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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Year party founded</th>
<th>Ideological family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Likud (Herut)</td>
<td>Herut -1948 ; became “Likud”- 1973</td>
<td>Right liberal parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor- “Avoda”, (Mapai)*</td>
<td>Mapai-1920 ; became “Avoda”- 1968</td>
<td>Social-democratic parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shinui</td>
<td>1974; renewed 1999</td>
<td>Liberal parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shas</td>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Religious parties (Ultra-orthodox)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meretz (Civil rights movement)</td>
<td>Civil rights movement- 1973; became “Meretz”-</td>
<td>Left socialist parties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2

|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|

*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.
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

❖ 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 (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

2. Labor (Avoda): One Israel

3. Shinui:
   http://www.shinui.org.il/elections/eng/principles.html

4. Shas:
   (There isn’t a platform)

5. Mertz:
   http://www.meretz.org.il/English/HomePage.htm

6. National Union: