

The land we are fighting for

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Results of dependence

The dependence of many former colonies on imperialism hinges on the single-crop character of their economies: they specialize in one or two kinds of primary products, exports of which on the world capitalist market account for the bulk of their earnings. In Jordan,

however, the main source of income is foreign financial 'aid.'*

Internal sources provide an insignificant part of state budgetary expenditure. The steadily growing deficit is covered by foreign subsidies and loans, which account for more than 70 per cent of the budget revenue:

	1970-71	Fiscal Year 1971-72 million dinars	1972-73
Internal Sources	37	40	44.2
Foreign 'Aid'	70	84.86	114.992

At the end of 1972, the so-called three-year economic development plan for the years 1973-1975 was adopted. Drawn up by experts from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the Ford Foundation, the Arab-American Chamber of Commerce and similar imperialist organizations, it is based wholly on foreign capital.

Not surprisingly, the guidelines for Jordan's domestic and foreign policies are laid down by imperialist 'donor' states. Thus, when Jordan came out on the side of the Arab countries in June 1967, the United States immediately suspended its 'aid,' which was resumed only after the Government suppressed the Palestine resistance movement on its territory in September 1970 and refused to honor its commitments under Arab unity treaties and agreements.

Jordan's dependence on imperialism hampers its economic development, which has become extremely lopsided. Thus, a huge increase in state spending for non-productive purposes has inflated the service sphere, which now accounts for 68 per cent of the national income.

In 1955, industry accounted for 5 per cent of the national income; almost twenty years later its share was still only 10 per cent. Predominant in industry are semi-artisan workshops with few machines. Only 7,000 workers, 1.4 per cent of the total work force, are engaged at comparatively large enterprises (by Jordanian standards) employing more than 25 persons. Workers in all other industrial-handicraft enterprises constitute 15 per cent of the work force.

Agriculture, in which 45 per cent of the gainfully employed population is occupied, is the key sector of Jordan's economy, and accounts for more than half the exports (but only 20 per cent of

*The British protectorate of Transjordan was officially proclaimed an independent state on May 5, 1946. The act was preceded by a treaty between Britain and the puppet ruler Abdullah, which guaranteed the military-feudal clique continued financial 'aid' to maintain its bureaucratic and punitive machinery in exchange for the preservation of military bases and the stationing of troops. A new treaty signed in 1948 reaffirmed the country's total political and economic dependence on Britain. In 1955, British 'aid' accounted for 10 million of the 17 million dinars on the credit side of Jordan's budget.

The Jordanian Communist Party and other patriotic forces put forward alternative development plans based on the rejection of British subsidies and the rational utilization of natural resources with help from other Arab states.

However, after public pressure forced the abrogation of the shackling agreement in March 1957, Britain's place as the main supplier of 'aid' was occupied by American imperialism. Already in April, 1957, the U.S. granted Jordan a credit of 10 million dollars mainly to maintain punitive forces.

