Center for Israel Education

2019 Elections
Parties, Platforms, & Leaders - PART 2

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2019 Elections
Parties, Platforms, & Leaders
Part 2

Enduring Understanding:

Israel's political system requires its political parties to reach compromises and agreements in order to effectively govern the country.

Activity Objectives:

Engaging in research and role play, participants will:

- Learn about the major parties and leaders running in the second 2019 Israeli election

- Uncover elements of each party's domestic and foreign policy agendas

- Understand how and why compromises are made in creating alliances between different parties.

Suggested Grade Levels:

- 7th – 12th

Suggested Time: 40-60 minutes

Background for the Facilitator

Basic Features of Israel's Election System

Israeli elections operate on the democratic principle of one person, one vote, for all citizens age 18 or older, regardless of sex, ethnicity or religion.

Each Israeli voter steps into a booth on Election Day, a national holiday, and selects a paper ballot representing one party. The voter seals the ballot in an envelope and drops it into a box, to be counted by hand.

Any party that gets at least 3.25% of the national vote will receive seats in the Knesset.

This takes place in three steps:

- First it is determined how many parties passed the threshold (3.25%).

- The total number of votes for all the parties that passed the threshold is then divided by 120 (the number of seats in the Knesset) to determine how many votes equal one seat in the Knesset.

- The votes of each party are then divided by that number to determine how many seats they will get.

Following the election, the President of Israel (who is elected for a seven year term by the members of the Knesset) meets with the heads of all the parties that have gained seats in the Knesset. During those meetings, the President asks each party who they recommend to be the Prime Minister. The President then tasks the preferred choice with setting up a government. The President's choice is the leader of the party that he or she believes has the best chance of forming a coalition of at least 61 members. This is usually (but not always) the party that won the most seats in the election.

After being tasked by the President, the candidate then has 28 days (plus a 14 day extension if needed) to reach agreements with other political parties to form a government. If the candidate cannot create a coalition within the 42 day time-period, the President can then ask another candidate from another party to try and form one. If that candidate also fails, a majority of the Knesset can ask the President to turn to a third candidate. That individual will then have 14 days. If he or she fails, there are new elections.

The candidate for Prime Minister negotiates with other parties as to who will serve in the various cabinet positions in the government, and who will get to lead certain government committees. Once a party agrees to be a part of the government, it consents to follow the main party's platform. If the ruling party and the parties that become a part of the coalition disagree and decide not to keep working together, a party can decide to leave the government (or be removed by the Prime Minister).

Following the elections on April 9th, Benjamin Netanyahu, who was designated by the President of Israel to form a coalition was unable to reach agreements with enough parties to create a government of at least 61 seats. In a move designed to prevent President Reuben Rivlin from turning to another candidate, Netanyahu was able to convince a majority of the newly elected Knesset members to vote to dissolve themselves and call for new elections.

Guiding Questions:
What are the platforms of the major parties running in the September 2019 Knesset Elections?
Who are the leaders of the major parties?
Which parties are likely to form coalitions with each other?

Instructions:

1. Print and cut the party cards found on the pages below. When printing, select double sided and short edge binding to ensure that they align properly. Cardstock works best.

2. Divide students into groups of 2-3 and distribute one party card to each group.

3. In their groups, students should:

   A. Read the biography of the party leader.

   B. Research the party's foreign and domestic policies and fill in the appropriate boxes on their card. Suggested websites for research include:

   - The Israel Democracy Institute - https://en.idi.org.il/

   - The Israel Policy Forum - https://israelpolicyforum.org/

   - The website of the party

   - Websites of Israeli newspapers such as Haaretz, Times of Israel, Jerusalem Post

4. After they have completed their research, each group should then create a campaign commercial for their party highlighting the leader and the party's policies. These can be presented as skits or filmed.

5. Have each party group share their commercial with the rest of the group.

6. Following the presentations of the commercials, each group should then fill out the boxes on their cards labeled "potential alliances" and "unlikely alliances" based on what they learned about the other parties.

7. Finally, see if the different groups can create alliances with each other.

8. Discuss: What parts of their platforms were they willing to compromise on and what assurances did they seek from other parties?

