions are the Jewish Agency, the Jewish National fund and the Keren Hayesod.⁶

It is therefore valid to conclude that Israel has been depending basically upon Zionist institutions throughout the world, the United States and West Germany in financing the sectors of its economy. The inputs of the Israeli economy are a product of resources derived from other countries and it is difficult to find another country in the world depending as Israel does upon foreign aid for its economic development. Israel exploits its economic achievements in its propaganda without taking into consideration the reality of these achievements and their dependence upon foreign assistance.

(2) Elwainy, Mohamed: Israeli Foreign Policy in Africa, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, July 1971, Unpublished Master's thesis (in Arabic).

Eshar, Alex: The Economy of Israel, London, 1963, pp 171-272.

CHAPTER I
TYPES OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

There are three types of agricultural cooperatives in Israel, the kibbutz (collective), the Moshav shitufi, (collective village), and the Moshav (cooperative village). The following table illustrates the differences between them.⁽³⁾

Types of Activity	Kibbutz	Moshav shitufi	Moshav
Working of land ... etc.	collective	collective	family
Purchase of household and personal supplies.	mainly collective	individual	individual
Purchase of agricultural equipment seeds, etc...	collective	collective	cooperative
Marketing of produce	collective	collective	cooperative
Housing	adults, individual children collective	family	family
Care of children	collective	family	family

These types of settlements have been established basically during the emergence of Israel. As a result of the seizure of Palestine by foreign settlers and the expulsion of the indigenous

(3) Kreinin, Mordechai: *Israel and Africa, a Study in Technical Cooperation*, Praeger, 1964, p. 28.

Elowainy, : *op. cit.*, pp. 231-232.

inhabitants,⁽⁴⁾ the invaders found it suitable to exploit the land of Palestine according to the above mentioned farming communities for the following reasons :

- The confiscation of Palestinian land after the expulsion of the indigenous population by force.
- The fact that some Palestinians were compelled to sell their lands due to the use of direct force by the Israelis.
- Zionist leaders found it important to assign groups of settlers to work in agriculture and consolidate Israel's existence there because the settlers historically preferred work in finance and commerce . . . and they had not resorted to the field of agriculture.
- The collective settlements enabled the settlers to constitute a social community in order to take into consideration their integration because they had come from all over the world and had no social ties except Zionism which was condemned by a sector of the Jewish Community itself. They were and still are different in race, origin, civilization and language although the Hebrew language has begun to prevail throughout the country.

We can conclude therefore that these types of settlements suited the needs of settlers who invaded a territory by force and subsequently expelled the indigenous population. These factors placed the settlers in a constant state of danger because they usurped the Palestinians of their rights.

(4) El wainy, Mohammed, *Racial Ideology in Israel and Southern Africa*, Information Department, Arab League Cairo, 1972.

CHAPTER II

A DISCUSSION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND THEIR FUNCTION IN ZIONIST PROPAGANDA

Israel is seeking to gain influence in Africa and Asia. It has sought to befriend African and Asian states by pursuing a policy in keeping with African and Asian aspirations for economic development and modernisation.⁽⁵⁾ It does not appear that the kibbutz or Moshav ahitufi are capable of widespread emulation.

The Kibbutz can succeed only under Jewish Idealism stated an African Newspaper.⁽⁶⁾ A prominent economist said that most observers seem to agree that the success of these collectives has depended so far upon the special emotions associated with immigrant Jewish agriculture in Israel and upon the part played by collective organizations in the military defence of isolated settlements. Sooner or later, the special strains and emotions involved in creating a Jewish National home will wear off and if the collectives then retain their primitive communism, and succeed economically, they will be doing so contrary to all previous human experience.⁽⁷⁾

Recent immigrants to Israel from Asia and Africa were not able to accept the collective way of life and very few of the settlements have been established since 1948.

In the opinion of a F.A.O. economist, the great difficulties in developing large scale production in Africa along the lines of the collective farm lie in the field of farmer incentives. "Farmers will inevitably develop an attitude toward the land, the crops and the livestock, typical of a hired worker who has only

(5) Reich, Bernard : Israel's Policy in Africa, Middle East Journal, Middle East Institute, Washington, Winter, 1964, p. 14.

(6) Tanganyika Standard, June 23, 1961.

(7) Lewis, Arthur : The Theory of Economic Growth, George Allen and Unwin Ltd., London, 1963 p. 63.

a rather remote personal interest in the ultimate outcome of the production process and the overall efficiency of the enterprise. He receives his income in the form of wages and in some cases of dividends on stock shares he owns in the land which he cannot identify with his own individual efforts and care. (8)

A well organized and adequate sized family farm enterprise is technically and economically more efficient in the use of productive resources than even well managed large scale enterprises mainly depending upon hired workers. (9)

On the other hand the same observer believes that the Israeli Moshav (like the Gezira scheme in the Sudan) is capable of wide application in Africa. The Moshav combines individual ownership and management, provides safeguards against fragmentation of land.

Most Afro-Asian trainees and visitors to Israel share the view that the Moshav can be adopted to their countries conditions.

The following statement by an Ethiopian student is quite typical. The Moshav with its individualistic nature suits the temperament of personality of the Ethiopian farmer since he can achieve the objectives of large scale production and services and mutual aid without risking his privacy. (10)

This leads to the conclusion that Israel has no models to be applied in Africa and Asia according to the studies of prominent characters such as Arthur Lewis and Mordechai Kreinin, except the Moshav which is widespread in the Arab World such as Sudan and Egypt. (11)

For example, the Gezira Scheme like the Moshav constitute farms owned by families and produce cotton under large scale farming conditions and under central management and super-

(8) Kreinin : *Loc. Cit.*, p. 35.

(9) *Loc. cit.* p. 36.

(10) *Loc. Cit.*

(11) Elwanly Mohamed : *op. cit.* p. 234.