

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) (²²⁶⁵, 542)
- **Israeli Arabs:** Arabs with full citizenship
- **Palestinians:** Arabs without citizenship
- **Russians (Jewish):** More recent Jewish immigrants from Russia

²²⁶⁵ [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 (²²⁶⁶).

²²⁶⁶ [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 (²²⁶⁷, 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 (²²⁶⁸).

²²⁶⁷ [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

²²⁶⁸ [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 (²²⁶⁹, 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 (²²⁷⁰). Russian Jews not politically relevant yet.

²²⁶⁹ [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

²²⁷⁰ [Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2016]

1993-1996

Ashkenazim (Jewish): Senior Partner Mizrahim (Jewish): Senior Partner, because the Shas party takes key role in Rabin's government (²²⁷¹, 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 (²²⁷².) Russian Jews not politically relevant yet.

²²⁷¹ [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

²²⁷² [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 regain 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-Beiteinu and Israel-Baalia) (²²⁷³, 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.

²²⁷³ [Ben Shitrit, 2014]

2010-2017

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 because the elections took place in March 2009.)

In 2014 a legal amendment raised the electoral threshold for political 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" (²²⁷⁴). Thereafter, the four Arab-majority parties represented in the Knesset united into one faction for the parliamentary 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 cabinet (²²⁷⁵). The elections were won by Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud block and thus kept the power relations consistent.

²²⁷⁴ [US Department of State, 2016]

²²⁷⁵ [US Department of State, 2016]

Bibliography

Ben Shitrit, Lihi. (2014). Israel. In: Lust, Ellen. The Middle East. 13th ed. Los Angeles: Sage/CQ Press, p. 537-563.

Central Intelligence Agency. (2017). The world factbook. Israel. Retrieved on 05.10.17 from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/is.html>

Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2016). David Levy. Retrieved on 04.10.17 from: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/David-Levy>

Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2018). Israel. History. Retrieved on 10.04.18 from: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Israel/History#ref898511>

Minority Rights Group International. (2017). World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Groups. Israel. Retrieved on 02.10.17 from: <http://minorityrights.org/country/israel>

US Department of State. (2016). Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016. Israel. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor. Retrieved on 02.10.17 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2016&dclid=265500>

Political status of ethnic groups in Israel

From 1948 until 1949

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.47	MONOPOLY
Mizrahim (Jewish)	0.39	IRRELEVANT
Palestinians (Arab)	0.14	DISCRIMINATED

From 1950 until 1967

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.47	MONOPOLY
Mizrahim (Jewish)	0.39	IRRELEVANT
Israeli Arabs	0.14	DISCRIMINATED

From 1968 until 1977

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	0.33	DOMINANT
Mizrahim (Jewish)	0.29	IRRELEVANT
Palestinian Arabs	0.27	DISCRIMINATED
Israeli Arabs	0.11	POWERLESS

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



Figure 447: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1950-1967.



Figure 448: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1968-1977.



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
Russians (Jewish)	0.1	IRRELEVANT

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 2017

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

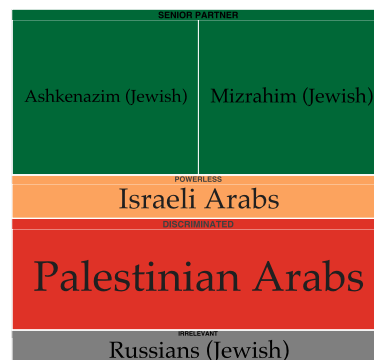


Figure 450: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1993-1996.

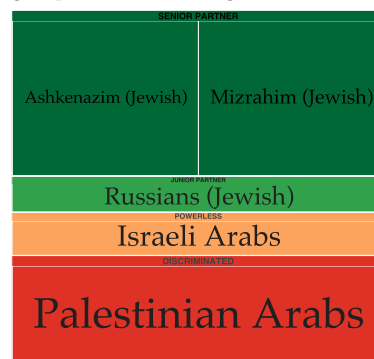


Figure 451: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 1997-2009.



Figure 452: Political status of ethnic groups in Israel during 2010-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Israel

From 1948 until 1949

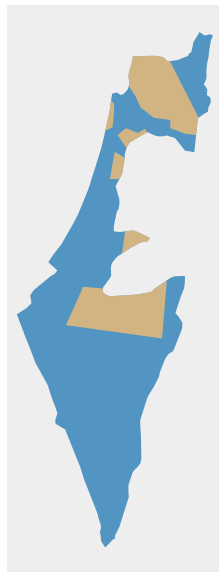


Figure 453: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1948-1949.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 723	Statewide
■ Palestinians (Arab)	4467	Regional & urban

Table 151: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1948-1949.

From 1950 until 1966

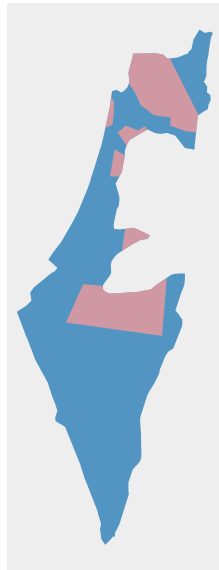


Figure 454: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1950-1966.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 723	Statewide
■ Israeli Arabs	4467	Regional & urban

Table 152: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1950-1966.

From 1967 until 1967

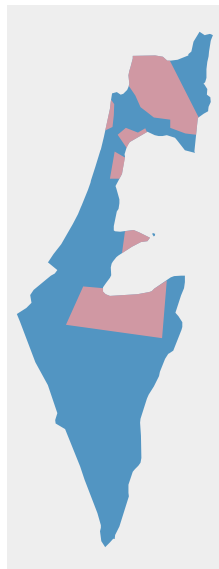


Figure 455: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1967-1967.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 731	Statewide
■ Israeli Arabs	4467	Regional & urban

Table 153: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1967-1967.

From 1968 until 1977

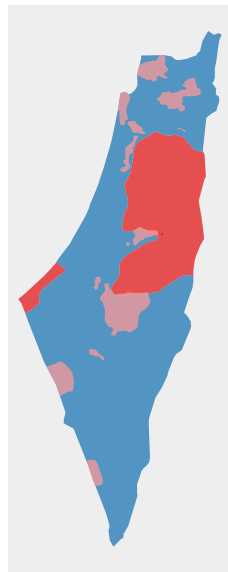


Figure 456: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1968-1977.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 731	Statewide
■ Palestinian Arabs	6247	Regional & urban
■ Israeli Arabs	2449	Regional & urban

Table 154: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1968-1977.

From 1978 until 1978

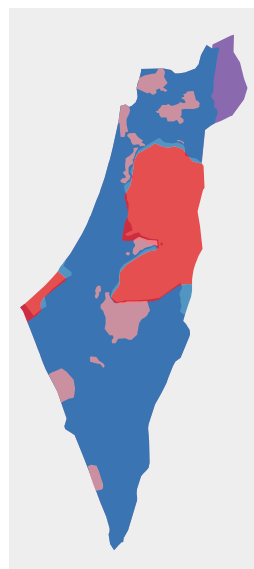


Figure 457: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1978-1978.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Mizrahim (Jewish)	21 711	Statewide
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 731	Statewide
Palestinian Arabs	6247	Regional & urban
Israeli Arabs	2449	Regional & urban

Table 155: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1978-1978.

From 1979 until 1979

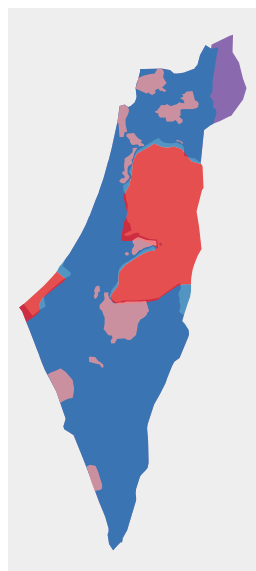


Figure 458: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1979-1979.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Mizrahim (Jewish)	21 711	Statewide
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 731	Statewide
Palestinian Arabs	6247	Regional & urban
Israeli Arabs	2449	Regional & urban

Table 156: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1979-1979.

From 1980 until 1996

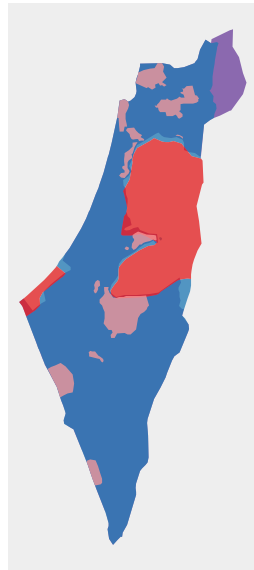


Figure 459: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1980-1996.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Mizrahim (Jewish)	21 703	Statewide
Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 731	Statewide
Palestinian Arabs	6247	Regional & urban
Israeli Arabs	2446	Regional & urban

Table 157: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1980-1996.

From 1997 until 2017

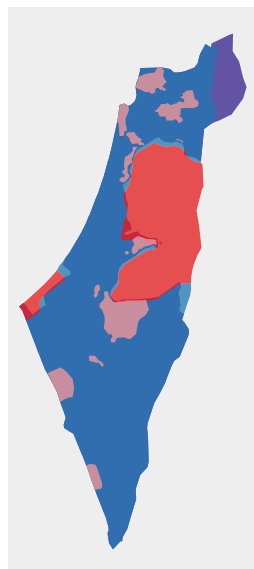


Figure 460: Map of ethnic groups in Israel during 1997-2017.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Russians (Jewish)	21 703	Statewide
■	Mizrahim (Jewish)	21 703	Statewide
■	Ashkenazim (Jewish)	20 731	Statewide
■	Palestinian Arabs	6247	Regional & urban
■	Israeli Arabs	2446	Regional & urban

Table 158: List of ethnic groups in Israel during 1997-2017.

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
Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, 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 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 Jordan		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	