



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Charles University in Prague

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Domestic Politics

3.3. 2019

Class outline

- The Palestinian Politics
 - The current situation
 - Competing groups
- The Israeli Politics
 - Political system
 - Current elections
 - Ideological streams
 - Politics and identity

Invitation

American deal of the century: perspective from the ground

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2549075828664876/>

(Wednesday, 11 March 2020 from 17:30-20:00, The Faculty of Arts building, náměstí Jana Palacha 1/2, room P300)

Organization

- All materials in moodle uploaded
- Weekly assignment – based on the required readings!
- Invitation:
 - American deal of the century: perspective from the ground
<https://www.facebook.com/events/2549075828664876/>
 - Wednesday, 11 March 2020 from 17:30-20:00, The Faculty of Arts building, náměstí Jana Palacha 1/2, room P300

The Palestinian Authority (PA)

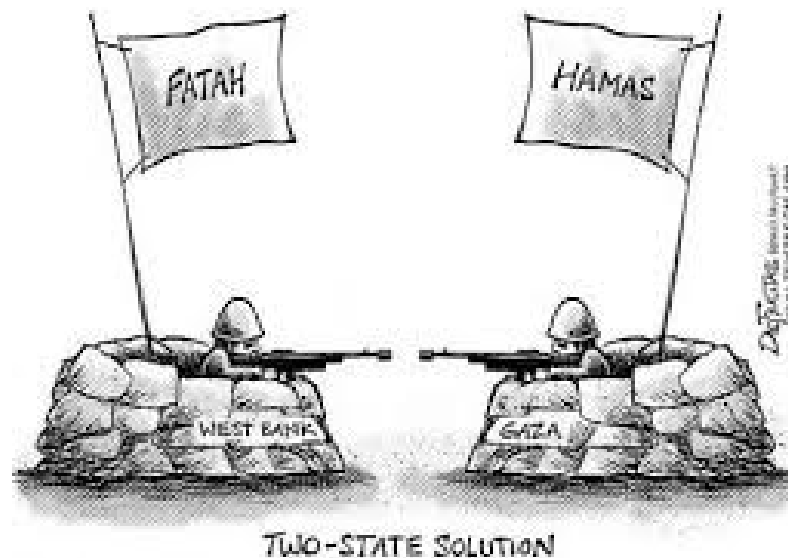
- Established in the wake of the Oslo accords in the 1990s
- Self-governing Palestinian body
- Composed mostly of representatives of PLO, which in turn is dominated by Fatah

- What was your reaction to the Human Rights Watch report?

- Why are the Palestinians critical of the PA?
- Group discussion:
- What are the arguments in favor AND against dissolving the Palestinian Authority?

The PA-Hamas Split

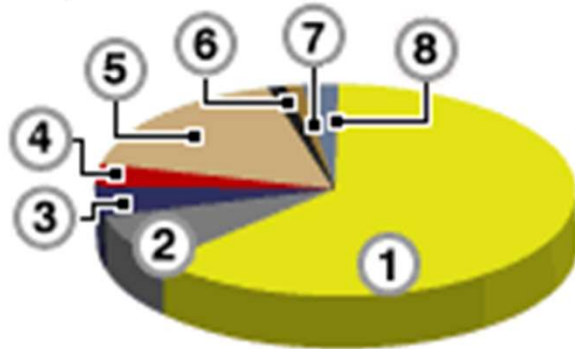
- When did it originate?
- What were the causes of this intra-Palestinian conflict?
- What are the main obstacles to its solution nowadays?



PALESTINIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS - 1996 AND 2006

1996

88 parliamentary seats



Registered voters - 1,028,280

Turnout - 71.66%

2006

132 parliamentary seats



Registered voters - 1,341,671

Turnout - 77%

SOURCE: Central Elections Commission - Palestine

1996 ELECTION

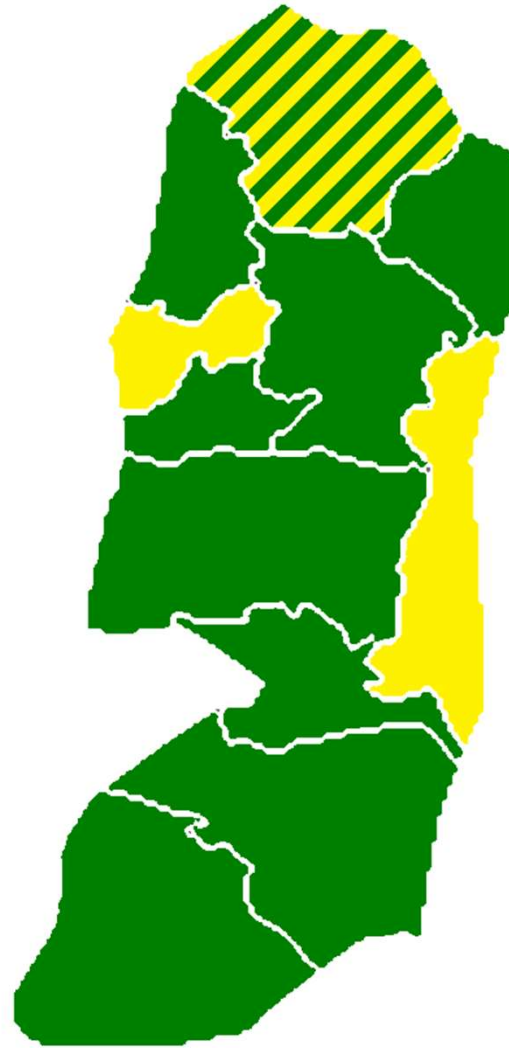
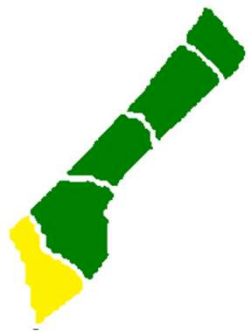
- 1) Fatah: 55 seats
- 2) Independent Fatah: 7 seats
- 3) Independent Islamists: 4
- 4) Independent Christians: 3
- 5) Independents: 15 seats
- 6) Samaritans: 1 seat
- 7) Others: 1 seat
- 8): Vacant: 2 seats

2006 ELECTION

- 1) Hamas - 76 seats
- 2) Fatah - 43 seats
- 3) PFLP - 3 seats
- 4) Badil - 2 seats
- 5) Independent Palestine - 2
- 6) Third Way - 2 seats
- 7) Independent/other - 4

Majority of
Seats won by
Change & Reform

Majority of
Seats won by
Fatah Movement



- “Public support is highest (90%) to the response of ending the split and reunifying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, followed by waging a diplomatic warfare against Israel in international organizations (85%); withdrawing Palestinian recognition of Israel (84%); waging non-violent popular demonstrations (78%); ending security coordination (77%); ending the implementation of the Oslo Agreement (69%); waging an armed struggle or return to an armed intifada (64%).”
- “An overwhelming majority of 83% anticipates that the PA leadership will not allow the dissolution of the PA; 73% anticipate that the PA leadership will not allow a resumption of armed struggle or an armed intifada”
- “62% of the public want president Abbas to resign while 33% want him to remain in office. Two months ago, 61% said they want Abbas to resign. Demand for Abbas’ resignation stands at 52% in the West Bank and 78% in the Gaza Strip.”
- Source: <https://www.pcpsr.org/en/node/799> (February 2020)

Gaza Strip* Profile

FREEDOM STATUS:

NOT FREE



Freedom in the World Scores

Freedom Rating



Political Rights



Civil Liberties



(1=Most Free, 7=Least Free)

Aggregate Score: NaN/100 (0=Least Free, 100=Most

Free)

Quick Facts

Population: 1,870,000

Press Freedom Status: Not Free

West Bank* Profile

FREEDOM STATUS:

NOT FREE



Freedom in the World Scores

Freedom Rating



Political Rights



Civil Liberties



(1=Most Free, 7=Least Free)

Aggregate Score: NaN/100 (0=Least Free, 100=Most

Free)

