

Israel

Rice

The state of Israel was proclaimed in 1948, after the British released their hold on Palestine (which had been under their mandate). David Ben-Gurion became the first Prime Minister of Israel with the backing of the Israeli Worker's Party (MPAI), and a parliamentary coalition that included the United Religious Front (URF), Progressive Party (PROG), and the Sephardism and Oriental Communities Party (SEPH). There were two minor SOLS changes under Ben-Gurion's leadership; one in 1951 when the PROG and SEPH were dropped from the coalition, and one in 1952, when the URF was replaced with the GZ, HMIZ, PROG, and the Spiritual Center (MIZR).

In 1953, Ben-Gurion stepped down and Moshe Sharett took over leading his same coalition. Sharett's leadership was not a change of SOLS because he was also from MAPAI. Two minor SOLS changes occurred in 1955. First, in June, the GZ was dropped from the coalition. Then, in November, Ben-Gurion came back to the prime ministership with a MPAL, National Religious Party (NRP), Unity of Labor Party (AA), United Worker's Party (MPAM), and PROG coalition. Ben-Gurion stayed in office with this coalition intact until 1958.

Another minor SOLS change occurred in 1958 when the NRP was dropped from the governing coalition. However, a year later, they were added back in. Ben-Gurion's government next changed in 1961, when it was reduced to just MAPAI, NRP, and AA.

In 1963, a new prime minister named Levi Eshkol took over under the MAPAI. In 1966 the MPAL merged with the AA into alignment (ALNM-MPAI) as NRP, MPAM and ILIB entered the coalition under Eshkol (minor SOLS). 1967 elections led to an MPAL-ALNM/HRUT/NRP/RAFI/MPAM/ILIB coalition with Eshkol, MPAL, still as PM. This is a minor SOLS change.

When Eshkol passed away in 1969, Yigal Allon (Avoda) became the acting Prime Minister. Soon, a government was assembled with the same coalition that Eshkol had led under Golda Meir. Later in the year, December 15, 1969 elections led to an MPAL-ALNM/GHAL/NRP/ILIB coalition. In August 1970 GHAL (also Gahal) left the coalition in 1970 but supported it informally. This is a minor SOLS change.

March 6, 1974 elections returned a LAB/NRP/ILIB coalition with Meir still as PM. Woldendorp et. al. (2000, 302) state that in this election, LAB is an alliance of MPAL and MPAM, which basically means that LAB is the same as ALNM. The June 3, 1974 elections returned a MPAL-LAB/ILIB/CRIT coalition with Yitzhak Rabin, MPAL, as PM. This is a minor SOLS change. October 29, 1974 a MPAL-LAB/NRP/ILIB coalition with Rabin, MPAL, still as PM took shape. This is a minor SOLS change. 1976 elections returned a MPAL-LAB/ILIB coalition with Rabin, MPAL, still as PM. On April 22, 1977, Shimon Peres took over as party leader and interim PM when Rabin stepped down.

The first SOLS change for Israel came about in June 21 1977, when Menachim Begin took office as Prime Minister. Begin was from the Consolidation Party (LIK), and he took office with a coalition consisting of the LIK, and NRP. Later in November, he added the Democratic Movement for Change

(DASH) to the group. Begin further changed his government in 1981 by dropping the DASH, while adding the Traditional Movement of Israel (TAMI).

In 1983, Yitzhak Shamir took office as Prime Minister of a LIK/NRP/TAMI/THYA coalition. This was a minor SOLS change, as Shamir was a member of the LIK and led the same coalition as Begin. However, in 1984, Shimon Peres came back to power. His leadership was a SOLS change, as he was from the LAB party, and led a coalition of LAB, LIK, NRP, Sephardic Torah Guardians (SHAS), Change Party (SNUI), Heritage Party (MSHA), and OMET. This large coalition lasted through Peres's ministership.

