

Political Parties:

Political Parties and Interest Groups  
in Israel

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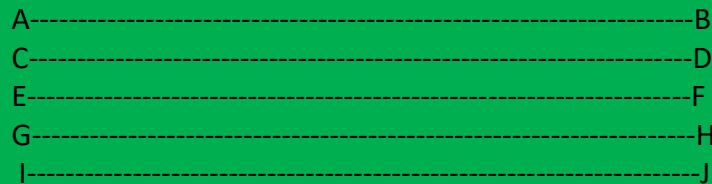
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# Parliamentary Government

- “Westminister” vs. Presidential Government
  - 1. Split executive
  - 2. President symbolic; Prime Minister and Cabinet powerful
  - 3. Prime Minister and Cabinet *from* the Knesset
  - 4. Government *responsible to* the Knesset
- The Knesset and the Prime Minister
- The President

# Political Ideology

- 1. Private enterprise (a) vs. socialism (b);
- 2. "Activist" Arab policy (c) vs. restraint (d);
- 3. Torah oriented life (e) vs. secularism (f);
- 4. Pro-Soviet Union (g) vs. pro-West (h);
- 5. Zionist (i) vs. non-Zionist (j).\*



\* Thomas Goodland, "A Mathematical Presentation of Israel's Political Parties," British Journal of Sociology 8 (1957): 263-66.

# Political Parties

## Functions of Political Parties

- Personnel Agencies
- Organize Groups and Articulate Demands
- Frame of Reference
- Linkage Mechanisms

# The Electoral System

- Proportional Representation (Israel) vs. Single-Member-District Representation (U.S.)
- Electoral Lists of Political Parties
- Accuracy of Representation
- The 1992 “Deviation”

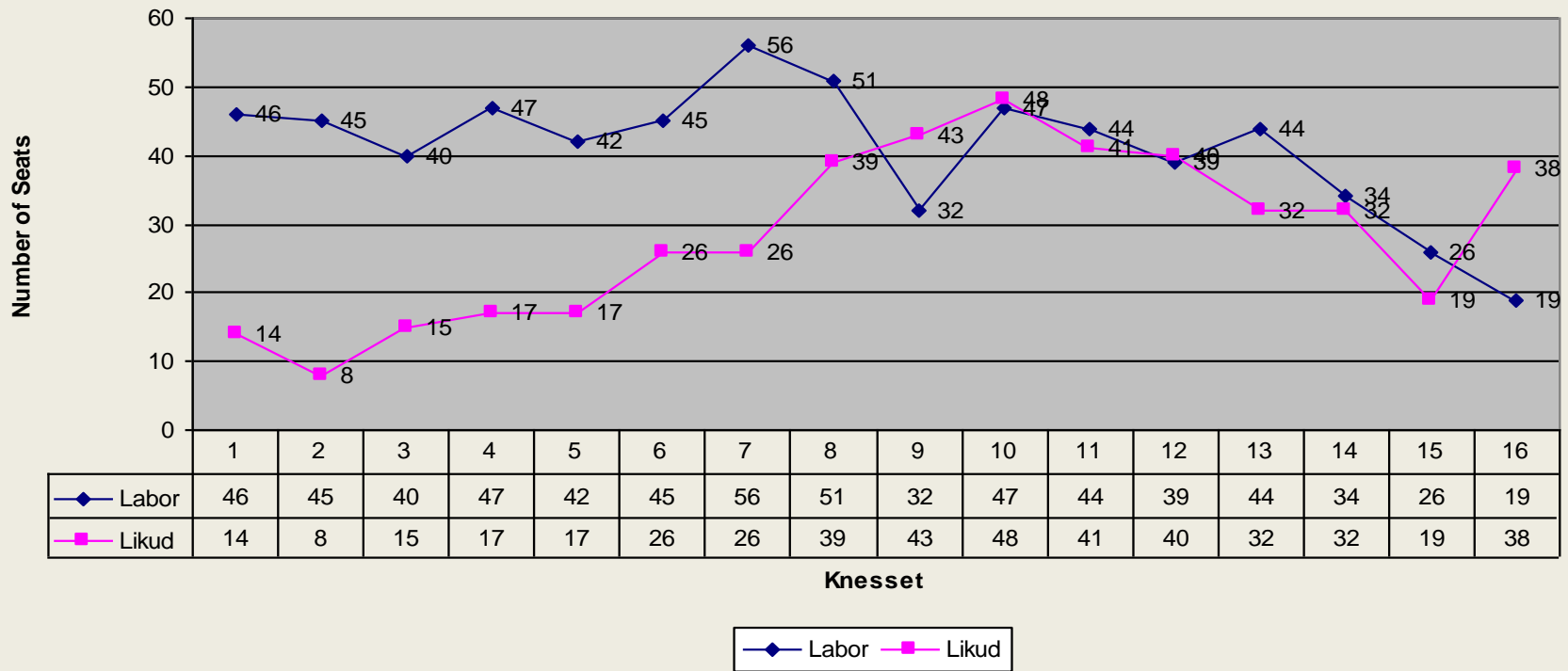
# The Complexity of the Coalition-Formation Process