This excerpt from the *Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems* explains the Israeli structure in more depth:

"The Israeli electoral system is based on three main characteristics: a proportional allocation formula, the exclusive use of a single nationwide district for seat allocation, and a rigid closed-party-list system (Rahat and Hazan 2005). The system, still in use today, was initially adopted in 1948 by the Provisional State Council, the legislative body that served from the May 1948 Declaration of Independence until the first elections in January 1949. In those days there was a clear preference for proportionality, a recognition that a nationwide district was a necessity justified by immediate circumstances, and little concern over the lack of any personal element. Furthermore, the system that was adopted was seen as a provisional mechanism that would have no bearing on the future, since the newly elected Constituent Assembly would formulate the electoral system within the framework of its constitution-making mission (Brichta 1988; Medding 1990). Nevertheless, almost seventy years after it was first implemented, the main features of the extremely proportional electoral system that was adopted in 1948 have been preserved, with only minor changes."

Reuven Y. Hazan, Reut Itzkovitch-Malka, and Gideon Rahat, "Electoral Systems in Context: Israel," *The Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems,* Edited by Erik S. Herron, Robert J. Pekkanen, and Matthew S. Shugart, June 2018, p. 5.

Likud (Unity)

Benjamin Netanyahu

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

🔵 Potential alliances

🔵 Unlikely alliances

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Kachol Lavan (Blue and White)

Benny Gantz, Yair Lapid

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

🔵 Potential alliances

🔵 Unlikely alliances

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Kachol Lavan (Blue and White)

Benny Gantz/Yair Lapid

In February 2019, it was announced that Yesh Atid and Hosen L'Yisrael will run as a merged slate called Kachol and Lavan or Blue and White.

In 1959, Benny Gantz (top) was born in a village in Israel's south. The son of a Holocaust survivor, Gantz began his IDF career in the Paratroopers unit in 1977.

Gantz quickly rose through the ranks of the IDF and became a commander for many of the army's most specialized units. In 2011, Gantz was unanimously approved by the Knesset to become the Chief of General Staff, the commander of the entire IDF.

As Chief of Staff, Gantz oversaw the release of captured Israeli soldier Glad Shalit; appointed Orna Barbivai as the country's first female Major General; and led both Operation Pillar of Defense in 2012 and Operation Protective Edge in 2014 in response to frequent rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza.

Yair Lapid (bottom) was born in 1963 in Tel-Aviv. His father Tommy Lapid was a journalist and Member of Knesset for the Shinnui Party, a center-left party for which he was the leader.

Like his father, Lapid was a journalist and television personality who entered politics. In 2012, he founded the Yesh Atid Party with an agenda focusing on social and economic issues that appealed to younger voters. The Party won 19 seats in the 2013 election.

From 2013-2014, Lapid was Minister of Finance before being fired from the government by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over policy disagreements.

Likud

Benjamin Netanyahu

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's current Prime Minister, is the only Prime Minister in Israeli history to win a fourth term for the position.

Prior to entering politics, he served in the elite Sayeret Maktal unit of the IDF. He worked in the Israeli Embassy in Washington D.C. from 1982-1984, which led to him becoming the Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations from 1984-1988.

In 1988, Netanyahu was elected a member of the Knesset by the Likud Party, becoming the Party's leader in 1993. In 1996, in Israel's first direct election for Prime Minister, Netanyahu defeated Shimon Peres. Plagued by a series of scandals involving himself and some of his ministers, he was forced to call for new elections in 1999 where he was soundly defeated by Ehud Barak. After leaving politics, he returned to the Knesset in 2002, becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs and then Minister of Finance under Ariel Sharon. He resigned from the government over Israel's unilateral 2005 disengagement from Gaza.

He became Prime Minister again in 2009.

The Joint List

Ayman Odeh

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

🔵 Potential alliances

🔵 Unlikely alliances

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Yamina (Right)

Ayelet Shaked

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

🔵 Potential alliances

🔵 Unlikely alliances

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Yamina

Ayelet Shaked

After failing to cross the 3.25% threshold in the April election as part of a new party created with Naftali Bennett, Ayelet Shaked essentially rejoined her former Jewish Home party and its ally the National Union party to form Yamina.

Shaked, born in 1976, is a former software engineer with degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. She was an office director for Benjamin Netanyahu before leaving Likud with Bennet in 2008. Since 2015, Shaked has served as Minister of Justice where she has supported legislation aimed at restricting the Supreme Court's independence and power.

Shaked served as an instructor in the Golani infantry brigade where her conservative outlook toward Israel's security was crystalized. As the leader of a predominantly religious group of parties, Shaked herself is secular.