In 1986 Shamir, as determined by an arrangement struck with Perez in 1984 became PM as part of the same coalition as his predecessor. Because the coalition remained the same and the change of PM was a prearranged rotation this is not coded as a SOLS change. (Palmer 1996: 281, Rabonovich & Shaked 1986) 1988 elections returned a LIK/LAB coalition with Shamir, LIK, still as PM. Shamir experienced minor coalition changes three times during his premiership: in 1990 a LIK/SHAS/NRP/THYA/TZOM coalition; in 1991 a LIK/SHAS/NRP/THYA/AIS coalition; and on January 22, 1992 a LIK/SHAS/NRP coalition. All of these are minor SOLS changes.

By July of 1992, a major SOLS change occurred. Former Prime Minister Rabin (LAB) came back to power, in coalition with LAB, MRET, and SHAS. Rabin's government dropped the SHAS for HDASH in 1994, signifying a minor change.

In 1995, former Prime Minister Peres took back power, now under the LAB banner. His coalition, thus, was a minor change because it added in the Mission (YIUD). In 1996 Netanyahu, LIK, becomes PM as part of a LIK/SHAS/NRP/YB/UTJ/TW coalition (Knesset 2010).¹ This is a SOLS change.

On July 6, 1999 Ehud Barak, LAB (i.e. LAB, GSHR, MEIM), became PM of a coalition headed by One Israel (OI), which was a List of Labor, Gesher, and Meimad. Aside from OI, other parties in the coalition where: Shas, the NRP (National Religious Party), the Center Party (CP – a group that split away from Likud, labor and Tzomet; also CENTR), YB, and Meretz (MRET -- a merger of Mapam, Ratz, and Shinui). Yahadut Ha'Thorah (UTJ) was also part of the coalition but refused to take a ministerial post in the cabinet (Diskin 2000, p.428). In short, the full coalition was composed of LAB-Gesher-Meimad/SHAS/MRET/CP/YB/NRP/UTJ. On September 5 Yahadut Ha'Thorah defected from the coalition, which is a minor SOLS change (Jerusalem Post 09/05/1999).

Barak's coalition underwent four minor SOLS changes in 2000: on June 24 Meretz left the coalition; Shas and YB left the coalition on July 11; the NRP left a day later on the 12th; and on August 4 David Levi took Gesher out of One Israel (OI) and the coalition. Hereafter, OI (now only Labor and Meimad) continues in coalition with the Center Party (CP).²

¹ Note that Woldendorp codes UTJ as a coalition partner. However, UTJ does not have ministers in cabinet during this period. Meir Porush of the UTJ is deputy minister of Housing. We will code these parties as part of the SOLS.

² Note that David Levi took his small Gesher fraction out of the coalition August 4 2000, but remain in the same "One Israel" party until April 2001, because the Israeli electoral law does not allow an MP to erect a new fraction unless at least a third of the former fraction splits off or within 90 days of new elections (Ha'aretz 2000). Because

According to Diskin (2001 and 2002, EJPR), in 2001 a new grand coalition government coalition under Ariel Sharon is established, which consists of Likud, One Israel (Labor and Meimad), Shas, Yisrael Be'aliyah, National Unity- Yisrael Beiteinu (NU or IL), and One Nation (Diskin 2002, p.984). Sharon's coalition fluctuated throughout 2001. According to Diskin (2002, 985): "Within a month [of Sharon's election], the five Yahadut ha-Torah MKs and one from the Centre Party joined the coalition." However, in the next sentence he writes that the Centre Party remained in the opposition. This means that the party itself did not join the coalition at that time. However, on p. 987, Diskin writes that more Centre Party MKs joined. This is confirmed by article in the LA Times (Wilkinson 2001) and Jerusalem Post (Center Party joins coalition tonight; 08/20/2001). For consistency, we also code the UTJ (aka Yahadut) as joining the coalition even though it had no representation in the cabinet.

