

*We don't have a war. Why do we need a
peace treaty?*

--Israeli citizens, ca. 2010

Israel and Palestine



Aftermath of the 6-Day War:

- U.S. became Israel's main arms supplier
- Settlements
- Religious Zionism
- Theory of Transfer
- Expanded Jerusalem
- Islamic Resurgence
- Increased terrorism
- 1973 October War

***The Sinai Blunder: Withdrawal of the
United Nations Emergency Force leading
to the Six-Day War of June 1967,
by Major General Indar Jit Rikhye.***

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/politics-and-diplomacy/article-749178>

THE JERUSALEM POST

Netanyahu sends two-sided messages

INSIDE POLITICS: Netanyahu sends two messages one in English one in Hebrew, both in conflict with each other.



PLACARDS AT a protest against the judicial overhaul include one which reads: 'The occupation has succeeded, the state has died,' near the prime minister's home in Jerusalem, earlier this year (photo credit: NOAM BEVKIN/FENTON/FLASH90)

By [TAL SHALEV](#)
JULY 7, 2023 13:42

Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) is double-tongued in the deepest sense of the term. For years, he has been speaking in fluent Hebrew as well as fluent English, tailoring his messages to each audience's preferences.

For example, in 2015, just before the election, he was interviewed in Hebrew by Makor Rishon, a newspaper that caters to the national-religious public, and emphatically declared that no Palestinian state would be created on his watch. However, in English, he sounded quite different.

Since the speech he gave at Bar-Ilan University in 2009, and in almost every speech he has given at the UN General Assembly since then, he has stated that he is committed to the idea of two states for two peoples.

Even in the context of former president [Donald Trump](#)'s peace plan, the ultimate goal of which was the creation of a Palestinian state, Netanyahu agreed to a map that allocated 70% of the West Bank to the Palestinians. In Hebrew, however, he made a point of explaining that he didn't really mean what he had said.

Moreover, last December, just before he formed his sixth government, in an interview in English with Canadian media commentator Jordan Peterson, Netanyahu proudly discussed the economic policy he had espoused as finance minister, which had included the slashing of stipends to the haredi community. At the same time, however, he signed coalition agreements that acquiesced to all the demands of the haredim, including the doubling of yeshiva students' stipends, which would lead to poverty and dependence on these stipends. In Hebrew.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leads a cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on July 2, 2023 (credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM/THE JERUSALEM POST)

In the same round of interviews, Netanyahu told a commentator from Al Arabiya, again in English, that he had not transferred authority over Judea and Samaria to his coalition partners.

Israel and Palestine

February 2026

Instructor: Chris Schaefer, Chris.Schaefer@bataandary.com

Books: Suggested outside reading, for those interested in more in-depth study:

Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths, by Bruce Feiler.

A Peace to End All Peace, by David Fromkin. (The treaties that ended World War I)

The Road Not Taken: Early Arab-Israeli Negotiations, by Itamar Rabinovich.

Six days in June: How Israel Won the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, by Eric Hammel.

The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements, 1967-1977 by Gershon Gorenberg.

Arafat: From Defender to Dictator, by Said K. Aburish.

Politics of Diplomacy, James A. Baker (the only successful period in the Middle East peace process).

The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land, 2005, by Donna Rosenthal.

The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace, by Aaron David Miller.

Faith Misplaced: The Broken Promise of U.S.-Arab Relations: 1820-2001, by Ussama Makdisi.

News sources:

Haaretz: www.Haaretz.com

Al Monitor: www.al-monitor.com

Jerusalem Post: www.jpost.com

Times of Israel: www.timesofisrael.com

BBC: www.bbc.com

Al Jazeera: www.aljazeera.com

The Economist, Middle East Newsletter: www.economist.com/newsletters/middle-east-dispatch

The Guardian: www.theguardian.com

Media Line: www.themedialine.org

UNRWA: www.unrwa.org

Movies:

The Oslo Diaries. Documentary movie produced by Mor Loushy and Daniel Sivan, 2018.

No Other Land. Academy Award winning documentary movie produced by Israeli Yuval Abraham and Palestinian Basel Adra, 2024.

Other resources:

The Jewish Virtual Library, <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/> (To search, click the small magnifying glass icon in the upper right corner.)

Israel and Palestine

Israeli political parties:

Total seats in the Knesset (Israel's unicameral legislature): 120.

After the November 2022 elections, the conservative Likud party invited five religious parties to join in a government coalition which together controls 64 seats. These parties have pushed their own agendas in terms of both political reforms in Israel and conduct of the war in Gaza.

These are the Israeli political parties in the current Knesset:

Members of the Likud Coalition:

Likud ("Consolidation") party. Right-wing conservative party founded in 1973 by Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon. Benjamin Netanyahu became party leader in 1993. Likud favors a hard line with the Palestinians, expansion of settlements in the West Bank and military containment of Palestinian nationalists. Despite statements to the contrary by Netanyahu and other party leaders, Likud opposes formation of a Palestinian state. For several years Likud has pushed for two new laws: one to prevent a sitting prime minister (i.e. Benjamin Netanyahu) from being indicted on criminal charges, and the other to prevent the Israeli Supreme Court from declaring laws passed by the Knesset to be unconstitutional. Both measures have failed so far. Likud is popular with Mizrahi and Haredim (ultra-orthodox) Jews. Likud holds 32 of the 120 seats in the Knesset.

Shas. Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) party of Sephardi and Mizrahi Judaism. Led by ultra-Orthodox rabbis. Champion of traditional, non-Orthodox, working-class Mizrahi Jews. Supports generous state welfare, especially for religious (yeshiva) students, encourages non-Orthodox Israelis to adopt an ultra-Orthodox lifestyle, and supports laws to require observation of Jewish religious law and customs. Opposes military conscription of the Ultra-Orthodox. Sees Greater Israel as present-day Israel plus the occupied territories, including Jordan. Generally opposes Jews of German origin (Ashkenazi) in government due to a belief that they discriminated against Jews of Spanish (Sephardi) and Middle Eastern (Mizrahi) origin during the early years of Israeli independence. Does not allow women to run on their party list as they believe to do so would violate modesty laws. Promotes laws to expel Africa asylum-seekers from Israel, particularly from the poorer sections of South Tel Aviv where many Shas voters live. Several prominent Shas leaders have been accused of corruption and other criminal offenses, including party leader Aryeh Deri who has been convicted and served prison time for accepting bribes. The party was fined for handing out prayer

cards during the March 2020 election that claimed they could cure "Covid and every illness and pestilence." Won 11 seats in the November 2022 election.

List: United Torah Judaism. Alliance of two small ultra-Orthodox Ashkenazi parties, Degel HaTorah and Agudat Israel. Opposes negotiations with the Palestinians or the formation of a Palestinian state, and supports increasing settlements in the West Bank. Opposes military conscription of the Ultra-Orthodox. Both parties are headed and guided by rabbis who oppose secular government, but who also follow different ideologies (one Hasidic the other non-Hasidic) and have had their differences with regard to representation and personalities. In November 2022 the list won 7 seats.

- **Agudat Israel (Union of Israel).** Ashkenazi, Hasidic, Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) political party supported by Chabad-Lubavitch Rabbi Schneerson in the 1980's-1990's, to oppose Degel HaTorah. Opposes negotiations with the Palestinians, opposes a Palestinian state and supports increasing settlements in the West Bank. Opposes secular government. Does not allow women to run for office on their party list. Currently headed by Yitzhak Goldknopf.
- **Degel HaTorah (Flag of the Torah).** Ashkenazi, non-Hasidic, Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) party formed by Rabbi Shach, who opposed Rabbi Schneerson's Lubavitch leadership and messianic cult. Opposes negotiations with the Palestinians, opposes a Palestinian state, and supports increasing settlements in the West Bank. Opposes secular government. Does not allow women to run for office on their party list. Currently headed by Moshe Gafni.

Religious Zionist Party (aka National Union-Tkuma). Orthodox, right-wing, Zionist religious party. Advocates establishment of a Jewish state in "Greater Israel." Greater Israel is a biblically-defined area that runs from present-day Israel to the Persian Gulf. Incorporating this entire area into the state of Israel is considered necessary for the end-times to begin. Rejects the Oslo Accords and any notion of a Palestinian state. Strongly backs settlers. Supports annexation of Area C of the West Bank. Headed by Bezalel Smotrich who is an ally of the acolytes of the late extreme-right Rabbi Meir Kahane and admires the pro-fascist Hilltop Youth, some of whom have been implicated in hate crimes. Pulled out of the Yamina party in May 2020 in order to remain in Netanyahu's unity government when Yamina elected to join the opposition. Headed by Bezalel Smotrich and holds 7 seats in the Knesset.

Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power). Ultra-nationalist, Kahanist, anti-Arab political party. Advocates deportation of "enemies of Israel," to include Arab citizens of Israel who are not loyal to Israel and the anti-Zionist, Hasidic Jewish sect Neturei Karta. Advocates cancellation of the Oslo Accords, annexation of the West Bank and imposing Israeli sovereignty over the Temple Mount. First ran in the 2013 elections and won its first seat in the 2021 election. Headed by Itamar Ben-Gvir since the 2019 election when the Israeli Supreme Court banned previous party

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/israel-adopts-divisive-law-declares-only-jews-have-right-self-n892636>

NBC NEWS

Israel adopts divisive law that declares only Jews have the right of self-determination

Although the law is largely symbolic, critics say the legislation is racist in origin and verges on apartheid.

by Reuters / Jul.19.2018 / 12:05 AM ET

JERUSALEM — Israel passed a law on Thursday to declare that only Jews have the right of self-determination in the country, something members of the Arab minority called racist and verging on apartheid.

The "nation-state" law, backed by the right-wing government, passed by a vote of 62-55 and two abstentions in the 120-member parliament after months of political argument. Some Arab lawmakers shouted and ripped up papers after the vote.

"This is a defining moment in the annals of Zionism and the history of the state of Israel," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the Knesset after the vote.

Largely symbolic, the law was enacted just after the 70th anniversary of the birth of the state of Israel. It stipulates that "Israel is the historic homeland of the Jewish people and they have an exclusive right to national self-determination in it."

The bill also strips Arabic of its designation as an official language alongside Hebrew, downgrading it to a "special status" that enables its continued use within Israeli institutions.

Israel's Arabs number some 1.8 million, about 20 percent of the 9 million population.

Early drafts of the legislation went further in what critics at home and abroad saw as discrimination toward Israel's Arabs, who have long said they are treated as second-class citizens.

Clauses that were dropped in last-minute political wrangling — and after objections by Israel's president and attorney-general — would have enshrined in law the establishment of Jewish-only communities, and instructed courts to rule according to Jewish ritual law when there were no relevant legal precedents.

Instead, a more vaguely-worded version was approved, which says: "The state views the development of Jewish settlement as a national value and will act to encourage and promote its establishment."

Even after the changes, critics said the new law will deepen a sense of alienation within the Arab minority.

"I announce with shock and sorrow the death of democracy," Ahmed Tibi, an Arab lawmaker, told reporters.

Netanyahu has defended the law. "We will keep ensuring civil rights in Israel's democracy but the majority also has rights and the majority decides," he said last week.

"An absolute majority wants to ensure our state's Jewish character for generations to come."

Israel's Arab population is comprised mainly of descendants of the Palestinians who remained on their land during the conflict between Arabs and Jews that culminated in the war of 1948 surrounding the creation of the modern state of Israel. Hundreds of thousands were forced to leave their homes or fled.

Those who remained have full equal rights under the law but say they face constant discrimination, citing inferior services and unfair allocations for education, health and housing.

In Ma'alot-Tarshiha, a municipality in northern Israel which was created by linking the Jewish town of Ma'alot and the Arab town of Tarshiha, there was anger among Arab residents.

"I think this is racist legislation by a radical right-wing government that is creating radical laws, and is planting the seeds to create an apartheid state," said physician Bassam Bisharah, 71.

"The purpose of this law is discrimination. They want to get rid of the Arabs totally," said Yousef Faraj, 53, from the nearby Druze village of Yanuh. "The Israelis want to destroy all the religions of the Arabs."

Adalah, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, called the law a bid to advance "ethnic superiority by promoting racist policies".

<https://www.adl.org/resources/reports/the-gaza-march-of-return-what-you-need-to-know>



The Gaza March of Return: What You Need to Know

On Friday, March 30, [Hamas](#) launched its six-week-long “March of Return” campaign, which called on Gazans to gather near the border with Israel and to march on the border. Organizers claim the march is intended to highlight the plight of Gaza, the broader Palestinian situation, and the [Right of Return](#) for Palestinian refugees.

The largest and deadliest confrontation took place on May 14, the day of the [US Embassy dedication](#) in Jerusalem. An estimated 50,000 Palestinians protested on the Gaza border and by the end of the day at least 60 Gazans were dead and thousands wounded. Some engaged in violent activities, including attempted infiltrations into Israel and the use of various weapons against IDF soldiers and outposts. IDF soldiers responded with riot dispersing methods, and, in some cases, live fire.

Following the tensions along the border in Mid-May, Hamas and Islamic Jihad fired scores of mortars and rockets from Gaza into southern Israel. On May 28, over a hundred such weapons [were fired](#) into Israel. One hit a kindergarten in the early morning hours. Another damaged a power line which provides electricity to Gaza. On May 30 both Hamas and Israel acknowledged an informal ceasefire had [been reached](#) .

Friday Demonstrations:

On the first day of demonstrations, on Friday, March 30, an estimated 30,000 Gazans joined the March. While there were many who protested peacefully, there were large groups of protestors who approached the border fence intending to damage or break through the demarcation line. These violent groups came to the protest with Molotov cocktails, explosives and burning tires, and some carried guns.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) reacted to this activity close to the border, utilizing tear gas, rubber bullets and live fire, killing sixteen and injuring between 700-1000, primarily by tear gas and other riot dispersing weapons. The IDF says that of those killed, at least 11 [were identified](#) (some by the IDF, some by Hamas and Islamic Jihad themselves) as active members of Hamas and other terrorist groups and they assert that the IDF fired only on those who were attempting to take action against the border fence or Israeli soldiers.

The subsequent demonstrations through April drew smaller crowds, and organizers called in advance of the various weekly events for the burning of tires, flags, a “women’s march” and other acts. At some demonstrations, protestors sent flaming kites into the air with the intent of flying into Israel and setting land aflame. At each event scores of

protesters attempted to reach the border fence, some throwing explosives and rocks. As in the first demonstration, the IDF responded including with live fire, and by early May the total number of Palestinians killed reached 45, with thousands injured.

Israeli officials have asserted throughout this crisis that the IDF’s actions are defensive in nature, and are [being taken](#) to protect Israeli communities on the other side of the barrier from those seeking to breach it.

Hamas leaders have pledged to continue these demonstrations through the month of Ramadan.

The May 14 Protest:

The week of May 13 had long [been expected](#) to be a tense period for Israelis and Palestinians along with the wider region given a confluence of anniversaries and events. These include the May 14 opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem, the 70th anniversary of the Palestinian commemoration of what they call “the Nakba” (meaning “catastrophe”) of Israel’s [creation](#) on May 15, and the start of Ramadan.

On Monday, May 14, these anniversaries and events came together with a celebration in Jerusalem for the Embassy opening, but also with violence and significant casualties in Gaza. Televised news featured a “split screen” with the embassy festivities on one side, and, discordantly, the chaotic scenes from Gaza on the other side.

Hamas heavily mobilized the Gaza population, shutting down schools and workplaces and bussing people to the demonstration points. Hamas’s leader in Gaza Yahya Sinwar had [urged](#) demonstrators in recent weeks to “tear down the wall and tear out their [Israeli’s] hearts.” Several days before May 14, he [suggested](#) that hundreds of thousands of Palestinians could breach Israel’s security barrier.

In anticipation of the demonstrations, Israel had warned Gazans via social media and in leaflets dropped by drones, that efforts to breach the border would [be dealt](#) with immediately, and that demonstrators should not attempt to march on the barrier. This same message [was relayed](#) throughout the day on May 14 via loudspeaker.

As in past demonstrations, some protestors did so in a non-violent manner, while others [were armed](#) with weapons or explosives with the intent of storming the border fence and inflicting harm to Israelis. According to the IDF, Hamas squads – situated in 2 different locations – were [discovered attempting to place explosive charges on the fence](#) to enable mass infiltration into Israel. In addition, throughout the day at least ten explosive devices [were thrown](#) or planted along the border area, and 25 kites carrying firebombs [were sent](#) over the fence, causing 23 fires on Israeli farmland.

There are reports that even as some Palestinians approaching the border were killed and injured, Hamas loudspeakers at a gathering point for the protests were misleadingly

Israeli/Palestinian Conflict
Israeli politics and elections
The current Israeli government (2022)
Judicial reforms and West Bank policies

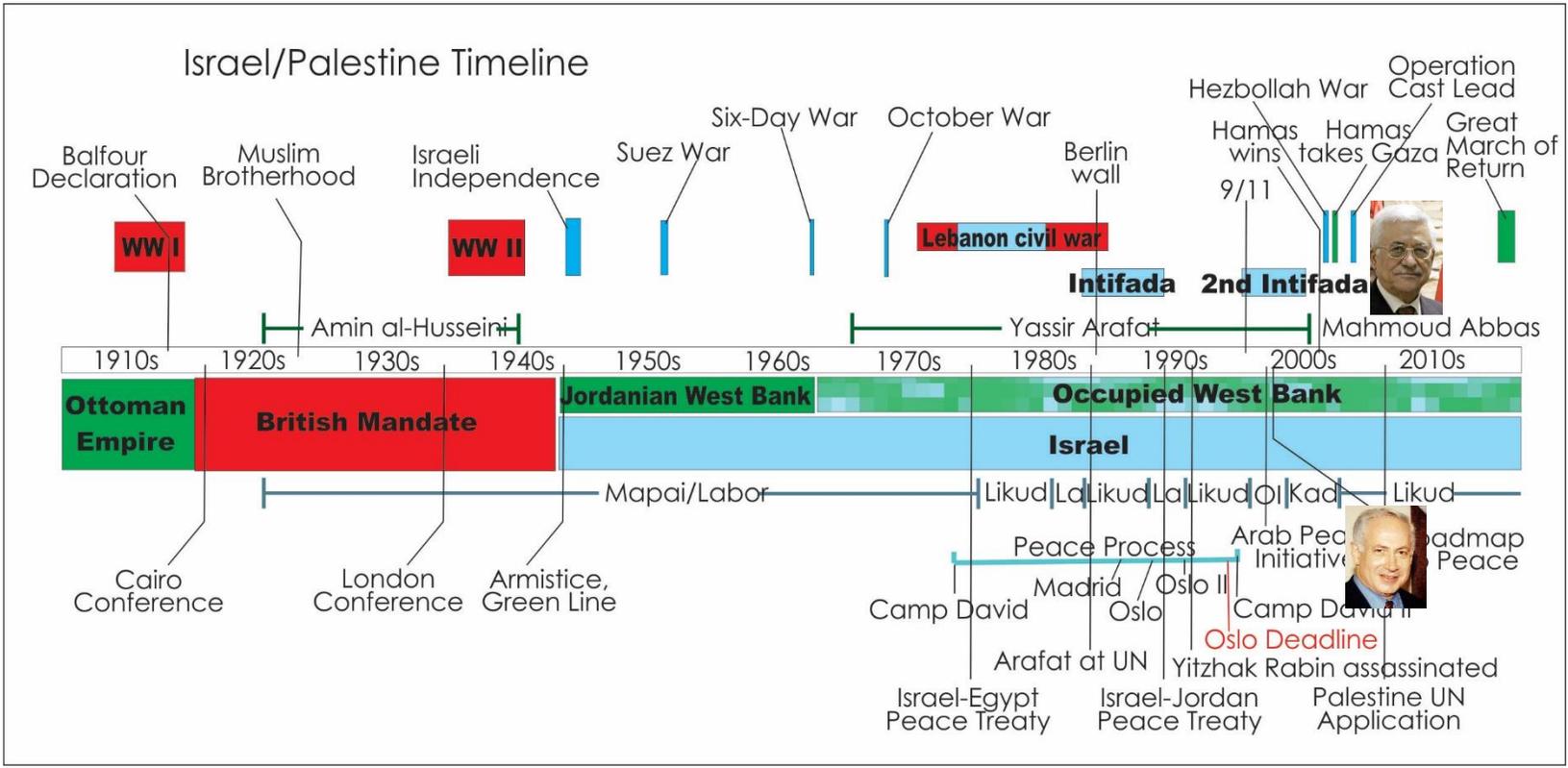


King Hussein
of Jordan



Emir Tamim bin Hamad al Thani
of Qatar

Israel/Palestine Timeline





2011. Israel on the beach.
We don't have a war, so why do we need a peace treaty?



Hamas accumulates Qassam rockets in Gaza.

Palestinian Islamic Jihad acquires Katyusha rocket technology from Iran





Eretz Israel
per Exodus 23:31 and Numbers 34: 1-15
also see Genesis 15: 18-21



Salaam Fayyad's Plan:

- Pursue peace negotiations with the US and the Quartet.
- At the same time, prepare for statehood.
 1. Establish and implement the infrastructure needed by an independent state.
 2. Build up our economy to reduce unemployment and make our businesses attractive to others.

This is a “bottom up” approach. (As opposed to the “top down” of negotiations.) When “bottom up” and “top down” meet, peace is forced.

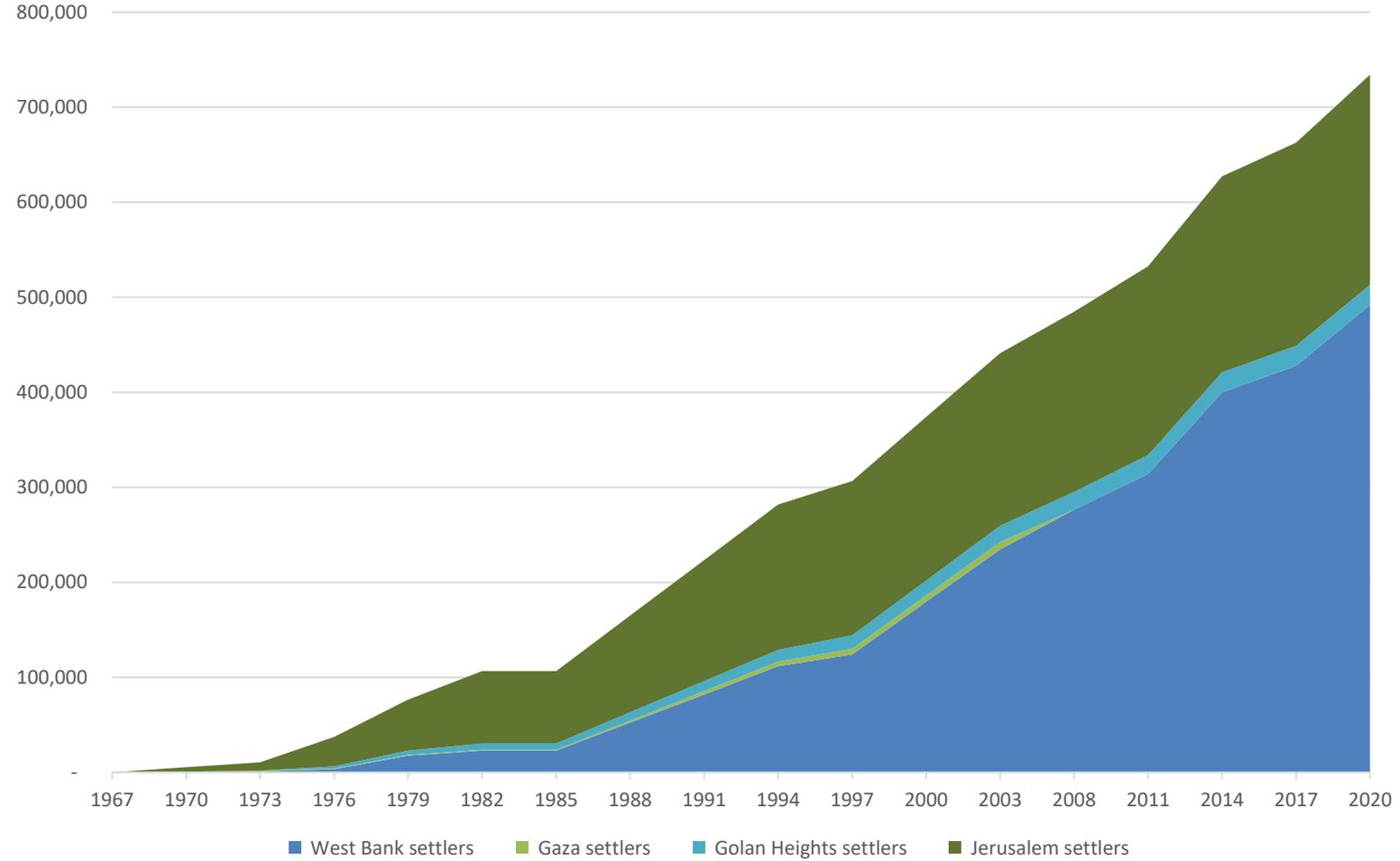
Plan went into effect in 2009.





