

**Macro Report Form: Comparative Study of Electoral Systems**

**Israel- Elections 2003**

**Part I: Data Pertinent To the Election at Which the Module was Administered**

**1. Name of political party and No. of portfolios – prior to elections**

**Likud** – 13 (9 ministers with portfolios, 3 ministers without portfolios and P.M Sharon with 4 portfolios)

**Labor (Avoda)** – 6

**Shas** – 5

**Israel Baaliya** –2

**Mafdal** – 2

**1a.** 28 ministers.

**2. Name of political party and No. of portfolios – after the elections**

**Likud** – 14 (11 ministers with portfolios and P.M Sharon with 3 portfolios)

**Mafdal** – 2

**Shinui** – 5

**National Union** –2

**2a.** 23 ministers.

**3. Political Parties:**

<b><u>Party</u></b>	<b><u>Year party founded</u></b>	<b><u>Ideological family</u></b>
Likud (Herut)	Herut -1948 ; became “Likud”- 1973	Right liberal parties
Labor- “Avoda”, (Mapai)*	Mapai-1920 ; became “Avoda”- 1968	Social-democratic parties
Shinui	1974; renewed 1999	Liberal parties
Shas	1984	Religious parties (Ultra-orthodox)
Meretz (Civil rights movement)	Civil rights movement- 1973; became “Meretz”-	Left socialist parties

	1992	
National Union (Moledet-Tkuma)	Moledet-Tkuma-1988; National Union- 1999	Extreme nationalist parties

\*Belongs to the Socialist International.

**3a.** No.

**3b.** No. Labor Party- with electoral support of 19 seats out of 120.

**3c.** No.

**4a. Ideological positions of parties:**

Likud-7

Labor-3

Shinui-5

Shas-8

Meretz – 2

National Union-9

**4aa.** Yes.

**4b.** The respondents were not asked to rank political parties on an alternative dimension.

**5. The five most salient factors that affected the outcome of the elections:**

1. Intifada- Terrorism- Arafat.
2. Sharon's leadership.
3. The weak Labor alternative.
4. Shinui as a protest vote; religious tensions.
5. The economic crisis in Israel.
6. The repeal of the "direct election" system and return to voting with one ballot.

**5a.** Yes.

6a. No.

**7. Party leaders and presidential candidates:**

Likud- Ariel Sharon

Labor- Amram Mitzna

Shinui- Tommy Lapid

Shas- Eli Ishay

Meretz – Yosi Sarid

National Union- Avigdor Liberman

**Part II: Data on Electoral Institutions**

**A. Questions about electoral districts:**

1. The entire country is one electoral district.

**B. Questions about voting:**

6. Each voter puts slip with the party name in an envelope, seals it and places it into the ballot box.

6a. 1.

6b. For lists only.

7. No.

**C. Questions about converting votes into seats:**

10. There are 120 seats in parliament. The minimum threshold is 1.5%. The seats are distributed according to the d'Hondt system.

10a. Yes, 1.5% of the valid votes.

10b. d'Hondt.

11. a. closed.

**D. Questions about the possibilities of electoral alliance:**

12a. Yes.

12b. Yes, for distribution of remaining seats.

12c. No.

12d. Not relevant

13. No.

13a. No.

14. See 12b.

15. No.

**Part III: Data on Regime Type**

**A. Questions regarding the head of the state:**

1. The president.

2. Other- The president is elected by the parliament.

2b. Selection by the legislature, by simple majority.

**3a.** No.

**3b.** No.

**3c.** No.

**3d.** No.

**3e.** No.

**3f.** No.

**3g.** No.

**3h.** No.

**3j.** No.

**3k.** No.

**3m.** No.

**B. Questions about the head of government**

**1.** No.

**1a.** No.

**1b.** Nominated by the head of state, and approved by the legislature.

**2.** Names ministers and assigns portfolios; Dismisses ministers and reassigns portfolios at own discretion but needs the approval of the parliament for that.

3. Chairs cabinet meetings.

Calls votes of confidence in government.

### **C. Questions regarding the cabinet**

1. If the P.M. resigns, his resignation applies to the entire cabinet. The P.M can be replaced by a constructive vote of no confidence.

### **D. Questions regarding the legislature**

1. The P.m. can dissolve the parliament, only if the president gives his consent.

2. As a response to action/inaction by the legislature.

3. No.

### **E. Federalism**

1. No.

2. Yes.

### **F. References:**

❖ **Laws concerning the legislative and the elections:**

[http://www.knesset.gov.il/description/eng/eng\\_mimshal\\_beh.htm](http://www.knesset.gov.il/description/eng/eng_mimshal_beh.htm)

❖ **Relevant sections of the national constitution governing elections to the lower house of the national legislature:**

[http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/heb/laws/elections\\_law.htm](http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/heb/laws/elections_law.htm) (In Hebrew)

❖ **Report of Electoral Commission and/or district level electoral returns:**

In hardcopy (In Hebrew)

**Parties' platforms for Parties A-F – links:**

1. **Likud:** [Likud](#)

(<http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections/eindex.html>- [Lists Running in the '99 Knesset Elections](#))

2. **Labor (Avoda):** [One Israel](#)

(<http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections/eindex.html>- [Lists Running in the '99 Knesset Elections](#))

3. **Shinui:**

<http://www.shinui.org.il/elections/eng/principles.html>

4. **Shas:**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections/asp/party.asp?id=30>

(There isn't a platform)

5. **Mertz:**

<http://www.meretz.org.il/English/HomePage.htm>

6. **National Union:**

[http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/plat\\_27-e.htm](http://www.knesset.gov.il/elections16/eng/lists/plat_27-e.htm)