- Situation I: Simplest Majority Possibilities
  - Parties: A (44), B (42), C (14)  
AB, AC, BC, ABC
- Situation II: More Complex Majority Possibilities
  - Parties: A (38), B (20), C (17), D (15), E (10)  
AB, AC, AD, ABC, ABD, ABE, ADE, BCD, etc.
- Situation III: Most Complex Majority Possibilities
  - Parties: A (30), B (19), C (12), D (9), E (8), F (8), G (7), H (7)  
ABC, ABD, ABE, ABF, ABG, BCDE, CDEFGH, etc.

# Governments and Coalitions

| <u>Date of Govt. Creation</u> | <u>Knesset</u> | <u>Approx. Life of Govt. (Months)</u> | <u>Prime Minister (Party)</u> | <u>Coalition Partners</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mar. 10, '49               | I              | 20                                    | Ben-Gurion (Mapai)            | Left, Center, Religious   |
| 2. Nov. 1, '50                | I              | 10                                    | Ben-Gurion (Mapai)            | Left, Center, Religious   |
| 3. Sept. 8, '51               | II             | 15                                    | Ben-Gurion (Mapai)            | Left, Religious           |
| 4. Dec. 24, '52               | II             | 13                                    | Ben-Gurion (Mapai)            | Left, Center              |
| 5. Jan. 26, '54               | II             | 17                                    | Sharett (Mapai)               | Left, Center              |
| 6. Je. 29, '55                | III            | 4                                     | Sharett (Mapai)               | Left, Center, Religious   |
| 7. Nov. 3, '55                | III            | 26                                    | Ben-Gurion (Mapai)            | Left, Center              |
| 8. Jan. 7, '58                | III            | 24                                    | Ben-Gurion (Mapai)            | Left, Center              |
| 9. Dec. 17, '59               | IV             | 23                                    | Ben-Gurion (Mapai)            | Left, Center, Religious   |
| 10. Nov. 2, '61               | V              | 19                                    | Ben-Gurion (Mapai)            | Left, Religious           |
| 11. Je. 26, '63               | V              | 18                                    | Eshkol (Mapai)                | Left, Religious           |
| 12. Dec. 22, '64              | V              | 13                                    | Eshkol (Mapai)                | Left, Religious           |
| 13. Jan. 12, '66              | VI             | 38                                    | Eshkol (Mapai)                | Left, Religious           |
| 14. Mar. 17, '69              | VI             | 9                                     | Meir (Mapai)                  | Left, Religious           |
| 15. Dec. 15, '69              | VII            | 51                                    | Meir (Mapai)                  | Left, Religious           |
| 16. Mar. 10, '74              | VIII           | 3                                     | Meir (Mapai)                  | Left, Religious           |
| 17. Je. 3, '74                | VIII           | 36                                    | Rabin (Mapai)                 | Left, Religious           |
| 18. Je. 20, '77               | IX             | 49                                    | Begin (Likud)                 | Right, Center, Religious  |
| 19. Aug. 5, '81               | X              | 26                                    | Begin (Likud)                 | Right, Center, Religious  |
| 20. Oct. 10, '83              | X              | 11                                    | Shamir (Likud)                | Right, Center, Religious  |
| 21. Sept. 13, '84             | XI             | 25                                    | Peres (Labor)                 | Left, Right, Religious    |
| 22. Oct. 20, '86              | XI             | 26                                    | Shamir (Likud)                | Right, Left, Religious    |
| 23. Dec. 22, '88              | XII            | 18                                    | Shamir (Likud)                | Right, Left, Religious    |
| 24. Je 11, '90                | XII            | 25                                    | Shamir (Likud)                | Right, Religious          |
| 25. July 13, '92              | XIII           | 40                                    | Rabin (Labor)                 | Left, Religious           |
| 26. Nov. 22, '95              | XIII           | 7                                     | Peres (Labor)                 | Left                      |
| 27. Je 18, '96                | XIV            | 37                                    | Netanyahu (Likud)             | Right, Religious          |
| 28. July 6, '99               | XV             | 20                                    | Barak (One Israel)            | Left, Center, Religious   |
| 29. Mar. 7, '01               | XV             | 23                                    | Sharon (Likud)                | Right, Left, Center, Rel. |
| 30. Feb. 20, '03              | XVI            | 37                                    | Sharon (Likud)                | Right, Center, Religious  |
| 31. Apr. 5, '06               | XVII           |                                       | Olmert (Kadima)               | Center, Left, Religious   |