Key industries: Arms, Drugs, Tech

Settlement population growth





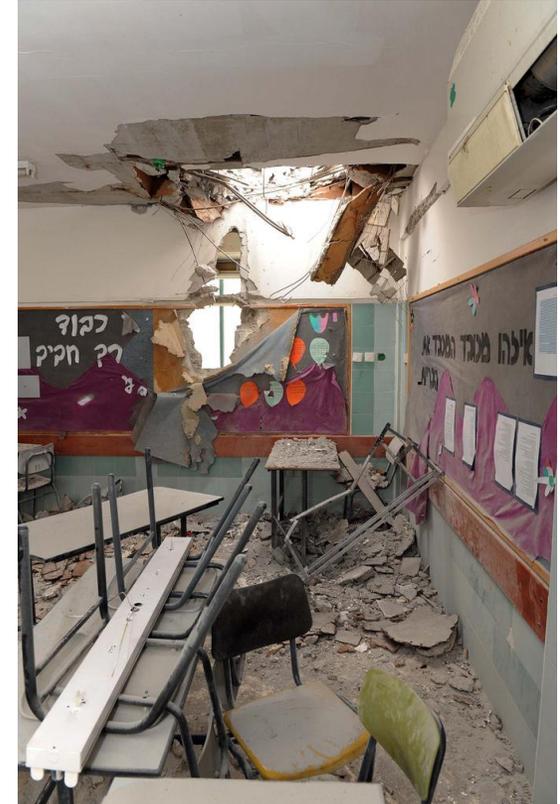
Israel has 2M people confined on its border who, on a daily basis, are learning to hate Israel.

Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

2009, First Gaza War--Operation Cast Lead.



Explosion in Gaza, 12 January 2009, during operation Cast Lead.



[Kindergarten](#) classroom in [Beersheba](#) hit by [Grad](#) rocket from Gaza

2012, Operation Pillar of Cloud



An Israeli apartment building in [Kiryat Malakhi](#) that was hit by a rocket, killing three residents



Israeli children run for shelter as an air-raid siren sounds.



Debris in Gaza after Israeli bombing

2014, Operation Protective Edge



Factory bursts in flames after rocket attack in [Sderot](#), Israel, 28 June 2014.



Palestinians salvage what they can from the rubble of destroyed homes following an early morning Israeli missile strike in Gaza City, July 16, 2014.

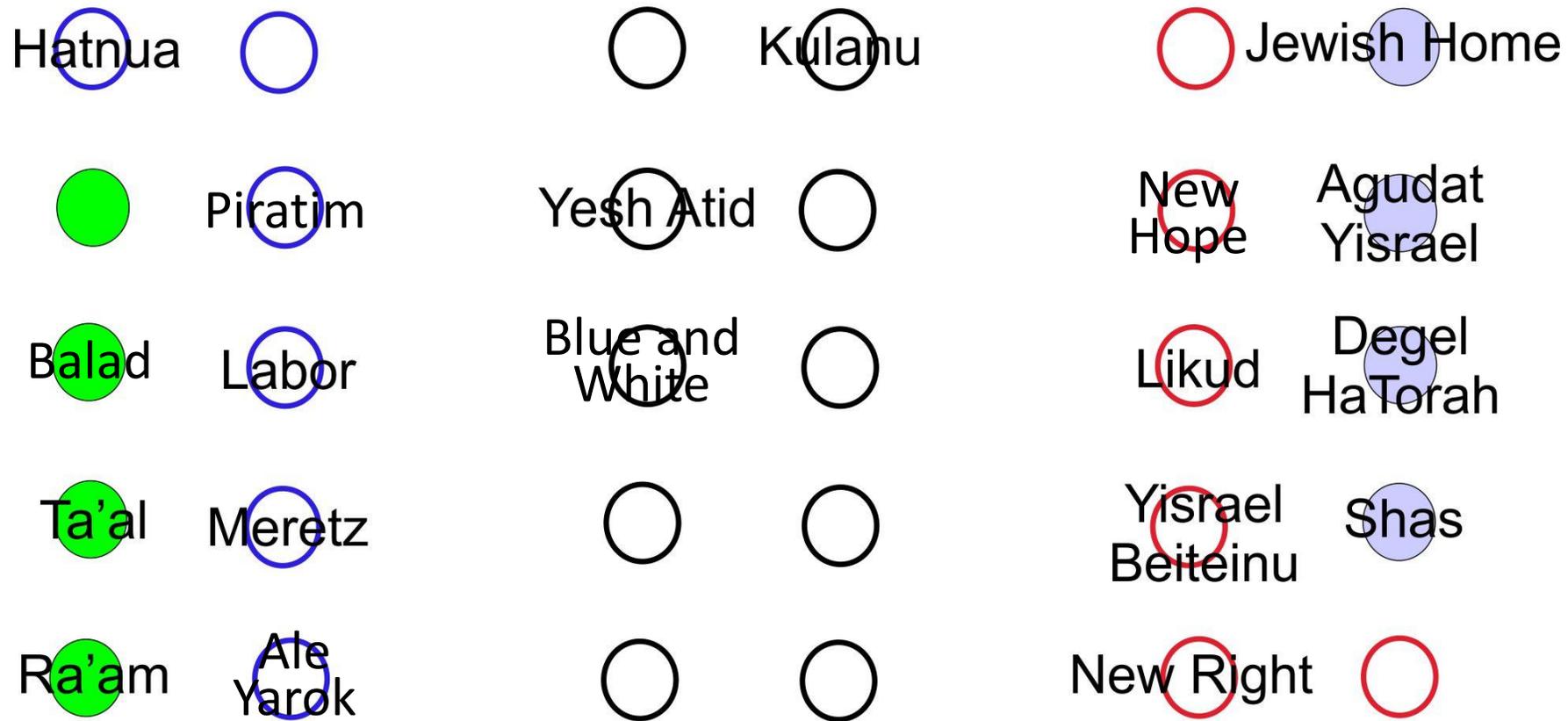
2015 Elections

Israel Political Parties

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing

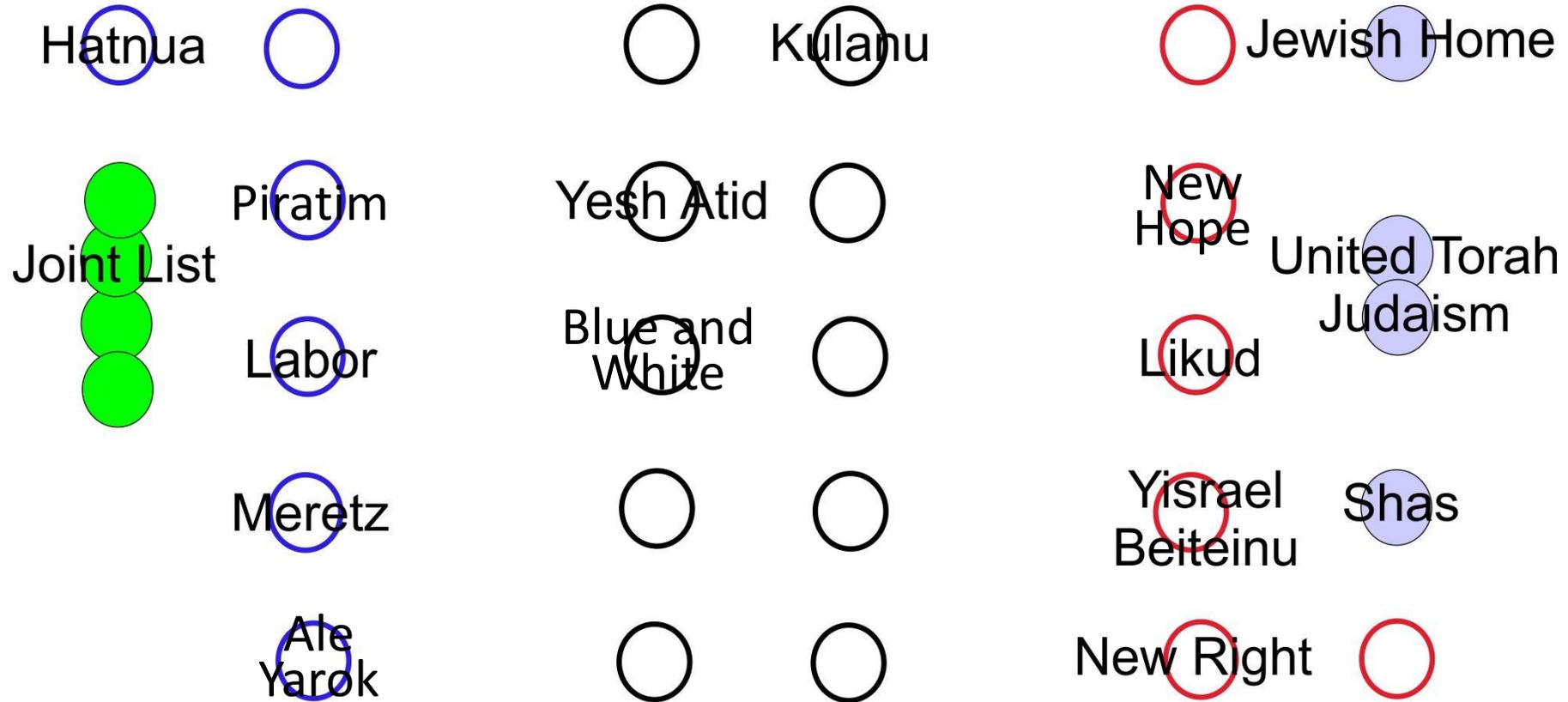


Israel Political Parties

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing

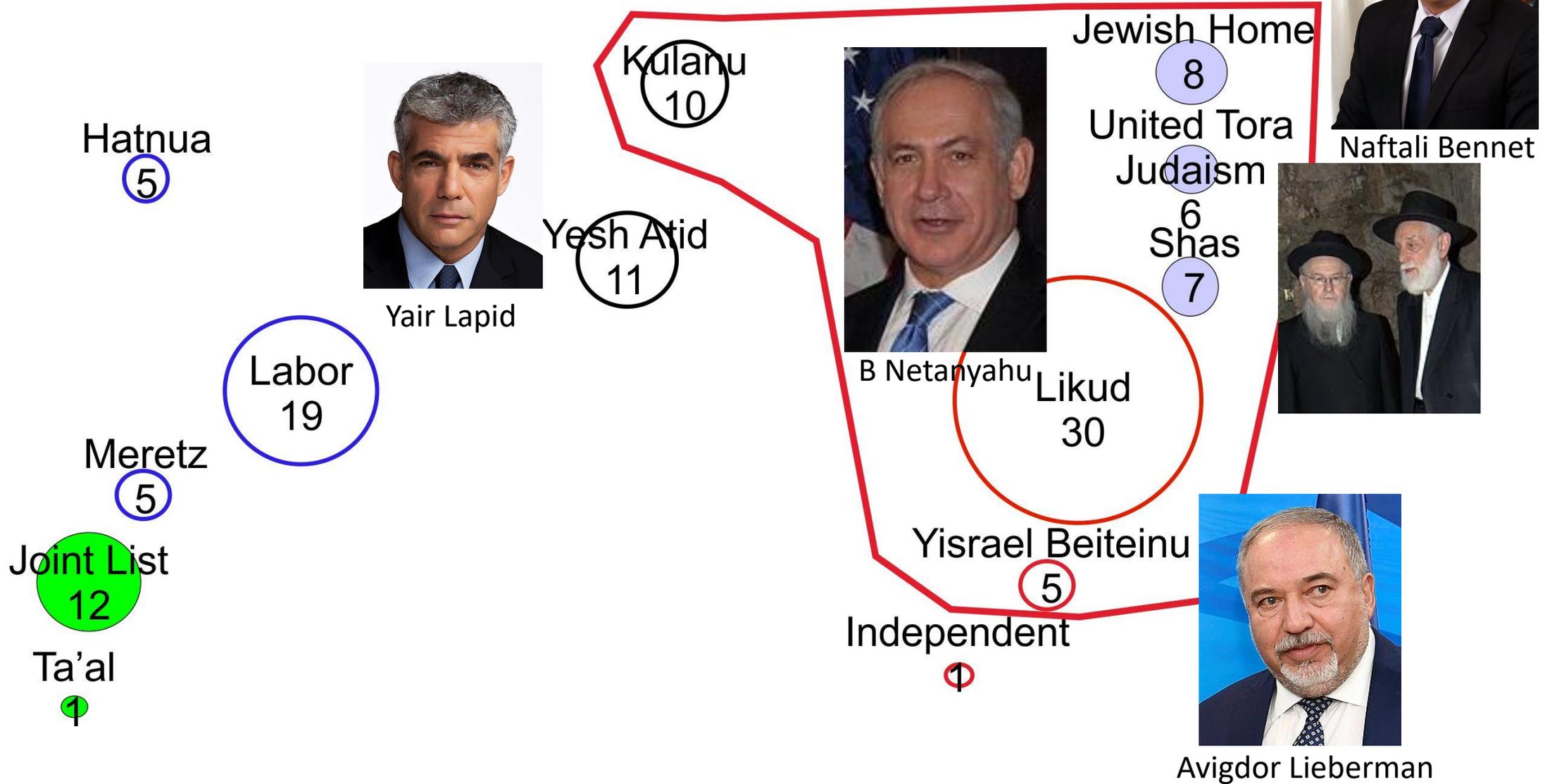


20th Knesset, elected 2015

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing



Societal Reforms

2018 Nation-State Law:

- **Only Jewish citizens have the “right of self-determination.”**
- **Hebrew is the nation’s only official language and Arabic is downgraded to “special status.”**
- **Establishes Jewish settlement as a “national value” and directs the State to promote settlement.**



Ultra-Orthodox Conscription Law

- **Ultra-Orthodox must serve in the IDF**
- **Reduced government stipends (to force Ultra-Orthodox men to go to work)**





Protests outside the Prime Minister's residence after Netanyahu was indicted for bribery, fraud and breach of trust, 11/21/2019.
His trial began in 2021, will probably continue until 2028-29.

Prime Minister exempt from prosecution:

- **A sitting Prime Minister cannot be indicted for a crime.**

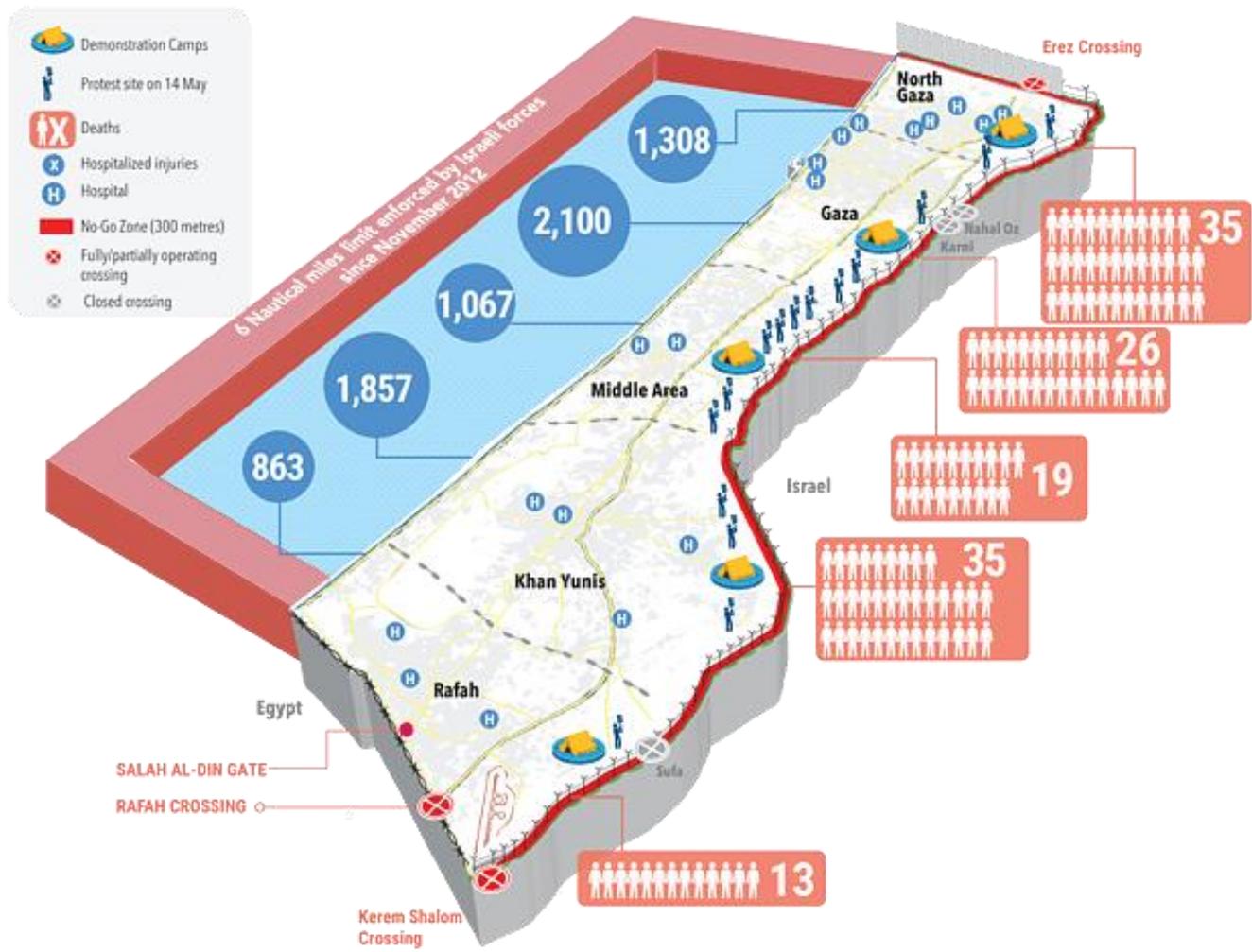
Restrictions on the Supreme Court (Judicial Reform)

- **Israel's Supreme Court can no longer declare a law passed by the Knesset to be "unconstitutional."**

“Great March of Return”

March 30 thru May 15, 2018, The Great March of Return





Map of Great March of Return protests. Casualty figures are for 3/30/18 thru 5/31/18 only.



