



Pol245: Politics and Society in Israel
Spring 2010
Dr. Azi Lev-On
Stanford University
Wed 4.15-6.05, Encina Hall C464

The course introduces the political system in Israel, going back to its roots in the pre-state period (*Yishuv*), up to the recent elections (2009). We survey key aspects of the Israeli political system including election methods, parties, the constitutional status, and the impact of social cleavages on political behavior.

Requirements

Two reading summaries and presentations (10% and 15% of the final grade). A final paper (75%).

Main Books

- Arian, Asher. 2005. *Politics in Israel: The Second Republic*, 2nd Ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.
- Mahler, Gregory S. 2004. *Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State*. Lanham, MD Rowman & Littlefield.

Topic 1: Intro: Zionism and the Intellectual Origins of Israeli Identity

- Mahler, ch. 1.
- Avineri, Shlomo. 1981. *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State*. New York: Basic Books. Introduction, 88-100, 139-228.

Topic 2: Intro: The Israeli – Arab Conflict

- Morris, Benny. 2001. *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999*. New York: Knopf [ch.5 , skim 6,7].

Topic 3: State Formation: The Yishuv and the Creation of Political Institutions

- Aronoff, Myron J. 1993. The Origins of Israeli Political Culture. In *Israeli Democracy under Stress*, eds. Ehud Sprinzak and Larry Diamond. Boulder: Lynne Rienner. 47-63.
- Shapiro, Yonathan. 1993. The Historical Origins of Israeli Democracy. In *Israeli Democracy Under Stress*, eds. Ehud Sprinzak and Larry Diamond. Boulder: Lynne Rienner. 65-80.
- Kark, Ruth and Joseph B. Glass. 1999. The Jews in Eretz-Israel/Palestine: From traditional peripherality to modern centrality. *Israel Affairs*. 5(4):73-107



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Topic 4: The Electoral Process and Voting Patterns

- Arian, chs. 7,8.
- Mahler. ch. 7.

Topic 5: Political Parties and Interest Groups

- Mahler, ch. 6.
- Arian, chs. 5,6.
- Goldstein, Yaacov N. 2002. Labour and Likud: Roots of their ideological-political struggle for Hegemony over Zionism, 1925–35. *Israel Affairs*. 8(1):79-90.
- Shindler, Colin. 2002. Likud and the search for Eretz Israel: From the Bible to the twenty-first century. *Israel Affairs*. 8(1):91-117.

Topic 6: Constitution and Referenda: Work in Progress?

- Mahler, ch. 4.
- Arieli-Horowitz, Dana. 2002. Referenda in a post-consociational democracy: The case of Israel. *Israel Affairs* 8(1):146-160.

Topic 7: Political Representation of Minorities

- Horowitz, Dan, and Moshe Lissak. 1989. *Trouble in Utopia: The Overburdened Polity of Israel*. Albany: SUNY Press. Ch. 2, 32-97.

Topic 8: Palestinians in Israel

- Shafir, Gershon, and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli*. New York: Cambridge University Press, ch. 4 (110-137).
- Waxman, Dov, and Ilan Peleg. 2008. Neither ethnocracy nor bi-nationalism: In search of the middle ground. *Israel Studies Forum* 23(2): 55-73.
- Rekhess, Eli. 2007. The evolvement of an Arab-Palestinian national minority in Israel. *Israel Studies* 12(3): 1-29.
- Vision documents (online).

Topic 9: The Religious Divide

- Dowty, Alan. 1998. *The Jewish State: A Century Later*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ch. 8.
- Ben-Rafael, Eliezer. 2008. The faces of religiosity in Israel: Cleavages or continuum? *Israel Studies* 13(3): 89-113.



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Topic 10 (*): The Jewish Ethnic Divide

- Smooha, Sami. 2003. Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: Symbolic or Real? In *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns*, eds. U. Rebhun and C. I. Waxman. Boston: Brandeis University Press. 45-80.
- Shafir and Peled, Ch. 3 (74-110).

Conclusions

You can find these special issues useful:

The 2009 Elections

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g918953511~tab=toc~order=page>

The 2006 Elections

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g781743040>

Israel studies- an ethnology

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/anthologytoc.html?246,171>

Cohen-Almagor, Israeli Society at the Crossroads (Israel Affairs, 1,1)

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g714003332~tab=toc~order=page>

Special volume of Citizenship Studies on Israeli Citizenship (Israel Affairs, 11,2)

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g714003364~tab=toc~order=page>