Quick Facts

Population: 2,800,000

Press Freedom Status: Not Free

The Israeli Politics

Parliamentary system

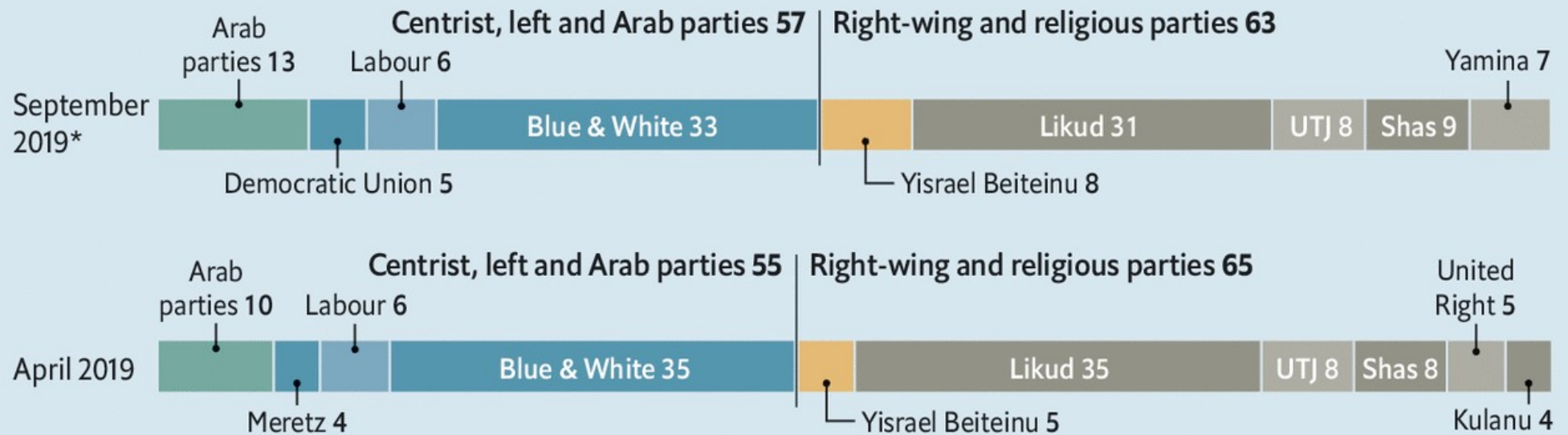
- Knesset with 120 seats
- Highly proportional system
- The electoral threshold
 - 1948-1988: 1%
 - 1988-2003: 1.5%
 - 2003-2014: 2%
 - 2014-now: 3.25%

- What are the repercussions of such a system?

Previous two elections

Try and try again

Elections in Israel's Knesset by party and political stance, 120 seats available



Sources: Central Elections Committee; press reports

*98% of the vote counted

- What is behind Gantz's (relative) political success according to the Levinson's article in Haaretz?

According to an Israel Democracy Institute poll published last Thursday (Feb 27), 30.4% Israelis expect fourth elections

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-Elections/Poll-finds-30-percent-of-Israelis-expect-fourth-election-619085>

Israeli politicians: "Time for a third election with the same candidates as before!"

Israelis: *Vote the same as the last two times*

Israeli politicians:

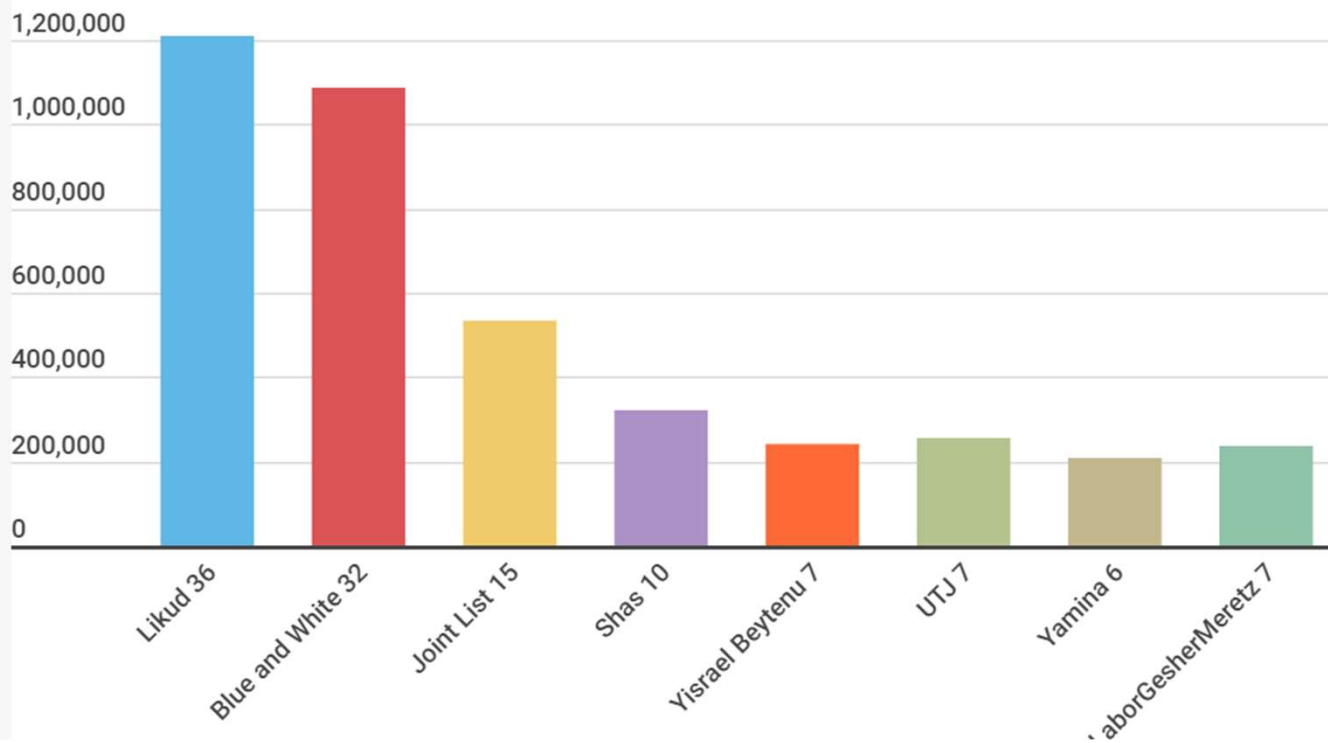


Preliminary results (90% regular votes counted)

- Voter turnout: 65.5% (the highest since 1999)

Updated 10:51 a.m. local time

Source: Central Election Committee, Channel 12



The Right-religious bloc has 59 seats
The Center-Left bloc has 39
The Joint List has 15
Yisrael Beytenu has 7

Tel Aviv vs Jerusalem

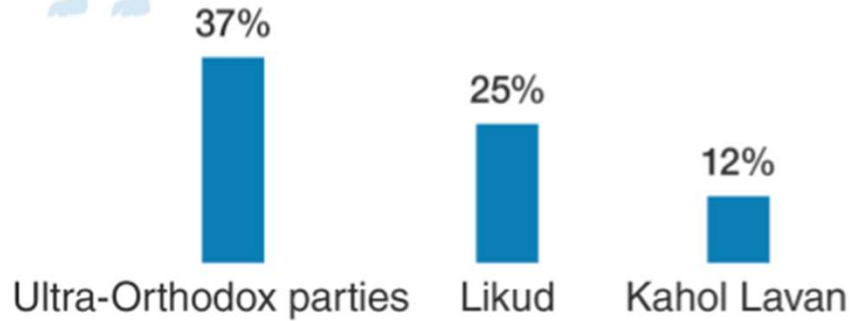
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1ZdPmaPc8M>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M99LirFGqxc>

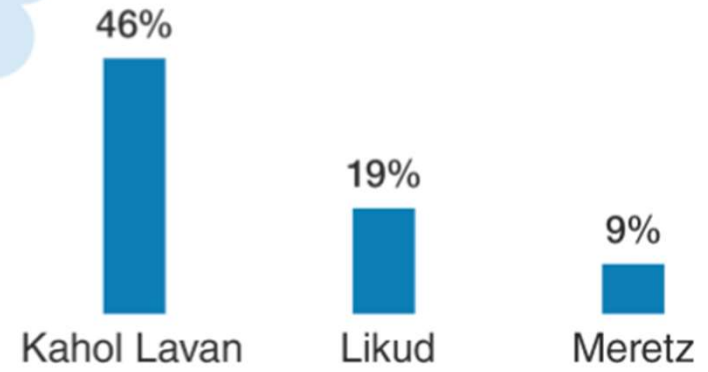
Two cities, worlds apart



Jerusalem



Tel Aviv



Two cities Credit: Haaretz

- Are there any problems with the distinctions between the two cities?



