CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Iran's fifty to sixty thousand villages have developed certain common characteristics which to some extent distinguished them from other villages in Asia.

(a) Most of the villages were owned by either landlords with exclusive or joint control, or the royal family in its personal capacity, or the state or religious institutions. Only in a very small number of villages did the peasants own most of the land they cultivated.

(b) The ownership of villages meant much more than simple legal rights to control the use of land. These villages became a sort of private domain of the owners in which they controlled not only the land, but also various aspects of the life of the community. To exercise this control, the landlords developed a light hierarchical system which reached down to every individual in the village.

(c) Unlike most European and Japanese feudal lords and Pakistani landlords who lived in or near their villages, most of the Iranian landlords lived in cities, and were acquainted with the lot of their subjects (Raiyats) only through the network of the hierarchical communications they had developed.

(d) While the landlord did perform certain Services for the local community such as protection from predatory interventions by the
royal bureaucracy, regulation of internal disputes, investments in Qanats (wells linked through underground channels), provision of help during famines and other natural catastrophes, the economic relations between villages, peasants and landlords were highly asymmetrical. The landlords obtained much more from the village than he invested in it, local improvements like qanats were frequently constructed with corvee labour provided by the peasants themselves. The costs of protection from the royal bureaucracy were eventually borne by the peasants. The asymmetry of these relations was less in the villages controlled by several landlords, as one landlord restrained the power of the others.

In general, the village provided the social boundary, as well as the production unit of peasant life and labour. It was normally made up of landlords, his representatives or village headman (called in Persian "Kadkhoda"), who usually accumulated some wealth and was better off than other villagers, the households with a traditional rights of cultivation (the Nasaq-holders) households without such rights (the Khushnishins) and a number of traders and money-lenders who supplied small amounts of Credit in cash or in kind at a very high interest rates by advance purchases of a part of the crop. In many villages, some Nasaq-holders and/or Gavbands (oxen-owner) rented out one or two pairs of oxen to other cultivators against a share of the crop. This was the socio-structure of the village community in the time of previous regime. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution the socio-structure of village community in Iran framed as, rich peasants, traders, money-lenders, peasants with small piece of land and
wage laborers (Khushnischins). In most parts of the country the "Ijareh-Kari" (a form of small scale tenant farming) was encouraged. The labour force was usually supplied by the "Khushnischins" in the community.

1-1) THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDY:

At present about fifty percent of the Iranian people are staying in rural areas. The Iranian Agricultural Sector is fully dependent on the oil revenue, with a low production capacity and low yield per hectare. The production cannot meet the demand and hence imports are necessary to make up for the shortages. Migration of the peasants from the villages to the big cities and towns is an important obstacle in development of Agricultural
ERROR: undefined
OFFENDING COMMAND: JRDTVD+ArialNarrow-Bold

STACK:

[/.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  /.notdef /.notdef /quoterdbl /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  /.notdef /.notdef /M /N /O /P /.notdef /R /.notdef /T /U /.notdef /
  .notdef /X /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  .notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  .notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  .notdef /.notdef /.notdef /
  .notdef /.notdef /
  .notdef /
  .notdef /
  .notdef ]
/JRDTVD+ArialNarrow-Bold*1