The Joint List

Ayman Odeh

In the April 2019 elections, the four predominantly Arab parties ran as two separate lists after running as a merged slate in 2015. The result was a net loss of 3 seats. The four parties have decided to run as a merged list again in September.

The Joint List is comprised of four parties: Hadash, a predominantly Arab Communist Party; Ta'al, a party focused on the interests of Israel's Palestinian citizens; Balad, an Arab nationalist party; and the United Arab List or Ra'am, an Islamic party popular among Israel's Bedouin.

Ayman Odeh was born in Haifa in 1975 to a secular Muslim family. As a teenager, he identified strongly with the struggle of the Palestinians and took part in numerous rallies and demonstrations against the government, before shifting his focus towards achieving greater rights for Israeli Arabs and advocating for a two state solution.

Odeh, a lawyer by profession, served on the Haifa city council and has held leadership positions in numerous organizations aimed at improving civic equality for Israeli Arabs. In the Knesset, he has opposed the demolition of unrecognized Bedouin villages, argued for recognition of Arab villages destroyed in 1948, and promoted increasing the number of Arab citizens in the civil service.

HaAvodah - Gesher (Labor - Bridge)

Amir Peretz/ Orly Levi-Abekasis

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

🔵 Potential alliances

🔵 Unlikely alliances

United Torah Judaism

Yaakov Litzman/Moshe Gafni

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

🔵 Potential alliances

🔵 Unlikely alliances

United Torah Judaism

Yaakov Litzman/Moshe Gafni

United Torah Judaism is a merger of two ultra-Orthodox parties, which have run together since 1992. Moshe Gafni is the leader of the Lithuanian-based Degel Torah. Yaakov Litzman is the leader of the Hasidic Agudat Israel which has its origins in Poland. Litzman serves as the leader of the merged list.

Yaakov Litzman (top) was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany in 1948. After spending his early years in the United States, Litzman immigrated to Israel in 1966 to become the head of a Hasidic girls school in Jerusalem. As a member of the Ger Hasidic sect, Litzman became a close advisor to the sect's leader, Rebbe Alter, who encouraged him to enter politics. He was first elected to the Knesset in 1999. In the most recent government, Litzman served as the Minister of Health where he advocated for healthier food to be served in schools.

Moshe Gafni (bottom) was born in Tel-Aviv in 1952 and was first elected to the Knesset in 1988. From 1990-1992, he was Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs. During his tenure in the Knesset, Gafni has served on a number of committees, including the Finance Committee, which he chaired in the most recent Knesset. Gafni has been outspoken in his support for army deferrals for Torah scholars and has come under fire for being critical of non-Orthodox movements in the diaspora.

HaAvodah - Gesher

Amir Peretz/Orly Levy-Abekasis

In July 2019, after a disappointing showing by both the Labor and Gesher parties in the April election, the two parties agreed to run in September as a merged slate. Labor, once Israel's dominant political party, won only six seats, its worst result ever. Gesher, running for the first time, failed to cross the electoral threshold of 3.2%

Labor elected former party leader Amir Peretz (top) to once again lead the party. Peretz was born in Morocco and immigrated to Israel as a young child in 1956, growing up in Sderot. He began his career in local politics before becoming the Chairman of the Histadrut Labor Federation in 1995. With the exception of two partial terms, he has served in the Knesset since 1988. From April 2006 to June 2007, Peretz was Israel's Defense Minister, despite a lack of military leadership. He was forced to resign due to Israel's mishandling of the Second Lebanon War. Peretz also served a Minister of Environmental Protection.

The original Gesher Party was created by Orly Levy-Abekasis's (bottom) father, veteran Likud politician David Levy in 1995. Like her father's party, the revived Gesher, which was created prior to the April 2019 elections, has a distinct social agenda. Levy-Abekasis, a former media personality, was born in 1973 and first elected to Knesset in 2009 as a member of the Yisrael Beiteinu party. Virtually all of her efforts in the Knesset focussed on strengthening elements in Israeli society including children, the poor, and the disabled. She resigned from Yisrael Beiteinu in 2016 over the party's lack of focus on socioeconomic issues.