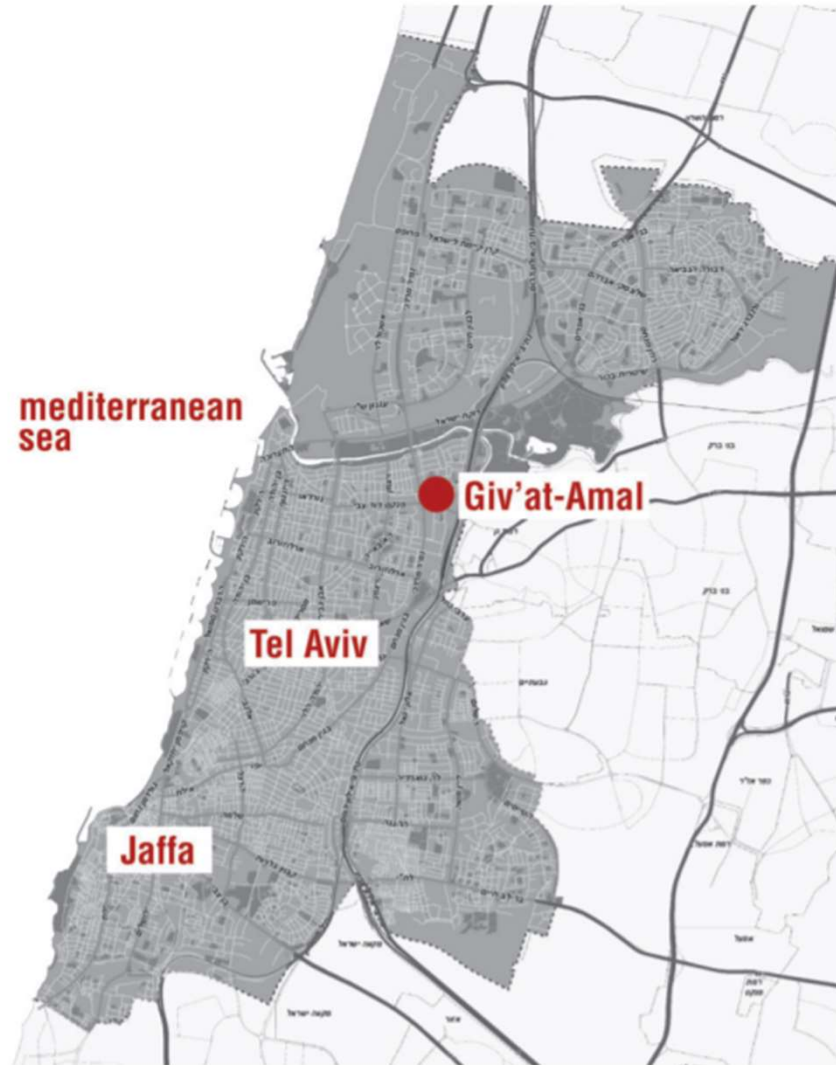
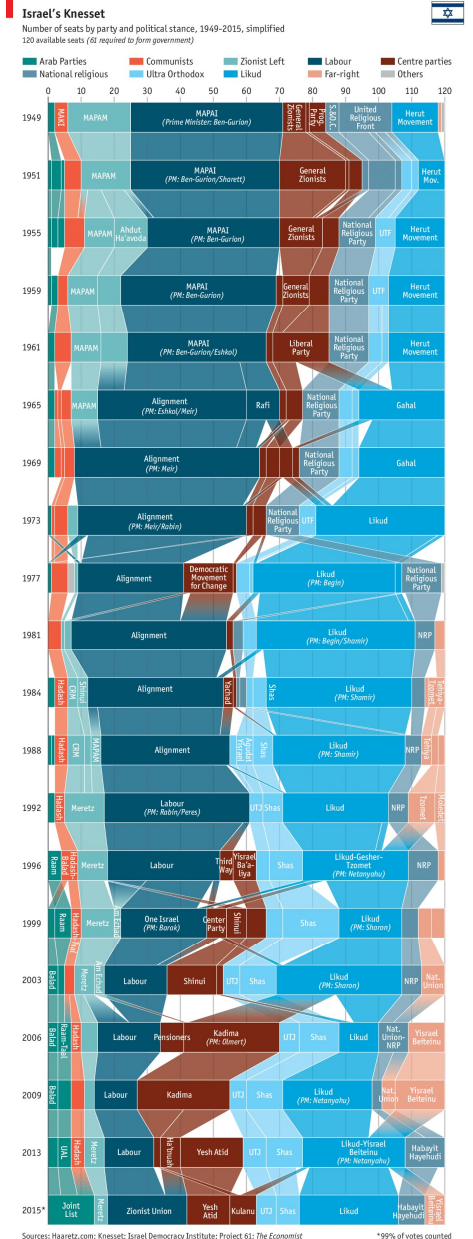


