

IRE215: POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN ISRAEL

Israeli Democracy and Political System

This presentation will introduce students to the Israeli political system. Topics examined include Israeli independence, government type, constitution, head of state, the three branches of government (legislature, executive, judiciary), coalition formation and policy-making, parliamentary elections, a historical review and unique traits of Israeli politics, the main parties in contemporary Israeli politics, and the results of the latest elections (March 3rd, 2020). The presentation concludes with a discussion of the inherent tension between Israel's Jewish and democratic characters as manifested in the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel and reviews some of the main flaws in Israeli political and electoral systems.

After going over the presentation, students are asked to assess their newly acquired knowledge by answering the following questions:

1. Discuss Israel's dual character- Jewish and democratic using examples from the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel (I suggest a table, whereas both identity components are demonstrated by quotes from the declaration).
2. What are the three branches that compile Israel's political system?
3. How come Israel doesn't have a government for over a year now?
4. Who is currently the largest party in the Israeli Parliament?
5. Do Jewish values take precedence over liberal values in Israel?
6. Discuss 2 flaws in Israel's political and electoral systems.
7. Is Israel a parliamentary democracy? Another type of government? Argue both ways.