



Canadians for Justice and Peace
in the Middle East



Module 4: The 2006 Israeli Elections

April 28, 2006



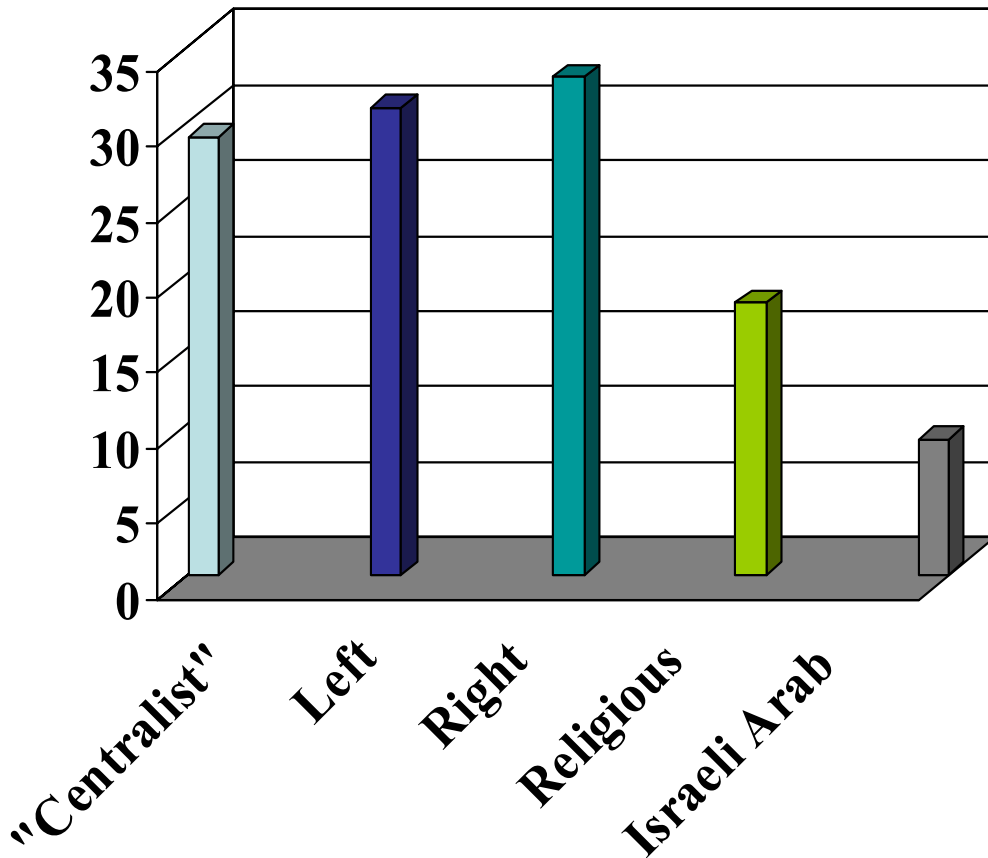
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The 2006 Israeli Knesset



Name of list	No. of votes	No. of seats
Gil	185,759	7
Hadash	86,092	3
Ichud Leumi - Mafdal	224,083	9
Kadima	690,901	29
Labor-Meimad	472,366	19
Likud	281,996	12
Meretz	118,302	5
National Democratic Assembly	72,066	3
Shas	299,054	12
Torah and Shabbat Judaism	147,091	6
United Arab List - Arab Renewal	94,786	4
Yisrael Beitenu	281,880	11
Total Seats		120

Israel's Political Right: Yisrael Beitenu

Yisrael Beitenu (Israel Our Home - won 11 seats lead by Avigdor Liberman)

- It is one of two parties that advocate on behalf of the Russian-speaking immigrant population.
- Proposes transferring Arab populations inside Israel to Palestinian territory.



"Our faction opposes the reference in the diplomatic basic guidelines concerning a reduction of the Israeli settlement in Judea and Samaria, and demands that every act aimed at forming Israel's permanent borders be in accordance with the demographic reality, in order to ensure that the State of Israel will be a Jewish state with a Jewish majority."
Yisrael Beitenu statement on Kadima's unilateral plans to withdraw from the OT.



Israel's Political Right: Ichud Leumi - Mafdal

Ichud Leumi – Mafdal (National Union National Religious party, lead by Benny Elon - won 12 seats)

- Nullify the Oslo Accords and dismantle the Palestinian Authority.
- Solve the Palestinian refugee problem by relocating refugees to Arab countries and dismantling the refugee camps.
- Establish a Jordanian/Palestinian state with Amman as its capital,



“The only way to defeat the regime of the UN and the World Court is through the US government. We see that the only force strong enough to stand up against this regime is America. And the only way to influence America is through grassroots support in the US public...My plan is based on a regional solution that recognizes the fact that Jordan is Palestine. The only way to solve the problem with the Palestinians is to reduce it to a border dispute between two already existing states - Israel and Jordan.” July 15, 2003, The Jerusalem Post

Israel's Political Right: Likud



Likud (won 12 seats)

The "Summary of Likud Policies" posted on their party's website stipulates, among other things:

- NO - unilateral withdrawals
- NO - withdrawal from the Golan Heights
- YES - Completion of the security fence around the settlement blocks at a safe distance from the airport and the central highways.
- YES - A united Jerusalem as the capital of Israel

Likud calls for:

- the annexation of the bulk of the West Bank (at least 50% of the occupied Palestinian territories) - - granting Palestinians a limited autonomy which could be allowed to evolve into a mini-state in the future.

"We must not give them an inch, and especially we have to make sure that the Jordan Valley, which guards the eastern entry to Israel -- that also is the buffer between the West Bank and Jordan -- that remains firmly in our hands. Keep the Jordan Valley and the Judean desert firmly in Israeli hands. We must, at the same time, push the fence back from the most sensitive strategic heart of Israel." Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu Speaking to the Annual AIPAC conference on March 7th 2006.

Israel's Political Left

Meimad (Labor currently led by Moroccan born Amir Peretz, won 12 seats)

- Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, however with a "Jewish character." - Labor intends to hand over to the Palestinian state neighborhoods with an Arab majority.
- In favor of leaving the major settlement blocs in place.
- Labor supports renewal of political negotiations, but should the peace process be frozen, the Labor government will initiate a plan for separation from the Palestinians, which will in effect be a second disengagement in Judea and Samaria, and will include evacuation of settlements.
- opposed to any return of refugees to Israel. They may return only to a future Palestinian state.



Meretz (lead by Yosi Beilin 5 seats)

- Favors the establishment of a Palestinian State as only possible guarantor of peace.
- Fully supports continuing the peace process and willing to address the primary grievances of the Palestinians
- Believes that peace with Syria is key to regional peace and therefore agrees on principle to withdraw from the Golan Heights.
- Does not reject on principle a divided Jerusalem.
- Advocates providing attractive resettlement packages to settlers.



The third party in Israel's Left GIL the Pensioners' Party has no position on the peace process

Israeli Arab Parties

These parties believe in the removal of all Israeli colonies from the Occupied Territories and the establishment of a viable Palestinian state.

<p>National Democratic Assembly – Balad (Lead by Azmi Bishara won 3 seats)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Israel should be a democratic state of all its citizens•Supports right of return for Arab refugees from the 1948 war•Full Israeli withdrawal from West Bank and East Jerusalem•Supports creation of a Palestinian state	<p>Hadash (Lead by Mohammad Barakeh won 3 seats)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Formation of democratic and secular constitution•Improving rights for Israeli Arabs and women•Supports Israel as a state of all its citizens rather than a 'Jewish State'•Supports formation of a Palestinian state•Supports rights of Palestinian refugees of 1948 to either return ("right of return") or be compensated for property abandoned	<p>United Arab List (lead by Ibrahim Tzartzur won 4 seats)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Union of three Israeli Arab parties - United Arab Party (Ra'am), Arab National Party (Mada) and Islamic Movement•Israel should become a state of all its inhabitants and not have overtly Jewish character•Full Israeli withdrawal from West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem•Establishment of Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital•Right of return for Palestinian refugees of 1948
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Israeli Ultra Orthodox & Religious Parties

These parties are ideologically flexible on the peace process but strongly oppose the separation of religion and state.

Torah and Shabbat Judaism (Lead by Yakov Litzman won 6 seats)

Key Points In Platform:

- Coalition of Ashkenazi ultra-orthodox parties
- Governmental policies should be based on Jewish law
- Believes the Land of Israel was given by G-d to the Jewish People
- Advocate on behalf of their constituency regarding government budgets and social services

Shas (lead by Eliyahu Yishai won 12 seats)

Key Points In Platform:

- Sephardic religious movement, led by spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef
- Governmental policies should be based on strict Jewish law



The “Center”: Kadima

Kadima, (Lead by Ehud Olmert won 29 seats)

- Kadima believes that there is no genuine peace partner on the Palestinian side
- It believes that Israel must move unilaterally to establish defensible borders along the path defined by Israel’s Wall.
- It will likely incorporate its colonist population into Israel proper by annexing at least 15 percent of the Palestinian occupied territories.
- Kadima is opposed to concessions on Jerusalem, declaring that a united Jerusalem will remain under Israeli sovereignty.



What Drives Israel's Unilateralism - 1



Pre-empting the peace-process

- Dov Weissglas, October, 2004 to Israeli daily Haaretz that Israel purposely scuttled the Road Map Peace Plan with its unilateral withdrawal from Gaza.
- He told Haaretz, “The significance of the Gaza disengagement plan is the freezing of the peace process.”

What Drives Israel's Unilateralism - 2

Many argue it was fear of the “demographic threat” that gave rise to Kadima’s popularity.

- Ehud Olmert: “It's only a matter of time before the Palestinians demand a one man, one vote - and then, what will we do?”
- Kadima’s election pledge was to deal with this threat by means of controlled separation from the Palestinian occupied territories with as many Palestinians on one side of the wall, and as many Jews on the other.
- Olmert promised Israelis on the eve of elections, “We will move to set the final borders of the state of Israel, a Jewish state with a Jewish majority”.



October 7, 2005- In the West Bank city of al-Khalil (Hebron), Israeli policemen prevent a Palestinian from entering the Ibrahime (Abraham) mosque on the first Friday of Ramadan.

Kadima's Plan and International Law

Olmert's plan runs counter to both International Law and Canada's stated Policy

By calling for the permanent annexation of the largest Jewish colonies, as well as the vast Jordan Valley portion of the West Bank, Israel;

- Violates the UN Charter, and UNSC resolutions 242, 252, 446, and 465.
- Violates the Oslo Accords and the Road Map Peace Plan by impacting the territorial integrity of the West Bank, and actively growing its illegal colonies.
- Blocks any realistic prospects for a viable Palestinian state (Oslo and Roadmap) and in accordance with UN resolutions. (e.g. see UNSC 242 (1967), 1379 (2002))
- Will create at least five different disconnected Palestinian Bantustans in the Palestinian territories, leaving Palestinians isolated, unemployed and impoverished.
- Predetermines what the Oslo Accords defined as final status issues, to be decided through negotiations

Kadima's Plan and Canadian Policy

Canada's policy on the Occupied Territories states:
Canada opposes all unilateral actions that might prejudice the outcome of negotiations, including

- the establishment of settlements in the territories,
- unilateral moves to annex East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, and
- construction of the barrier [i.e. the Wall] inside the West Bank and East Jerusalem



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End of Module



Israeli Arab Parties

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National Democratic Assembly – Balad
(Lead by Azmi Bishara won 3 seats)

- Israel should be a democratic state of all its citizens
- Supports right of return for Arab refugees from the 1948 war
- Full Israeli withdrawal from West Bank and East Jerusalem
- Supports creation of a Palestinian state

Hadash (Lead by Mohammad Barakeh won 3 seats)

- Formation of democratic and secular constitution
- Improving rights for Israeli Arabs and women
- Supports Israel as a state of all its citizens rather than a 'Jewish State'
- Supports formation of a Palestinian state
- Supports rights of Palestinian refugees of 1948 to either return ("right of return") or be compensated for property abandoned

United Arab List (lead by Ibrahim Tzartzur won 4 seats)

- Union of three Israeli Arab parties - United Arab Party (Ra'am), Arab National Party (Mada) and Islamic Movement
- Israel should become a state of all its inhabitants and not have overtly Jewish character
- Full Israeli withdrawal from West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem
- Establishment of Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital
- Right of return for Palestinian refugees of 1948