# Voting and Electoral Outcomes



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics, *Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2001*, Table 10.01, "Elections to the Knesset: Legend to Tables 10.1-10.3," [http://www.cbs.gov.il/shnaton52/st10\\_001.pdf](http://www.cbs.gov.il/shnaton52/st10_001.pdf); Table 10.3, "Knesset Members By Main List," [http://www.cbs.gov.il/shnaton52/st10\\_03.pdf](http://www.cbs.gov.il/shnaton52/st10_03.pdf); Ministry of Foreign Affairs web

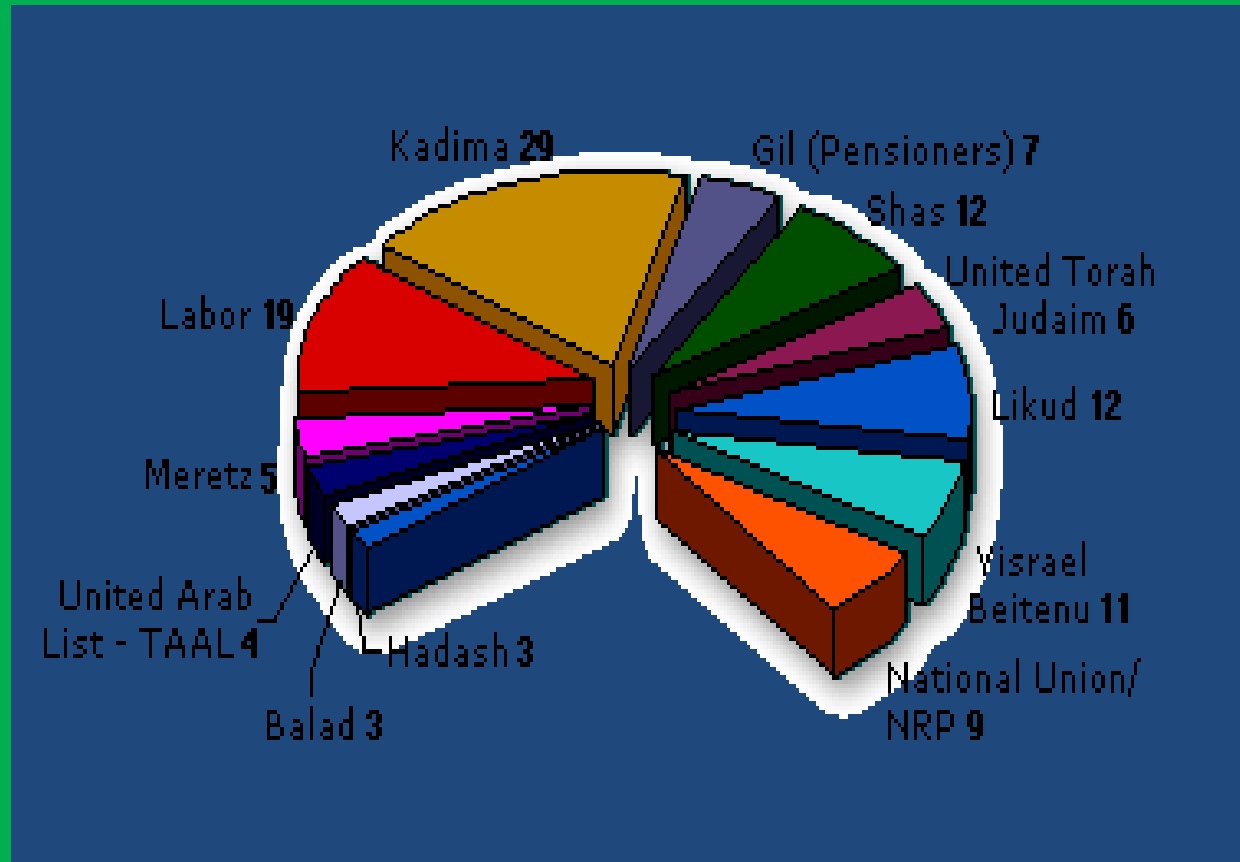


# About Voting in Israel

- The Elections in Israel are:
  - General: Every citizen of the State of Israel over the age of 18 years has the right to participate in elections.
  - National: The entire country constitutes a single electoral district.
  - Direct: The Knesset members are elected directly by the public and not by any other body.
  - Equal: Every citizen has one vote, and all votes carry equal weight.
  - Secret: The voting is done by secret ballot. No one but the voter knows for whom s/he voted.
  - Every citizen is free to vote according to his/her conscience without anyone else knowing how he/she voted.
- Elections Results
  - 1. Any electoral list receiving more than 2% of the valid votes will be represented in the Knesset.
  - 2. Each list will receive a number of Knesset seats in proportion to the number of valid votes it receives.

# The 2006 Election

Seats in the Knesset



# Electoral Results

## 2006

### National Results

➤ Total Ballots: 3186739

➤ Defective Ballots: 49675

➤ Valid Ballots: 3137064

| List Name                             | Letter | Number of Votes | Mandates |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------------|----------|
| Brit Olam                             | ה      | 2011            |          |
| Da-am - Workers' Party                | ק      | 3692            |          |
| Gil                                   | ז      | 185759          | 7        |
| Green Leaf                            | ק      | 40353           |          |
| Greens (Hayerukim)                    | ק      | 47595           |          |
| Hadash                                | ו      | 86092           | 3        |
| Herut                                 | ץ      | 2387            |          |
| Hetz                                  | ח      | 10113           |          |
| Ichud Leumi - Mafdal                  | ט      | 224083          | 9        |
| Kadima                                | כ      | 690901          | 29       |
| Labor-Meimad                          | מ      | 472366          | 19       |
| Lechem                                | ז      | 1381            |          |
| Leeder                                | ח      | 580             |          |
| Lev                                   | ט      | 1765            |          |
| Likud                                 | מ      | 281996          | 12       |
| Meretz                                | מ      | 118302          | 5        |
| National Arab Party                   | ק      | 738             |          |
| National Democratic Assembly          | ז      | 72066           | 3        |
| National Jewish Front                 | כ      | 24824           |          |
| New Zionism                           | צה     | 1278            |          |
| One Future                            | זה     | 14005           |          |