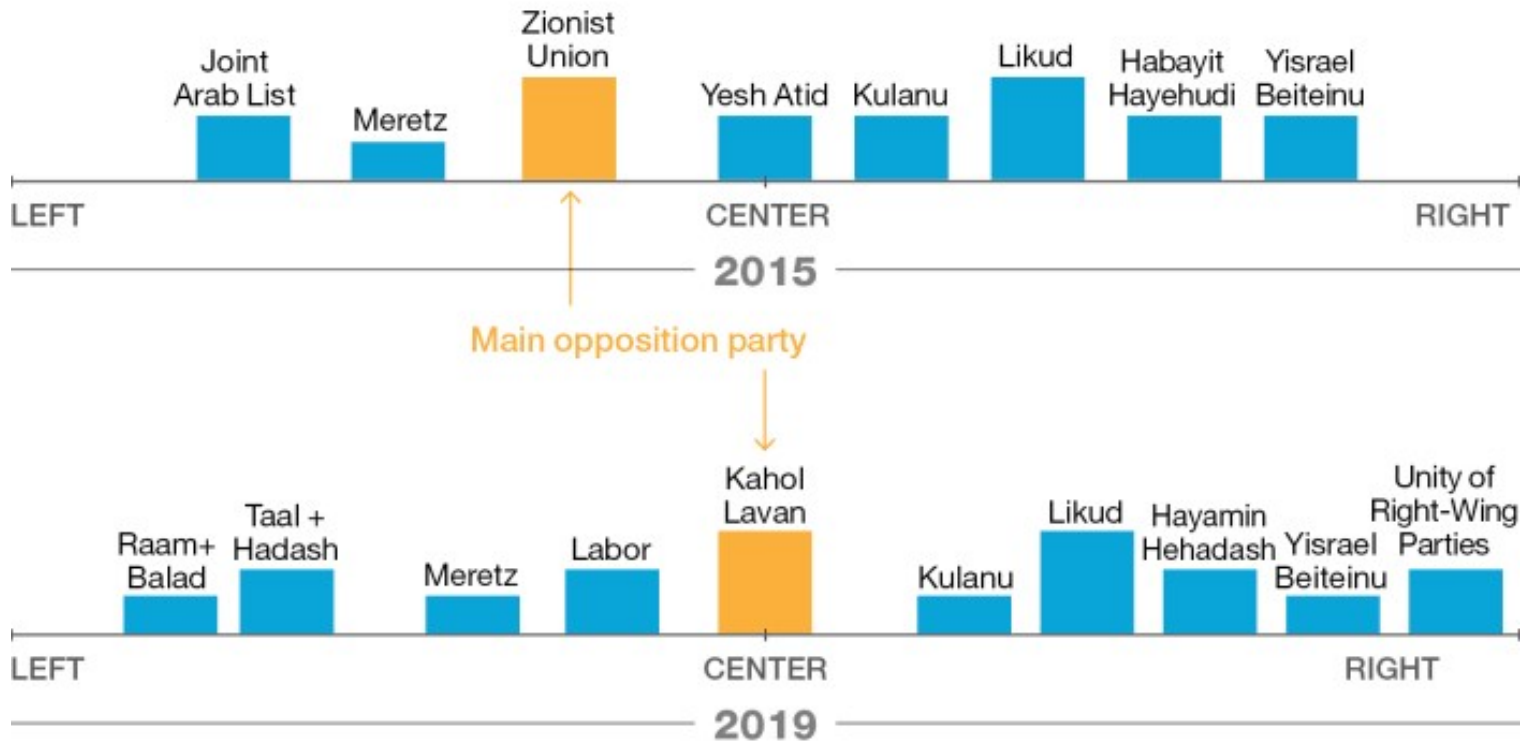
Figure 1. A map of Tel Aviv and the location of Jamassin/Giv'at-Amal. Based on a screenshot taken from: gisn.tel-aviv.gov.il.

Zionism, Neo-Zionism, Post-Zionism

- What are the main characteristics of these ideological positions?
- How do they inform Israelis' positions towards the conflict with the Palestinians?
- Based on the NYT article, which ideology is getting more prominent in the Israeli society?



Israel's political map: A rightward shift





Kahane and Otzma Yehudit



1984:

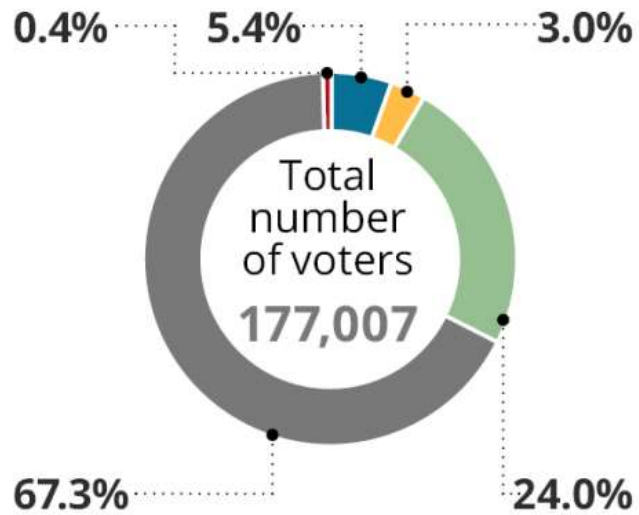
https://twitter.com/NTarnopolsky/status/1098681999093624832?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fd-9227971683429265383.ampproject.net%2F1902151859190%2Fframe.html

2019:

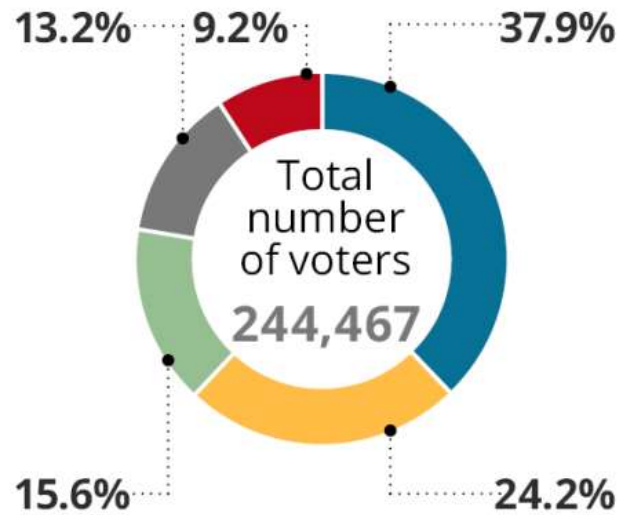


■ Right
 ■ Center-left
 ■ Israeli-Arab parties
 ■ Ultra-Orthodox
 ■ Lieberman

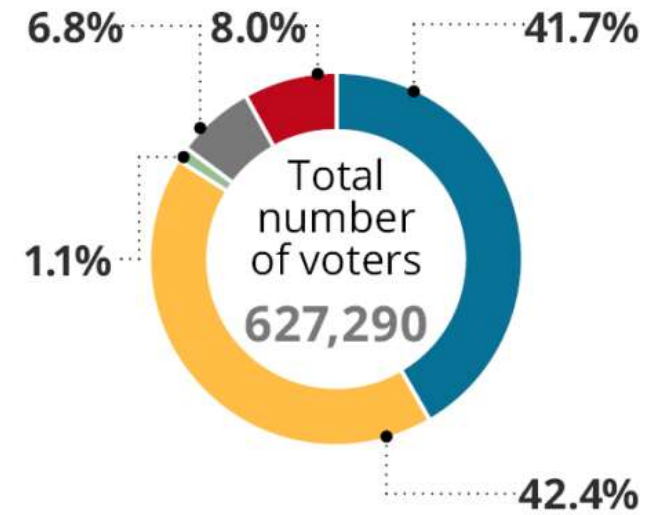
First decile



Fourth decile



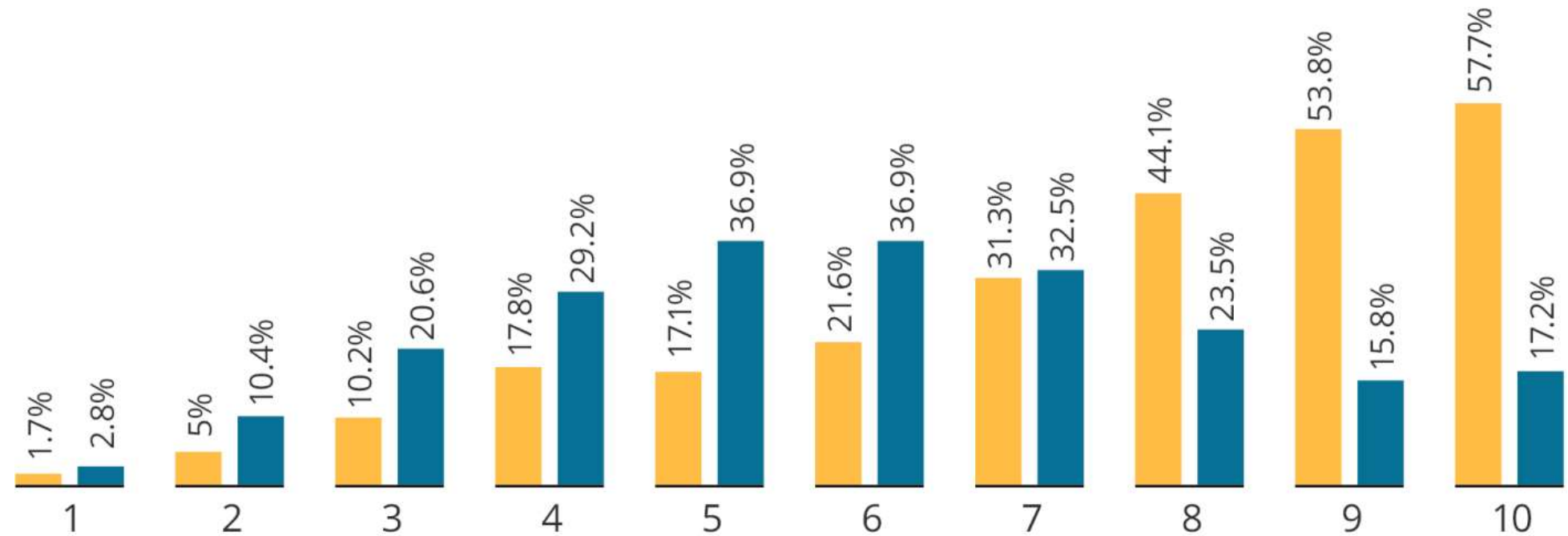
Seventh decile



Voting rate for Likud and Kahol Lavan

According to socio-economic deciles, September 2019

■ Kahol Lavan ■ Likud

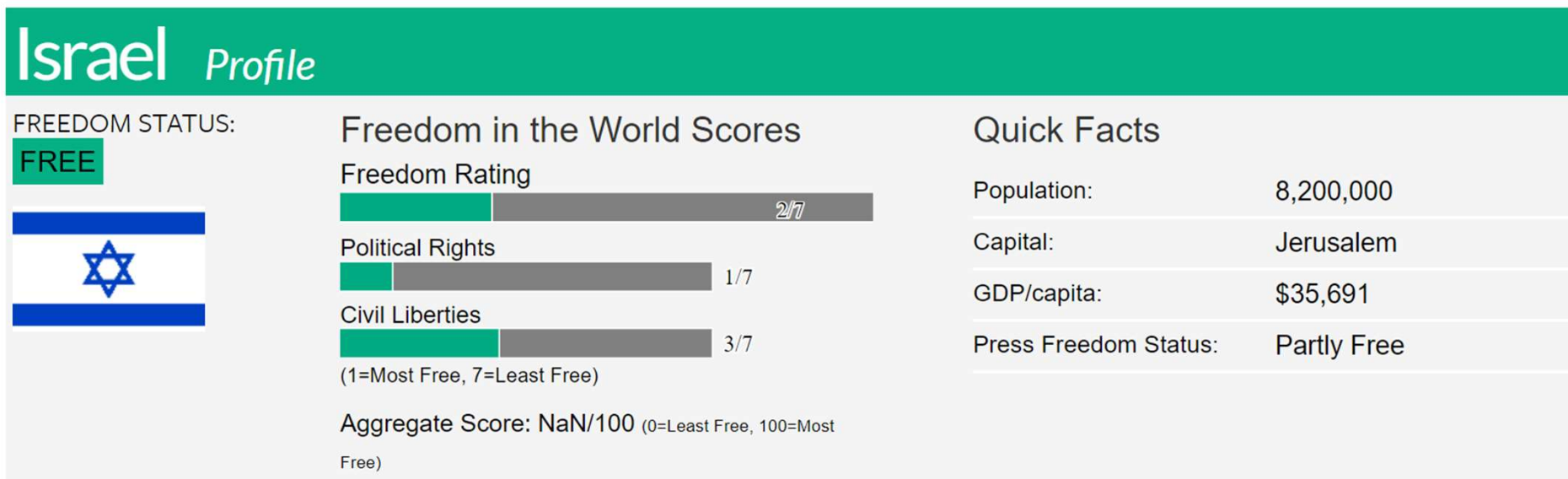


Data from Adva Center, the Israeli Central Elections Committee and the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics.

Decile No. 1 is the lowest

Israel – Jewish and democratic?

- Do you see any tension in this designation of the state?
- Is Israel unique when it comes to these tensions?



Nation State Law

- Adopted in summer 2018
- Israel is the “nation-state of the Jewish people”
- Why is it problematic?



The Nation-State Law recently passed by the Knesset declares officially for the first time that Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people and only of the Jewish people. Opponents of the law claim that it prevents non-Jewish citizens of Israel from feeling that it is their country as well.

In your opinion, was there or was there not a need for the law to make this declaration at this time?

([Peace Index](#), July 2018)

