Israel

Ethnicity in Israel

Group selection

- **Ashkenazim**: Jews of European descent

- **Mizrahim** (or Sephardim): Jews of Middle Eastern heritage (the term Sephardim correctly only refers to the Jewish community expelled from Spain in 1492 which is part of this group) ([2634], 542)

- **Israeli Arabs**: Arabs with full citizenship (living inside Israel's internationally recognized borders)

- **Palestinians**: Arabs without Israeli citizenship (living in the occupied Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Gaza))

- **Russians (Jewish)**: More recent Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union

[2634] [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

Power relations
1948-1949 and 1950-1967

The Jewish state of Israel was founded in 1948 with an Ashkenazim-led government under prime minister David Ben-Gurion. The new state contained its sizable minority of Arabs (then roughly one-sixth of the population), who were kept under military rule in certain areas until 1966 and, in some cases, were relocated away from border zones. The Palestinians/Israeli Arabs are therefore coded as Discriminated. Mizrahi Jews immigrated in large numbers to Israel during those years, yet they were still politically irrelevant ([2635]).

[2635] [Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2018]

1968-1977

Israeli Arabs are now coded as Powerless rather than Discriminated because the end of the Military Rule over the Israeli Arab population in 1966 ([2636], 545) marks a new era. No more explicit but rather implicit discrimination. This change to Powerless also helps distinguish much more clearly Israeli from Palestinian Arabs. The new period is coded from 1968, relating further to events in 1967 which had far-reaching implications on the Israeli society as well. The new periode includes populations of the Golan Heights of Golan Sub-District and also East Jerusalem, which was annexed by Israel in the 1967 Six Day War ([2637]).

[2636] [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

[2637] [Central Intelligence Agency, 2017]

1978-1992

In 1977, right-wing parties came into power with massive Mizrahi vote, bringing the dominance of Mapai (later called Labor Party) to an end ([2638], 543). Mizrahi (or Mizrahi style) parties have always existed but two explicitly Mizrahi and more prominent parties were established in 1981 (TAMI) and 1984 (Shas). The latter entered a ruling coalition for the first time following the November 1988 elections. A representative of the group, David Levy, however, formed part of the government from 1977 on, and from 1979 to 1992 he held the important position of Minister of Housing and Construction dealing with the settler movements ([2639]). Russian Jews not politically relevant yet.

[2638] [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

[2639] [Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2016]

1993-1996

Ashkenazim (Jewish): Senior Partner Mizrahim (Jewish): Senior Partner, because the Shas party takes key role in Rabin's government ([2640], 544).) Palestinian Arabs: Discriminated Israeli Arabs: Powerless (Israeli Arab parties were counted by the Labor party as part of their anti-Likud/right-wing block. However, although these parties secured the Rabin coalition they were never included in it. Thus, it is not enough to push the group beyond the Junior Partner threshold ([2641]).) Russian Jews not politically relevant yet.

[2640] [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

[2641] [Minority Rights Group International, 2017]

1997-2009

The first massive participation of Russian immigrants in elections took place in 1992. They helped Rabin and the left regained power. Nevertheless, immigrant parties were established only in anticipation of the 1996 elections, following which the group should be regarded as Junior Partner. From 1996 on, all governments have included ministers that are associated with one of the two main "Russian" parties (Israel-Beiteniu and Israel-Baalia) ([2642], 543-544). During this period, the Israel-Baalia party was absorbed into the Likud party, while its leadership continued to hold junior ministerial positions, and therefore Israel-Beiteinu became the main "Russian" party, with its leader Liberman also holding a junior ministerial position. In January 2008, Liberman resigned from the government as his Israel-Beiteinu party left the government. Yet, members of Israel-Baalia were still important players within the Likud. Hence, the Russian Jews are coded as Junior Partner throughout the period from 1997 to 2009.

[2642] [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

2010-2018

In March 2009, following the elections, Israel-Beiteinu joined the coalition again and Liberman became the foreign minister, assuming a leadership role in the government. Israel-Beiteinu continued to be a major coalition partner with its members holding key positions in government and parliament. Therefore, the Russian Jews

are coded as Senior Partner starting from 2010. (Note that due to
EPR's January-1st-rule, the period is coded as starting in 2010 be-
cause the elections took place in March 2009.)

