

Title: *Israeli Politics 101*

Date & Time: August 5, 12 pm EST

Speaker: Debra Shushan

### Suggested Readings

#### Short Preparatory Materials

1. Analysis: [The New Israeli Government: Preliminary Implications and Long-Term Effects](#), May 2020. *Istituto Afari Internazionale*, by Ehud Eiran
2. Analysis: [Israeli Election Results and Israel's Foreign Policy](#), April 2019. Mitvim: The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies
3. Analysis: [Public Opinion Findings on Israel's Foreign Policy towards the Elections](#), September 2019. Mitvim: The Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies
4. Policy Brief: [Is Israel in democratic decline?](#) *Foreign Policy at The Brookings Institute* by Tamara Cofman Wittes and Yaël Mizrahi-Arnaud
5. [The evolution of Israeli politics](#). (n.d.). Retrieved July 15, 2020, from <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2015/03/15/the-evolution-of-israeli-politics>

#### \*Suggested reading by the speaker

1. Shushan, D. (2019, April 10). American Jews, Don't Walk Away From Israel. *Ha'aretz*. <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/elections/.premium-american-jews-don-t-walk-away-from-israel-1.7109501>

#### Books and Articles

1. Mahler, G. S. (2016). *Politics and government in Israel: The maturation of a modern state*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
2. Nur, Y. G., Blander, D., Svirsky, G., & Moskowitz, I. (2018). *The handbook of Israel's political system*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
3. Sammy Smooha, "The model of ethnic democracy: Israel as a Jewish and democratic state," *Nations and Nationalism* 8, no.4 (2002): 475-503
4. Shamir, J., & Shiqāqī, K. (2010). *Palestinian and Israeli public opinion: The public imperative in the second intifada*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

### Discussion Questions

- What about Israel's parliamentary system stands out to you?
- What surprised you most about Israeli voter trends?
- What is a gap you still feel you have in your knowledge about Israel's parliamentary system to be able to discuss or explain Israel's three rounds of national elections from March 2019 to March 2020?