Shas

Aryeh Deri

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

● Potential alliances

● Unlikely alliances

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Democratic Union

NItzan Horowitz

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

● Potential alliances

● Unlikely alliances

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Democratic Union

Nltzan Horowitz

The Democratic Union is a merger of the left-wing Meretz party, the new Democratic Israel party of former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, the Green party, and Knesset Member Stav Shaffir who left the Labor Party to be number two on this list.

The merged slate is headed by newly elected Meretz leader Nitzan Horowitz. Horowitz was elected party leader in late June, becoming the first openly gay leader of an Israeli political party.

Nitzan Horowitz was born in Rishon LeZion in 1965, but has lived in Tel-Aviv for over thirty years. A Member of Knesset for Meretz between 2009 - 2015, Horowitz also unsuccessfully ran for mayor of Tel-Aviv in 2013. In the Knesset, he focussed mainly on social issues, with a particular interest in addressing the challenges Israel faced over the influx of foreign asylum seekers.

Horowitz is a journalist by profession, and has worked as a correspondent for a number of Israel print and television outlets including channel 10 and *Haaretz*.

Shas

Aryeh Deri
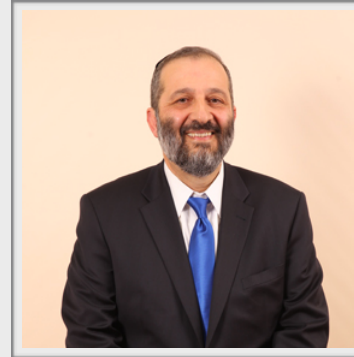
Aryeh Deri was born in 1959 in Morocco, and made aliyah in 1968. Among the founders of Shas, the ultra-Orthodox Sephardi party, Deri was first elected to the Knesset in 1992.

Deri served as the leader of Shas for most of the 1990s. He served as Minister of the Interior and was a member of the Knesset from 1992 to 1999. In 1999, he was convicted of taking bribes and sentenced to three years in prison. Shas' official position regarding Deri's conviction was that it was part of the State's persecution of the Sephardim, and that Deri's guilty verdict reflected discrimination.

After his release from prison, Deri took some time away from politics. In 2012, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the spiritual leader of Shas, appointed him again to be Chairman. He was elected to the Knesset in 2013.

As Minister of the Interior in the current government, Deri has been the architect of controversial policies to deport African asylum seekers from Israel.

Yisrael Beiteinu (Israel Our Home)

Avigdor Lieberman

Domestic Policies

Foreign Policies

● Potential alliances

● Unlikely alliances

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Yisrael Beiteinu

Avigdor Lieberman

Avigdor Lieberman was born in the Soviet Union in 1958, and made aliyah in 1978. Lieberman first became active in politics as a student at Hebrew University. In 1988, he was among the founders of the Zionist Forum for Soviet Jewry together with Natan Sharansky and others. The group, which represented several different political factions in Israel, advocated for and supported recent immigrants from the Soviet Union to Israel.

Lieberman became the Director-General of the Likud Party in 1993, working closely with Benjamin Netanyahu who had recently become the Party's leader. Following Netanyahu's election as Prime Minister in 1996, Lieberman managed his office.

In 1999, Lieberman established Yisrael Beiteinu as a right wing party representing the interests of immigrants, and was elected to the Knesset that year. He served as a cabinet minster for both Ariel Sharon and Ehud Olmert, resigning both times over disagreements on Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005 and its participation in the 2007 peace summit in Annapolis.

He was appointed Defense Minister in the most recent government. His resignation in November 2018 helped set the stage for early elections. Among his nationalist positions, he has been an advocate for requiring Arab Israeli citizens to take an oath of allegiance to Israel.

Party Platforms

Likud

Domestic Policies: Likud wants a free economy with social sensitivity, budgetary discipline, an effectively managed stock market, and a strong private sector. It seeks to create economic opportunities for the general population, increase the amount of people in the job market, ease the allocation of land to lessen the housing crisis, and lower taxes while investing in education and national infrastructure.

Foreign Policy and Security Issues: The party has emphasized preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. It is against unilateral withdrawals, but is willing to withdraw from land as part of a compromise for real and dependable peace. Any peace agreement must include an exchange of land for peace, mutual recognition of the legitimacy of the states involved, a just settlement to the refugee problem, and a united Jerusalem. It cannot have a Palestinian right of return. Likud also refuses to release terrorists from prisons, and in regard to the Temple Mount and Western Wall it intends on maintaining the status quo. Recently, many Likud MKs have expressed interest in annexing the West Bank.