| Party for the Struggle With the Banks | פ      | 2163            |          |
| Shas                                  | ש      | 299054          | 12       |
| Shinui                                | יש     | 4675            |          |
| Strength to the Poor                  | פ      | 1214            |          |
| Tafnit                                | פ      | 18753           |          |
| Torah and Shabbat Judaism             | ג      | 147091          | 6        |
| Tzedek Lakol                          | ק      | 3819            |          |
| Tzomet                                | כ      | 1342            |          |
| United Arab List - Arab Renewal       | ע      | 94786           | 4        |
| Yisrael Beiteinu                      | י      | 281880          | 11       |



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We welcome your questions and comments: [feedback@knesset.gov.il](mailto:feedback@knesset.gov.il)

# Coalition Government, 2006

|                          |                                      |                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| • Ehud Olmert (K)        | Prime Minister/Social Welfare        |                      |
| • Tzipi Livni (K)        | Vice PM / Foreign Affairs            |                      |
| • Shimon Peres (K)       | Vice PM / Negev and Galilee          |                      |
| • Amir Peretz (LM)       | Deputy PM / Defense                  |                      |
| • Eliyahu Yishai (S)     | Deputy PM / Industry, Trade, Labor   |                      |
| • Shaul Mofaz (K)        | Deputy PM / Transportation and Roads |                      |
| • Ariel Atias (S)        | Communications                       |                      |
| • Ronnie Bar-On (K)      | Interior                             |                      |
| • Yacov Ben Yizri (G)    | Health                               |                      |
| • Benj. Ben-Eliezer (LM) | National Infrastructures             | Total Portfolios: 25 |
| • Ze'ev Boim (K)         | Immigrant Absorption                 |                      |
| • Eitan Cabel (LM)       | Minister w/o Portfolio               | Kadima: 12           |
| • Yitzhak Cohen (S)      | Minister w/o Portfolio               | Labor-Meimad: 7      |
| • Abraham Dicter (K)     | Public Security                      | Shas: 4              |
| • Ya'akov Edery (K)      | Minister w/o Portfolio               | Gil: 2               |
| • Rafi Eitan (G)         | Pensioner Affairs                    |                      |
| • Gideon Ezra (K)        | Environment                          |                      |
| • Isaac Herzog (LM)      | Tourism                              |                      |
| • Abraham Hirschson (K)  | Finance                              |                      |
| • Meschulam Nahari (S)   | Minister w/o Portfolio               |                      |
| • Ophir Pines-Paz (LM)   | Science and Technology               |                      |
| • Haim Ramon (K)         | Justice                              |                      |
| • Meir Sheerit (K)       | Housing and Construction             |                      |
| • Shalom Simhon (LM)     | Agriculture and Rural Development    |                      |
| • Yuli Tamir (LM)        | Education, Culture, Sport            |                      |