	Israeli Jews	Israeli Arabs	General Public
I'm sure it was needed	32.9%	5.9%	28.4%
I think it was needed	19.4%	1.4%	16.4%
I think there was no need	17.2%	17.1%	17.2%
I'm sure there was no need	22.5%	66.7%	29.9%
Don't know/No answer	8%	8.9%	8.1%

Unlike Israel's Declaration of Independence, the new Nation-State Law does not include a commitment to full equality for all citizens of the country regardless of their religion or nationality. In your opinion, should or should not the new law also have addressed the equality issue?
([Peace Index](#), July 2018)

	Israeli Jews	Israeli Arabs	General Public
I'm sure it should have	32.1%	66.5%	37.8%
I think it should have	27.5%	6%	23.9%
I think it should not have	15.8%	10.9%	15%
I'm sure it should not have	13.9%	9.9%	13.3%
Don't know/No answer	10.7%	6.6%	10%

The nation-state law declares that Arabic will no longer be an official language in Israel and will only be a language with a special status. In your opinion, is this change good or not good?

([Peace Index](#), July 2018)

	Israeli Jews	Israeli Arabs	General Public
A very good change	29.8%	4.8%	25.7%
Moderately good	21.4%	1.2%	18%
Not so good	20%	1.3%	16.9%
Not good at all	19.6%	87%	30.9%
Don't know/No answer	9.1%	5.8%	8.6%

Ethnocracy

Land and Identity Politics in
Israel/Palestine

Oren Yiftachel

Questions?