In 2014 a legal amendment raised the electoral threshold for po-
litical parties from 2 percent to 3.25 percent of votes, "a move some
civil society organizations criticized for its limitation on freedom of
representation and its potential effect on parties representing the
Arab minority" ([2643]). Thereafter, the four Arab-majority parties   [2643] [US Department of State, 2016]
represented in the Knesset united into one faction for the parliamen-
tary elections held in March 2015, the Joint List, winning 13 seats
and becoming the third-largest faction in the Knesset. However, they
did not gain any executive power such as representation in the cabi-
net ([2644]). The elections were won by Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud   [2644] [US Department of State, 2016]
block and thus kept the power relations consistent.

2019-2021

In 2018, the Israeli parliament passed the Jewish nation-state law,
recognizing the Jewish People as having the sole right of national
self-determination and degrading the status of Arabic from an official
language to a language with special status. This law de facto renders
Arab Israelis second class citizens. This triggered widespread demon-
strations from the Arab population in Israel and negative reactions
by the international community fearing that Israel's democratic po-
litical structures will be undermined ([2645]). Moreover, in the April   [2645] [Chacar, 2018]
2019 parliamentary elections, the ruling Likud Party placed cameras
in predominately Arab polling stations "in an effort to dissuade Arab
voter turnout" ([2646]). On the other hand, Muslim and Christian   [2646] [US Department of State, 2019]
Arabs continued to be represented in the parliament ([2647]). How-   [2647] [US Department of State, 2019]
ever, their political participation can be classified as tokenistic and
the nation-state law clearly discriminates against the entire Arab
Israeli group. Therefore, they are coded discriminated as of 2019 (1st
of January rule).

No significant changes occurred with regards to the other groups
listed in Israel. Russian-speaking Jews are still considered an impor-
tant voting segment in elections and their votes are divided between
the two right wing parties of Likud and Avigdor Liberman's Yisrael
Beteinu ([2648]).   [2648] [Galili, 2020]

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humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2016&dlid=265500

Political status of ethnic groups in Is[...]

From 1948 until 1949

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.47	MONOPOLY
Palestinians (Arab)	0.14	DISCRIMINATED

Figure 517: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1948-1949.

From 1950 until 1967

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.47	MONOPOLY
Israeli Arabs	0.14	DISCRIMINATED

Figure 518: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1950-1967.

From 1968 until 1977

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.33	DOMINANT
Palestinian Arabs	0.27	DISCRIMINATED
Israeli Arabs	0.11	POWERLESS

Figure 519: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1968-1977.

From 1978 until 1992

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Mizrahim (Jewish)	0.31	JUNIOR PARTNER
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.29	SENIOR PARTNER
Palestinian Arabs	0.29	DISCRIMINATED
Israeli Arabs	0.11	POWERLESS

Figure 520: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1978-1992.

From 1993 until 1996

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Palestinian Arabs	0.31	DISCRIMINATED
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.23	SENIOR PARTNER
Mizrahim (Jewish)	0.23	SENIOR PARTNER
Israeli Arabs	0.12	POWERLESS

From 1997 until 2009

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Palestinian Arabs	0.31	DISCRIMINATED
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.23	SENIOR PARTNER
Mizrahim (Jewish)	0.23	SENIOR PARTNER
Israeli Arabs	0.12	POWERLESS
Russians (Jewish)	0.1	JUNIOR PARTNER

From 2010 until 2018

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Palestinian Arabs	0.31	DISCRIMINATED
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.23	SENIOR PARTNER
Mizrahim (Jewish)	0.23	SENIOR PARTNER
Israeli Arabs	0.12	POWERLESS
Russians (Jewish)	0.1	SENIOR PARTNER

From 2019 until 2021

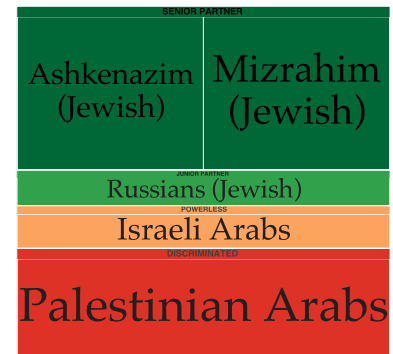| Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Palestinian Arabs	0.31	DISCRIMINATED
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.23	SENIOR PARTNER
Mizrahim (Jewish)	0.23	SENIOR PARTNER
Israeli Arabs	0.12	DISCRIMINATED
Russians (Jewish)	0.1	SENIOR PARTNER

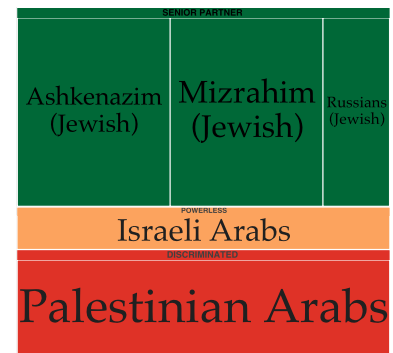Figure 522: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1997-2009.

Figure 523: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 2010-2018.

Figure 524: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 2019-2021.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Israel
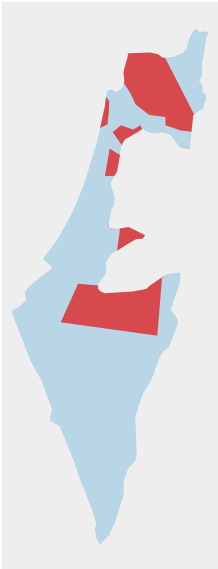
From 1948 until 1949

Figure 525: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1948-1949.

	Group name	Area in km²	Type
▦	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 705	Statewide
▦	Palestinians (Arab)	4465	Aggregate

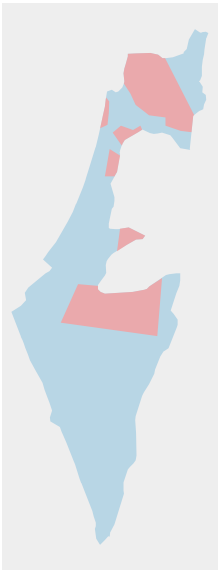Table 187: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1948-1949.

From 1950 until 1966

Figure 526: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1950-1966.

	Group name	Area in km^2	Type
	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 705	Statewide
	Israeli Arabs	4464	Regional & urban

Table 188: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1950-1966.
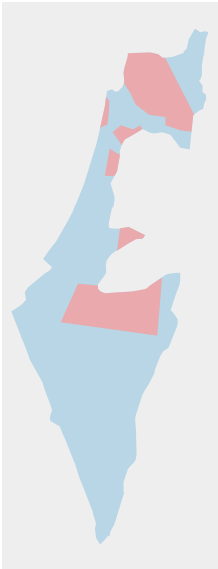
From 1967 until 1967

Figure 527: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1967-1967.

	Group name	Area in km^2	Type
	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 705	Statewide
	Israeli Arabs	4464	Regional & urban

Table 189: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1967-1967.
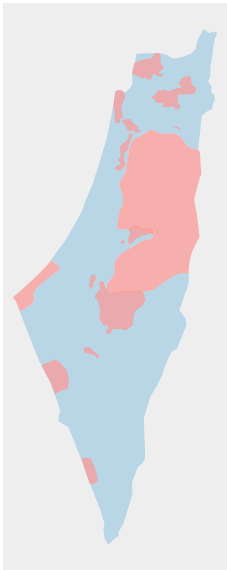
From 1968 until 1977

Figure 528: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1968-1977.

	Group name	Area in km^2	Type
	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 714	Statewide
	Palestinian Arabs	6243	Regional & urban
	Israeli Arabs	2447	Regional & urban

Table 190: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1968-1977.

From 1978 until 1978

Figure 529: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1978-1978.

	Group name	Area in km^2	Type
	Mizrahim (Jewish)	21 692	Statewide
	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 714	Statewide
	Palestinian Arabs	6243	Regional & urban
	Israeli Arabs	2447	Regional & urban

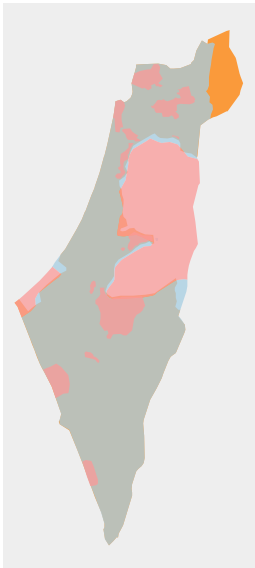Table 191: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1978-1978.

From 1979 until 1979

Figure 530: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1979-1979.

	Group name	Area in km^2	Type
🟧	Mizrahim (Jewish)	21 692	Statewide
🟦	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 714	Statewide
🟥	Palestinian Arabs	6243	Regional & urban
🟥	Israeli Arabs	2447	Regional & urban

Table 192: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1979-1979.

From 1980 until 1996

Figure 531: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1980-1996.

	Group name	Area in km²	Type
🟧	Mizrahim (Jewish)	21 684	Statewide
🟦	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 714	Statewide
🟥	Palestinian Arabs	6243	Regional & urban
🟥	Israeli Arabs	2444	Regional & urban

Table 193: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1980-1996.
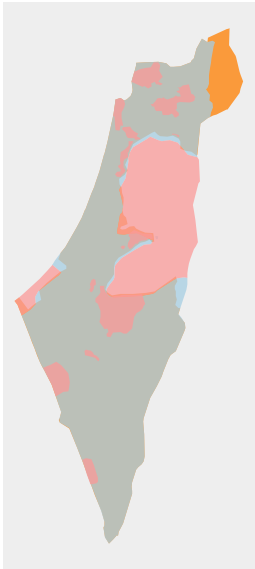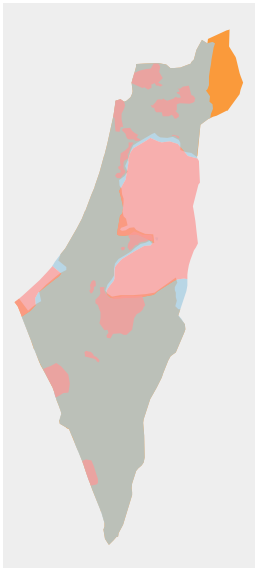
From 1997 until 2021

Figure 532: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1997-2021.

	Group name	Area in km²	Type
🟧	Mizrahim (Jewish)	21 684	Statewide
🟦	Russians (Jewish)	21 684	Statewide
🟦	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 714	Statewide
🟥	Palestinian Arabs	6243	Regional & urban
🟥	Israeli Arabs	2444	Regional & urban

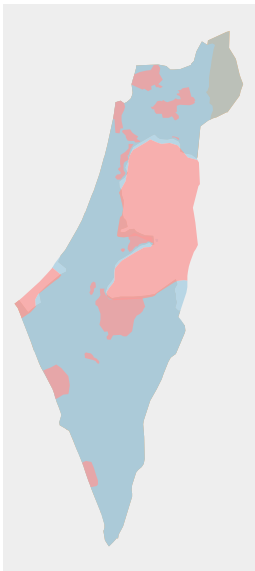Table 194: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1997-2021.

Conflicts in Israel

Starting on 1939-03-30

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of United Kingdom	IZL [Etzel]		1939-03-30			

Starting on 1948-04-14

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	Government of Israel		1948-04-14			
Government of Iraq	Government of Israel		1948-04-14			
Government of Jordan	Government of Israel		1948-04-14			
Government of Lebanon	Government of Israel		1948-04-14			
Government of Syria	Government of Israel		1948-04-14			

Starting on 1948-05-14

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Israel	Palestinian insurgents	Palestinians (Arab)	1948-05-14	Explicit	Yes	
Government of Israel	Fatah	Palestinian Arabs	1965-02-27	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Israel	PLO	Palestinian Arabs	1965-02-27	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Israel	Non PLO groups	Palestinian Arabs	1965-12-30	Explicit	Yes	
Government of Israel	PFLP	Palestinian Arabs	1970-01-05	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Israel	PFLP-GC	Palestinian Arabs	1973-07-30	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Israel	Rejectionist Front	Palestinian Arabs	1974-12-30	Explicit	Yes	
Government of Israel	PIJ	Palestinian Arabs	1987-08-30	Explicit	Yes	
Government of Israel	Hamas	Palestinian Arabs	1989-05-02	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Israel	PNA	Palestinian Arabs	1995-01-01	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Israel	AMB	Palestinian Arabs	2000-10-29	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Israel	PRC	Palestinian Arabs	2001-08-18	Explicit	Yes	

Starting on 1956-10-30

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	Government of France		1956-10-30			
Government of Egypt	Government of Israel		1956-10-30			
Government of Egypt	Government of United Kingdom		1956-10-30			

Starting on 1967-06-04

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Israel	Government of Jordan		1967-06-04			

Starting on 1967-06-04

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	Government of Israel		1967-06-04			

Starting on 1967-06-04

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Israel	Government of Syria		1967-06-04			

Starting on 1986-09-29

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Israel	Hezbollah	Palestinians (Arab)	1986-09-29	Explicit	No	

Starting on 2018-02-09

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Iran	Government of Israel		2018-02-09			