2002 was also a turbulent year with seven minor SOLS changes: One Nation (also Am Ehad) left 19 February (Hoffman 2002, Diskin 2003); IL left March 14 (Knesset, Diskin 2003, Singer & Grossman 2003); to be replaced by Gesher and NRP on April 4th (Jerusalem Post 2002b, Knesset, Diskin 2003, Singer & Grossman 2003); Shas and UTJ left May 23 (Jerusalem Post 2002c, Knesset, Diskin 2003, Singer & Grossman 2003); Shas rejoined on June 3 (Knesset, Diskin 2003, Singer & Grossman 2003); Gesher leaves again on 29 July (Hoffman and Wagner 2002, Knesset); and Labor-Meimad left on November 2 (Hoffman and Gilbert 2002, Knesset, Diskin 2003, Singer & Grossman 2003). All of these changes are minor SOLS changes.

These are the events of 2003: According to Diskin (2004), Sharon II (invested 2/27/2003) was composed of Likud, Shinui (SNUI), National Unity Party-Israel our Home (aka Ichud Leumi Party), and NRP. Moreover, YB merged with the Likud immediately following the 27 February elections. Officially, the NRP ministers, Efraim Eitam and Zvulun Orlev, and Natan Sharansky, joined the government on 3 March. Inter-parliamentary Union agrees that Sharon formed a coalition of LIK/SNUI/IL/NRP in March. We code a minor SOLS change for 27 February and for the entry of NRP on March 3 (Inter-Parliamentary Union 2010).

The events of 2004: According to Diskin (2005, 1057), Ichud Leumi (aka National Unity Party-Israel our Home aka NUP) left June 6. Some members of the NRP left June 10 but others stayed, meaning we don't code a minor SOLS change until all NRP members withdrew their support on November 11 (1059). This is a minor SOLS change. Moreover, Shinui left the coalition December 4, another minor SOLS change.

On January 10 2005 Labor-Meimad re-joined Sharon's government. This is a minor SOLS change. Less than 4 months later on March 30, PM's from the two factions that had split from Yahadut Ha'Thorah - Degel Ha'Thora (DH) & Agudat Yisrael (AY) entered the government (Diskin 2006, Knesset 2010). This is a minor SOLS change. Degel Ha'Torah and Agudat Yisrael did not have ministerial portfolios but were deputy ministers instead. However, because there wasn't a minister, the deputy ministers were de facto ministers. On 23 November Labor-Meimad left the coalition. This is a minor SOLS change. At the same time that Labor-Meimad left the coalition Prime Minister Sharon, in conflict

the Gesher flank in OI had only 2 MPs it was unable to create a new fraction in parliament until new elections were called. The effective departure of Gesher is nonetheless 4 August 2000.

with parts of his Likud, left Likud and created Kadima (KAD). As this move coincides with Labor's departure and the Likud ministers remain in the coalition until January 2006, the departure of Sharon and others to Kadima should not be regarded as distinct minor SOLS change. We code KAD/LIK from the moment Kadima is created and Labor-Meimad leaves the coalition ("Sharon names" 2005, Knesset).

On December 2005, Sharon had a stroke and Olmert took over for him. This is not a SOLS change since Olmert was initially interim and he had the same coalition. According to Diskin (2007), the remaining LIKUD members in the cabinet all resigned mid-January and were replaced by Kadima members by January 18. This is a minor SOLS change. After the May 2006 election, Olmert's first regular coalition government was established on May 4 and included Kadima, Labour-Meimad, Shas, and Pensioners (also GIL). Yisrael Beitenu (IL) entered Olmert's coalition on 30 October, which is another minor SOLS change (Diskin 2007, Knesset 2010). This is a minor SOLS change. Olmert's coalition would remain stable until January 18 2008 when Yisrael Beitenu left the coalition, resulting in a minor SOLS change, and saw no further change in 2008 (Diskin 2008,2009, Knesset 2010).

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