Kachol Lavan

Domestic Policies: Believing that religious practice is a matter of personal choice and not government regulation, Kachol Lavan advocates for public transportation and open commerce on Shabbat. They support implementing the agreement over same-sex prayer at the Western Wall. The party wants to overhaul the state's health system by opening new hospitals and offering incentives to those who enter medical studies. The party supports gay rights, increased equality for women, and inclusion for those with disabilities and seeks to legalize same-sex civil unions and allow for surrogacy by same-sex couples. Economically, the party will empower innovation, invest more in research and development, and expand the number of innovation centers to peripheral parts of the country. The party also seeks to invest in more computer science education in Israeli schools and extend opportunities in high-tech to ultra-Orthodox and Arab sectors.

Foreign Policy and Security Issues: The party supports a united Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel. It advocates entering into negotiations with the Palestinians but the party seeks to maintain Israel's control over the Jordan Valley as a security buffer and retain all large settlement blocs in the West Bank. They are opposed to Palestinian right of return. The party is opposed to any unilateral withdrawals and supports a national referendum on any agreement. Kachol and Lavan seeks to engage with pragmatic Arab states through a regional peace conference. The Golan Heights is an inseparable part of the country and its return to Syria is non-negotiable.

Joint Arab List

Domestic Issues: The Joint List seeks to reduce the social and economic gaps between Jews and Arabs in Israel. The parties are opposed to the Basic Law defining Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people.

Foreign Policy and Security Issues: The Joint List seeks an end to the Israel-Palestinian conflict through the creation of an independent Palestinian state and a just resolution to the issue of Palestinian refugees. Balad rejects Israel as a Jewish state and favors a unitary democratic state.

Yamina - United Right

Domestic Issues: The party advocates for a full and equal partnership between religious and secular Jews, while championing the Jewish nature of the state. It strongly favors restraining the activism of the judicial system, and removing regulations to promote a free-open economy. The party vows to both protect minority civil rights yet is explicit in its belief that Israel is the nation of the Jewish people alone. It seeks to boost the status of the national-Zionist movement by increasing its budget and power in religious affairs relative to the Ultra Orthodox, which includes having Ultra-Orthodox

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Party Platforms

Jews be gradually incorporated into military and national service. It also desires to improve the Jewish education of Israelis, and to curtail the powers of the Supreme Court and State Attorney. On economic issues, it favors a free economy, but one that provides a safety net. It seeks to increase competition, break up monopolies, cut taxes on the middle class, and double the incentives given to small businesses. It will end illegal construction in the Negev and Galil by the Bedouin, as well as illegal migration from Africa to Israel. The party also works to end the incitement by segments of the Israeli-Arab population, while supporting those who contribute to the country.

Foreign Policy and Security Issues: The party is against the creation of a Palestinian state and calls for annexation of the mostly Jewish populated Area C of the West Bank, and to grant Areas A and B (The West Bank was divided into these areas in the Oslo Accords (1995)) self-governance under the auspices of the Palestinian Authority. It wants to legislate protection for IDF soldiers from international lawsuits as well as to stop funds from reaching anti-Israel organizations. Some segments of the party call for limiting Palestinian rights in Israel.

Labor - Gesher

Domestic Issues: Labor-Gesher is calling for an investment of 30 billion shekels into welfare, education, and health care. The party is calling for an increase in the minimum wage to increase employment and stimulate consumer spending. It advocates for building new affordable housing units for young families and investing in elderly services, including raising pensions for retired individuals. In an additional effort to help stimulate the economy, the party is in favor of increasing investments in new business by providing safety nets to encourage risks.

Foreign Policy and Security Issues: The party wants to reduce Israel's international isolation, partly through restoring good relations with the United States and Europe. It wants to restart the peace process through a regional platform to create two states for two people, in

which the settlement blocs would be part of Israel, there would be no Palestinian right of return, Jerusalem would be strengthened as Israel's eternal capital, and there would be restitution for the Jews expelled from the Arab world. Additionally, the Jordan Valley would be Israel's eastern security border.

United Torah Judaism

Domestic Issues: UTJ wants Jewish education to be present at all levels, as well as additional funding for Ultra-Orthodox education. It wants continued deferment of military service for Ultra-Orthodox males and an end to drafting women. It is against secularizing society, such as civil marriage, limiting the religious authorities, or opening business on Shabbat. It wants to make the country more *halakhic* (following strict interpretations of Jewish law) by changing the Law of Return so only *halakhic* Jews qualify for it, and by negating the Conservative and Reform movements. UTJ demands an end to the Ultra-Orthodox housing shortage through the allocation of state land and the free housing of those eligible for State Housing. The party wants to decrease government involvement in the economy by reducing the public sector and taxes, and to develop the private sector. It supports technical and engineering modernization, as well as the improvement of factories to increase efficiency and productivity. In addition, the party wants to limit inflation and labor disruptions.

Foreign Policy and Security Issues: It believes that the Land of Israel was given to the Jewish people by God and belongs to the Jewish people forever, but is obligated to consider the principle of saving life over all else. UTJ wants to boost aliyah, and is gravely concerned over yeridah - Israelis leaving Israel. Overall, the party's foreign policy is centrist and is decided more on religious concerns than those of security or diplomacy.

Shas

Domestic Issues: Shas works to end economic and social discrimination against Sephardi Jews. It wants to require that 7.5% of

Party Platforms

all building plans be devoted to public housing, with construction for different income levels to be integrated across the country rather than be segregated by them. It desires a state run according to halakha - Jewish law - and is opposed to public expression of homosexuality and any effort to secularize Israeli society, such as civil marriage. Shas does not allow female candidates run for office.

Foreign Policy and Defense Issues: It opposes any freeze in settlement construction and wants a united Greater Jerusalem. It demands that a compensation package for the Jews expelled from the Arab world after 1948 be included in any peace agreement. Shas does not believe that there is currently a true partner with which peace can be negotiated, but in the past has been open to a two-state solution.

Democratic Union

Domestic Issues: The party wants to create a social-democratic welfare state with far reaching social services that will be effectively regulated and monitored. It wants a strong labor movement, reduced power and influence for tycoons, and a more egalitarian society. It desires to reform tax policy to reduce inequality, and more balanced investment amongst the four different Israeli education systems. It believes in full separation of religion and state, and wants laws that grant freedom of religion and rights to all citizens, such as civil marriage and divorce, and same sex marriage. It would like to recognize the Arab people as a national minority with collective rights. It values environmental preservation over development and will combat gender inequalities. It wants to regulate campaign financing and lobbying, as well as to fight corruption. Lastly, it seeks to end the disproportionate investment in settlements and the security budget.

Foreign Policy and Defense Issues: The party believes that ending the Occupation is the only way to reach a two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders with land swaps. The party also believes that UN recognition of the Palestinian state is a pathway to negotiations. It wants an immediate freeze to settlement building,

and will pay Israeli residents of the West Bank to leave willingly. It advocates for a gradual and coordinated end to the Gaza blockade.

Yisrael Beiteinu

Domestic Issues: The party believes in maintaining Israel as the national homeland of the Jewish people, as well as the Law of Return. It does not believe in the separation of religion and state, but abides by the principle of "live and let live." In regard to governance, the party is a proponent of a full separation of powers: Ministers of Knesset would not serve in the government, instead only creating legislation in the Knesset and acting as a check and balance on the government; and the Supreme Court would only apply the law, while a Constitutional Court would be established. The party focuses on helping those who contribute to the state through military and national service and who work, by providing a favorable mortgage to young couples who both work and fulfilled their service, and more after school activities for infants and young children. Yisrael Beitenu also advocates for all citizens to have the same rights and duties, meaning the Ultra-Orthodox and Israeli-Arabs would be obligated to serve in the IDF or perform national service. The party opposes the celebration of Nakba Day and incitement against Israel by Israeli Arab MKs.

Foreign Policy and Defense Issues: A peace agreement must include the Palestinians, the greater Arab world, and Israeli-Arabs. It would have to include a populated land swap, in which the settlement blocs would become part of Israel, and predominantly Arab populated areas bordering the West Bank, such as the Arab Triangle and the Wadi Ara region, would be incorporated into the Palestinian state. Israeli-Arabs involved in the swap would choose whether to gain Palestinian citizenship and forfeit their Israeli citizenship, or to move to remain in Israel and keep their Israeli citizenship. Israel would also provide economic incentives for Israeli-Arabs to join the Palestinian state. Yisrael Beitenu wants to build Israel's relations with the Diaspora and to help fund Jewish education abroad to fight assimilation.