# Significance of the Electoral Process

- P.R. voting accurately portrays the public's preferences. Too accurately?
- How would the Knesset be different if there were district-based representation?
- Coalition instability
- Prime ministerial weakness

# Major Political Parties in Israeli Elections 1949-2003

- A Israel Labour Party (MAPAI)
- AMT Alignment - Israel Labour Party and United Workers' Party (7th-12th Knesset) ; Labour headed by Yizhaq Rabin (13th K.) ; Labour (in the 14th Knesset) ; One Israel headed by Ehud Barak - Labour, Gesher, Meimad (15th Knesset)
- AT Alignment - Israel Labour Party and Unity of Labour (6th Knesset)
- B National Religious Front, Mizrahi and Mizrahi Workers
- G United Torah Judaism - Agudat Yisrael, Degel HaTorah, Rabbi Yizhaq Peretz Agudat Israel Workers (was AI/PAI)
- D National Democratic Alliance (BALAD)
- HD The Third Way for National Consensus
- HN Centre - Shinui List
- W Democratic Front for Peace and Equality; The Israel Communist Party (RAKAH), Black Panthers and Jewish and Arab Circles
- H Freedom Party
- HL Herut-Liberal Front (GAHAL)
- HLTAM Likud
- T Free Center (in the 7th Knesset)
- T Moledet
- T Yahad - Movement for National Unity (11th Knesset)
- YT National Union - Moledet, Herut, Tequma
- YM United Arab List (in the 9th Knesset)
- JS Ometz - Recovery of the Economy (10th-11th Knesset)
- JS Democratic Movement for Change (DASH) (9th Kn.)
- JS Shinui - Secular Movement headed
- KA Israel Workers' List (RAFI)
- KACH KACH - Movement founded by Rabi Meir Kahana
- KN Shlomzion - Realization of Zionism Movement
- KN Yisrael Ba-aliyah headed by Nathan Sharansky
- L Liberal Party
- L Yisrael Beiteinu headed by Avigdor Lieberman
- LA Independent Liberals
- M -MAPAM United Workers' Party and Non-aligned
- MHL Halikud (Mahal) - Likud, Gesher, Zomet
- MEREZ Merez - Democratic Israel, RZ, Mapam, Shinui
- M Am Ahad headed by Amir Perez - Faction of Workers and Pensioners
- NJ Israel Tradition Movement (TAMI)
- ADP Arab Democratic Party
- AD Morasha, Mazad, Agudat Yisrael Workers
- AM State List
- AM United Arab List (in the 15th Knesset)
- EZ Degel Hatorah
- P Progressive List For Peace
- PH Center Party headed by Yizhaq Mordechai
- PS Flatto-Sharon - Development and Peace
- TZ Zomet - Movement for Zionist Renewal
- K Israel Communist Party
- KN Moqed (Tekhelet-Adom Movement)
- RZ Citizens' Rights Movement and Peace
- S HaOlam Haze
- S Shelli
- SHAS Universal Assn. of Sefardi Observers of the Torah
- Th Resurrection
- TW Unity of Labour
- TLM Movement for State Renewal (KEN)
- -- Minorities' lists connected with the Alignment
- -- Other lists

# Current Israeli Parties

## Left Parties

- One Israel
- Meretz

## Center and Right Parties

- Center Party
- Likud
- Liberal Party
- *Yisrael Ba'Aliya*
- National Unity
- Israel Beitenu

## Religious Parties

- National Religious Party
- Shas
- United Torah Judaism

## Reform

- Shinui

## Far Left and Arab

- Dem. Ft. for Peace and Equality
- United Arab List
- Balad

# Interest Groups

- The Histadrut (General Federation of Workers)
- The Military
- International Jewry
- Specific ethnic/religious groups (Shas, Ashkenazic Jews, Falashas, Moroccans, etc.)
- Arab Political Organizations



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