Military deployment on Israeli side of the border.



Great March of Return, March 30, 2018.
18 killed, 750 wounded.



May 14, 2018. Opening ceremonies for U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem.



Great March of Return.



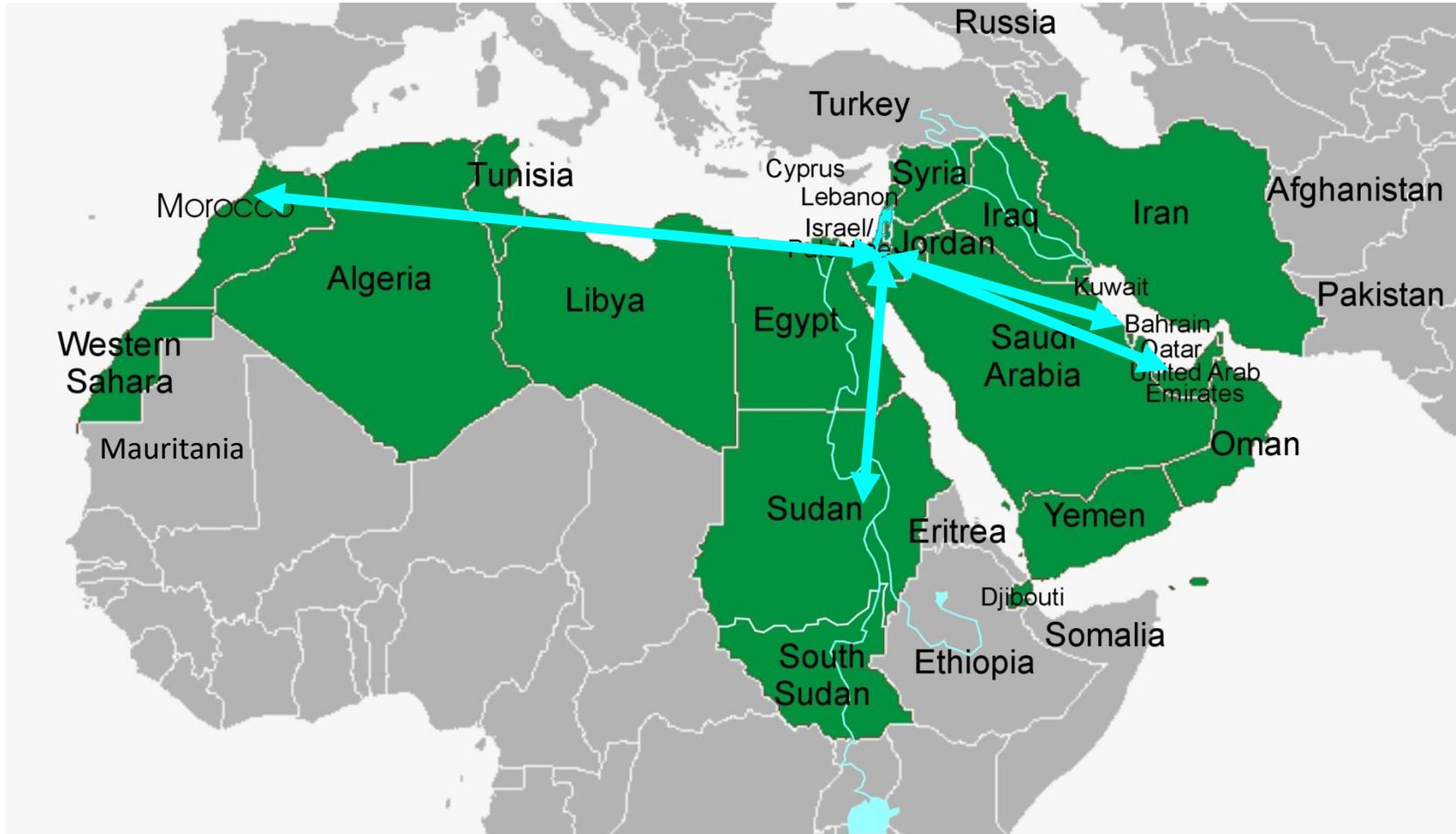


June 2007, Israel isolates Gaza

Abraham Accords



Middle East and North Africa (MENA)



Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

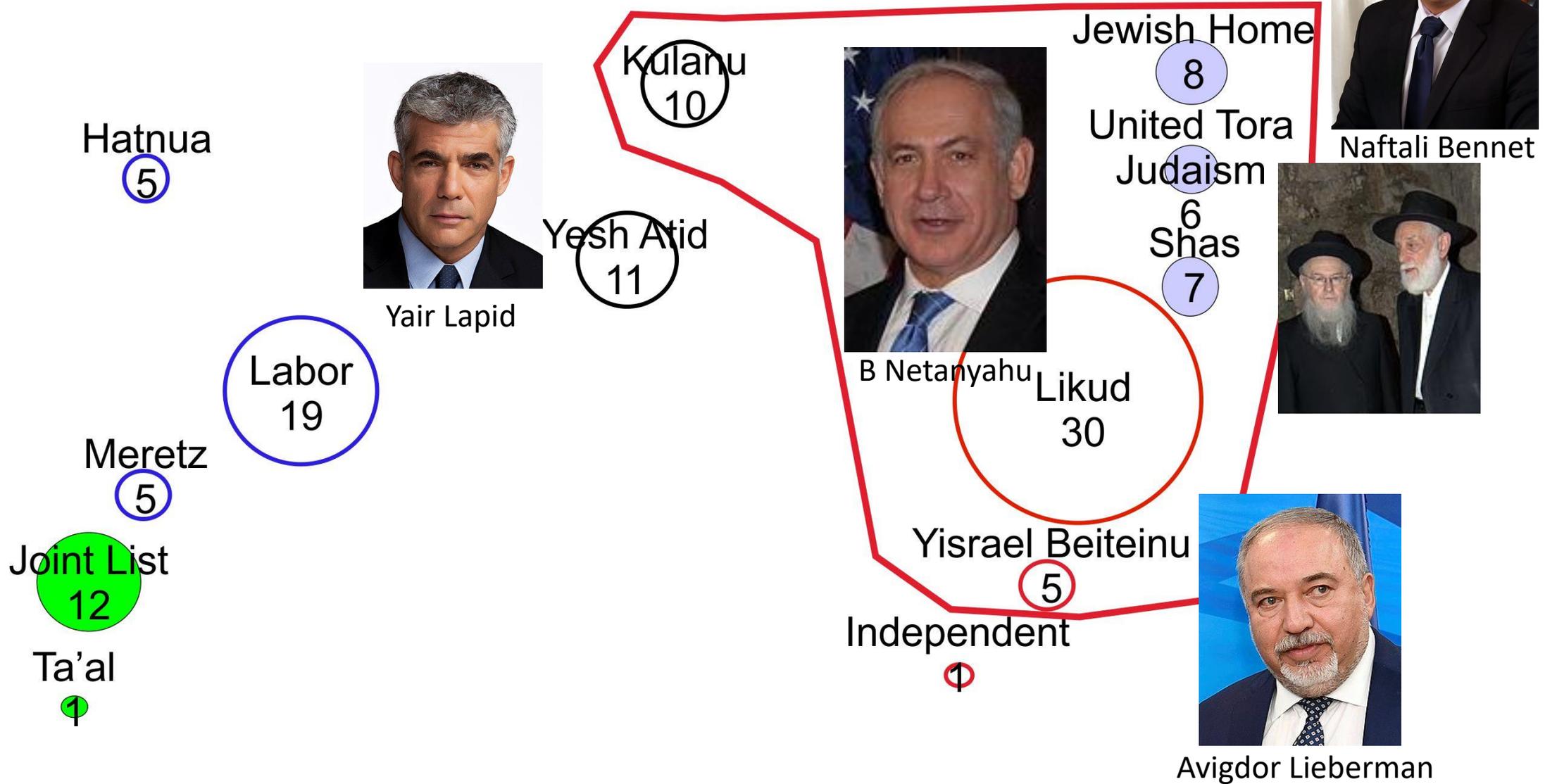
**Politics,
4 elections, 2019-2021**

20th Knesset, elected 2015

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing





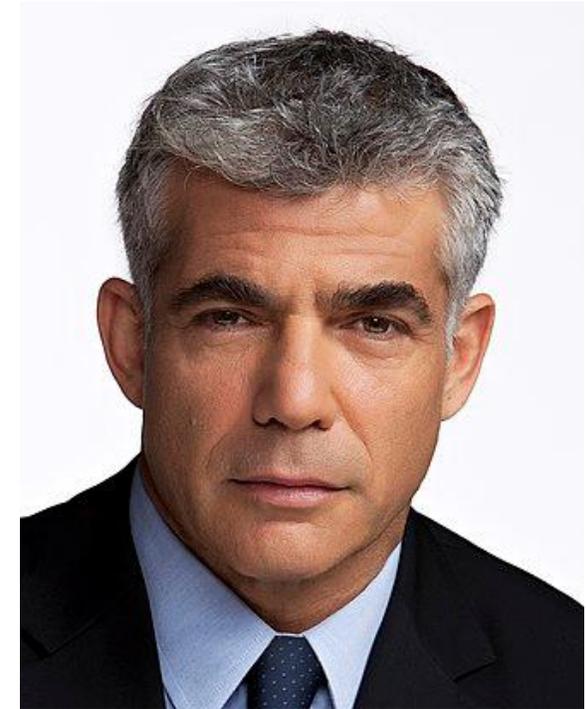
Benny Gantz



Moshe Ya'alon



Gabi Ashkenazi



Yair Lapid

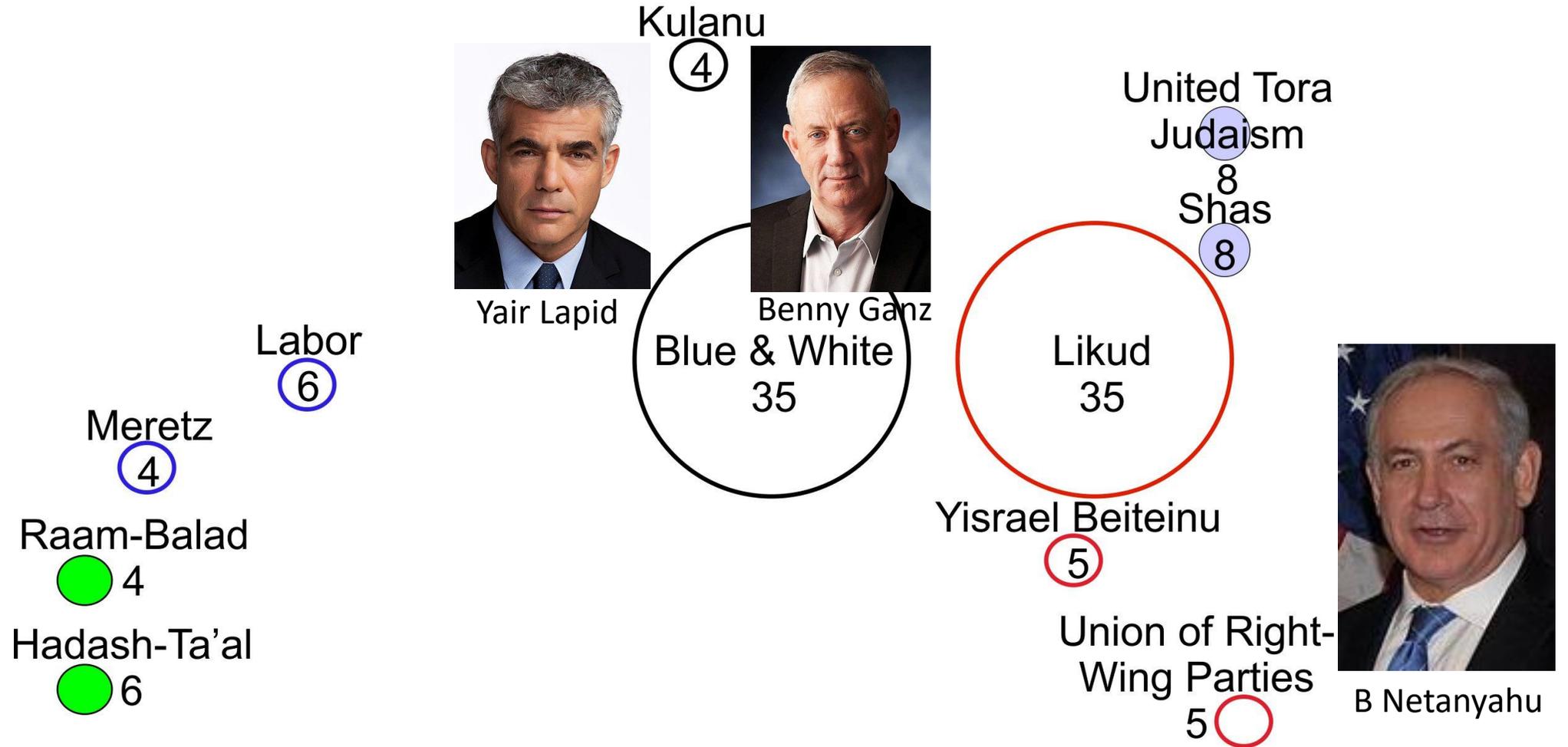
Three former generals form the new, centrist Israel Resilience party. They combine forces with Yair Lapid's centrist Yesh Atid party and run on a list called "Blue and White."

21st Knesset, elected April 9, 2019

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing

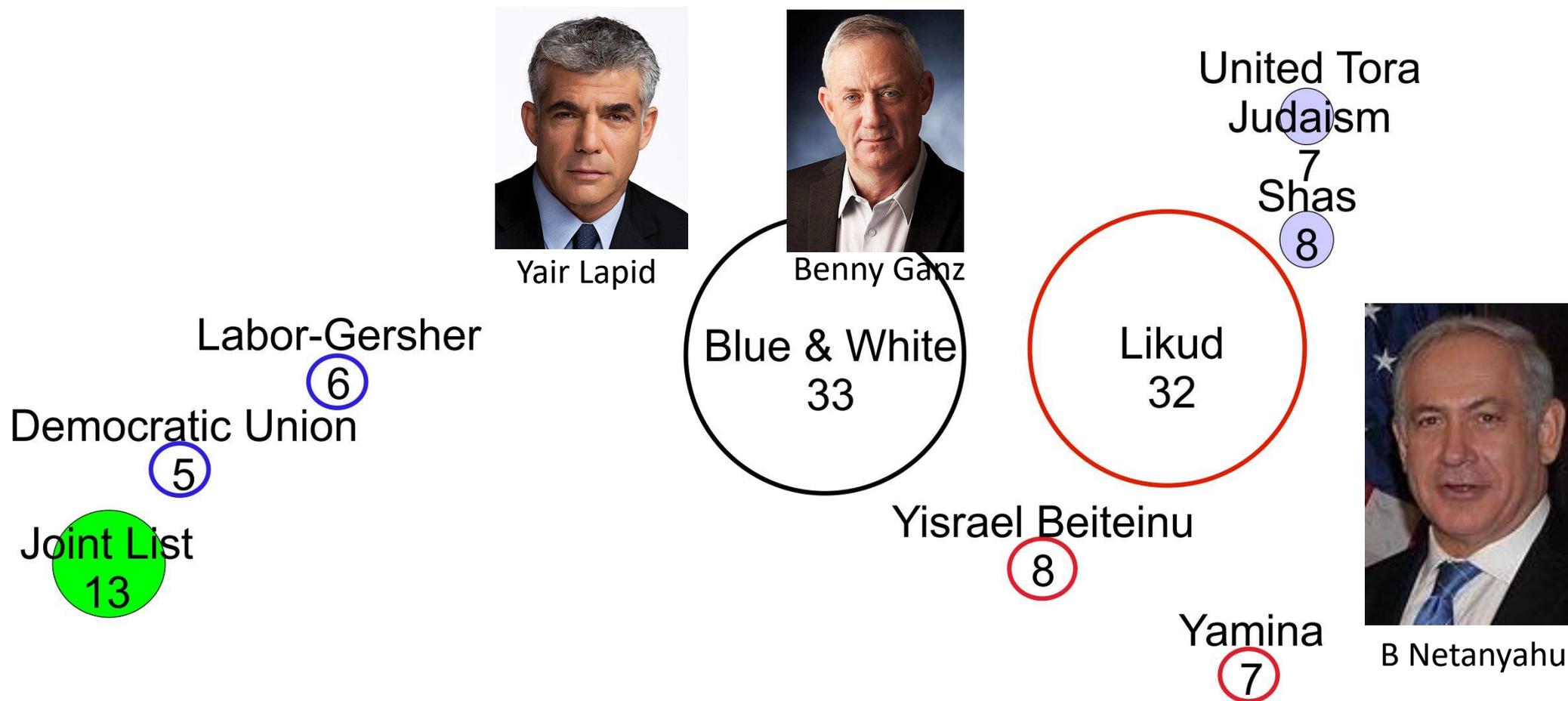


22nd Knesset, elected September 17, 2019

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing

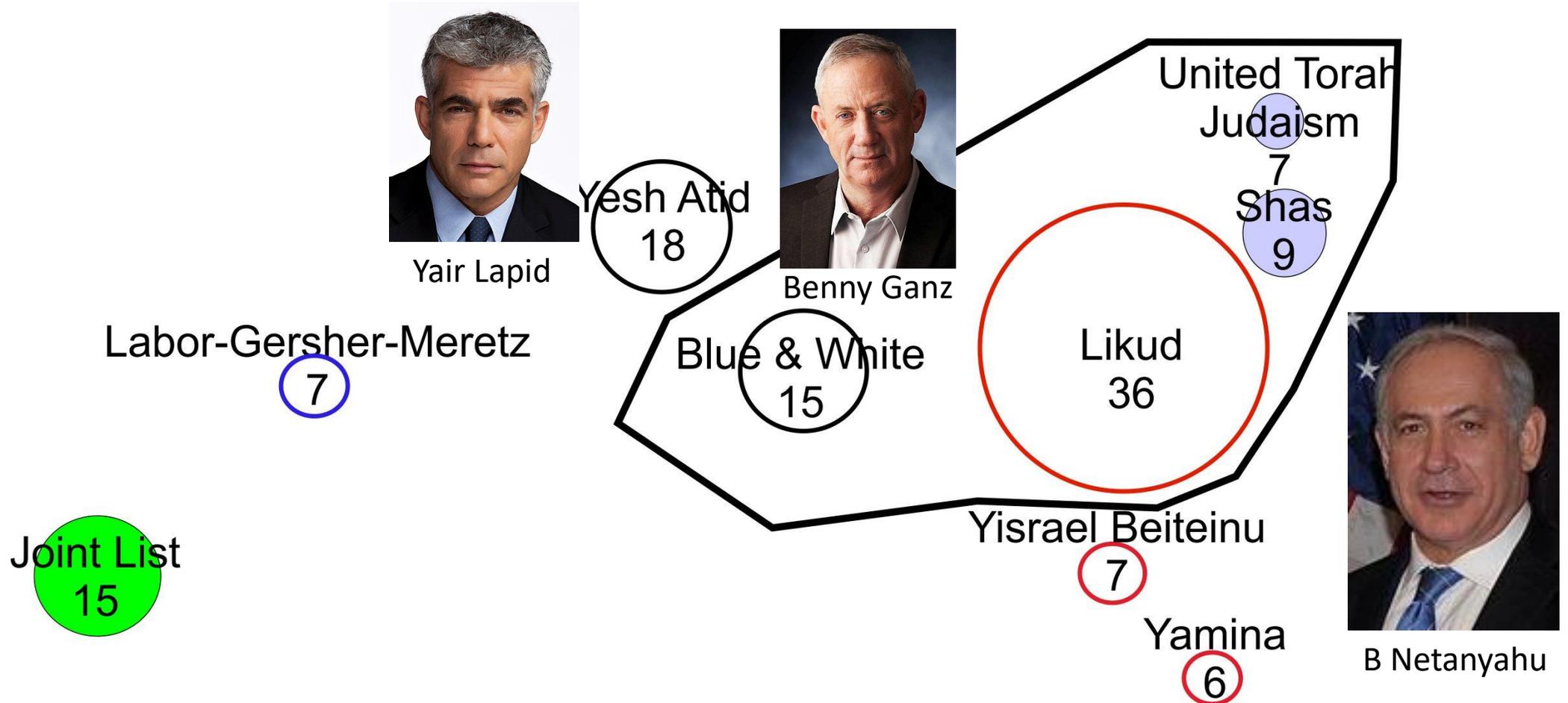


23rd Knesset, elected March 2, 2020

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing





Weekly anti-Netanyahu/anti-Gantz demonstrations



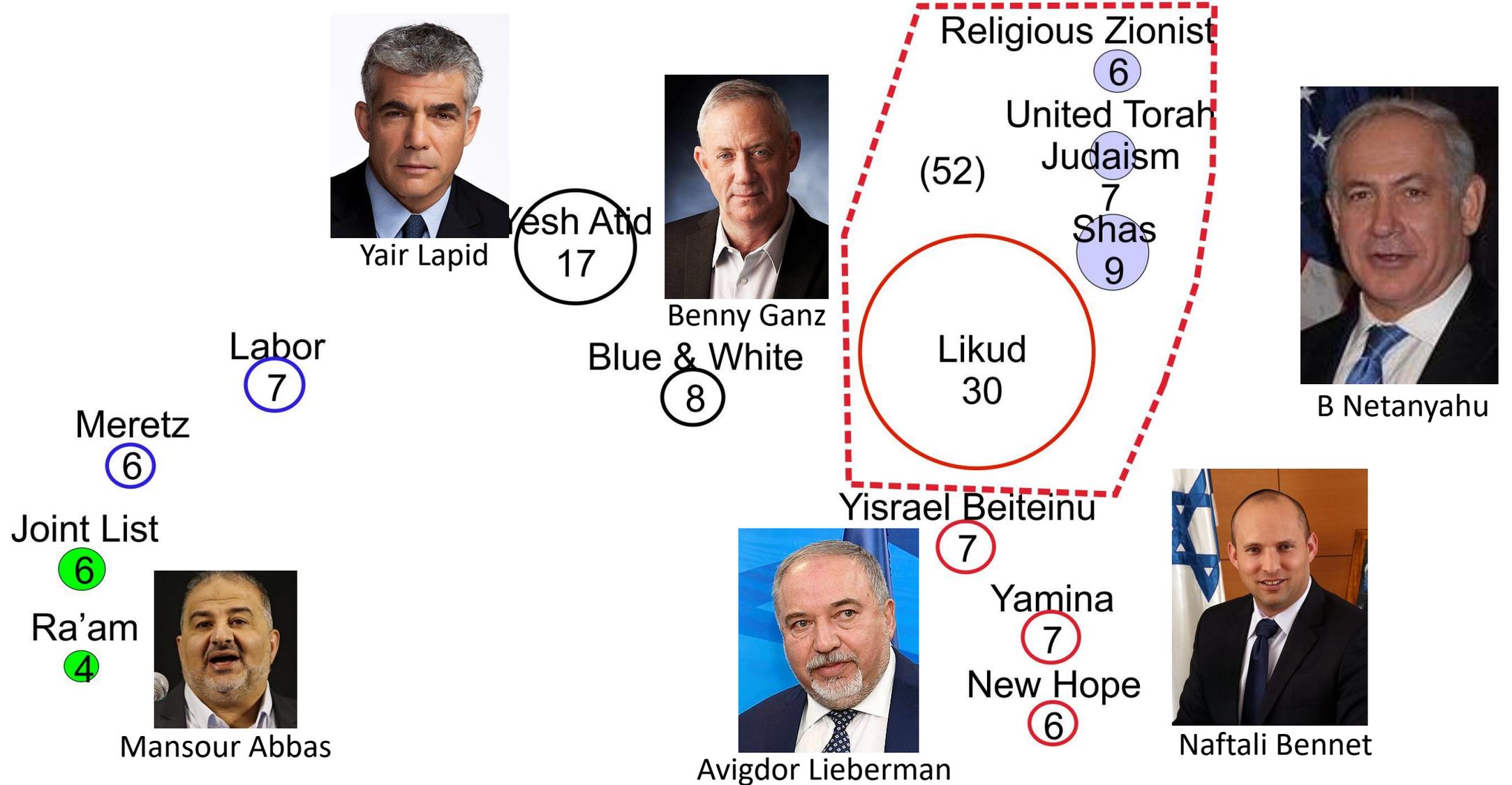
Mansour Abbas,
of Ra'am

24th Knesset, elected March 23, 2021

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing

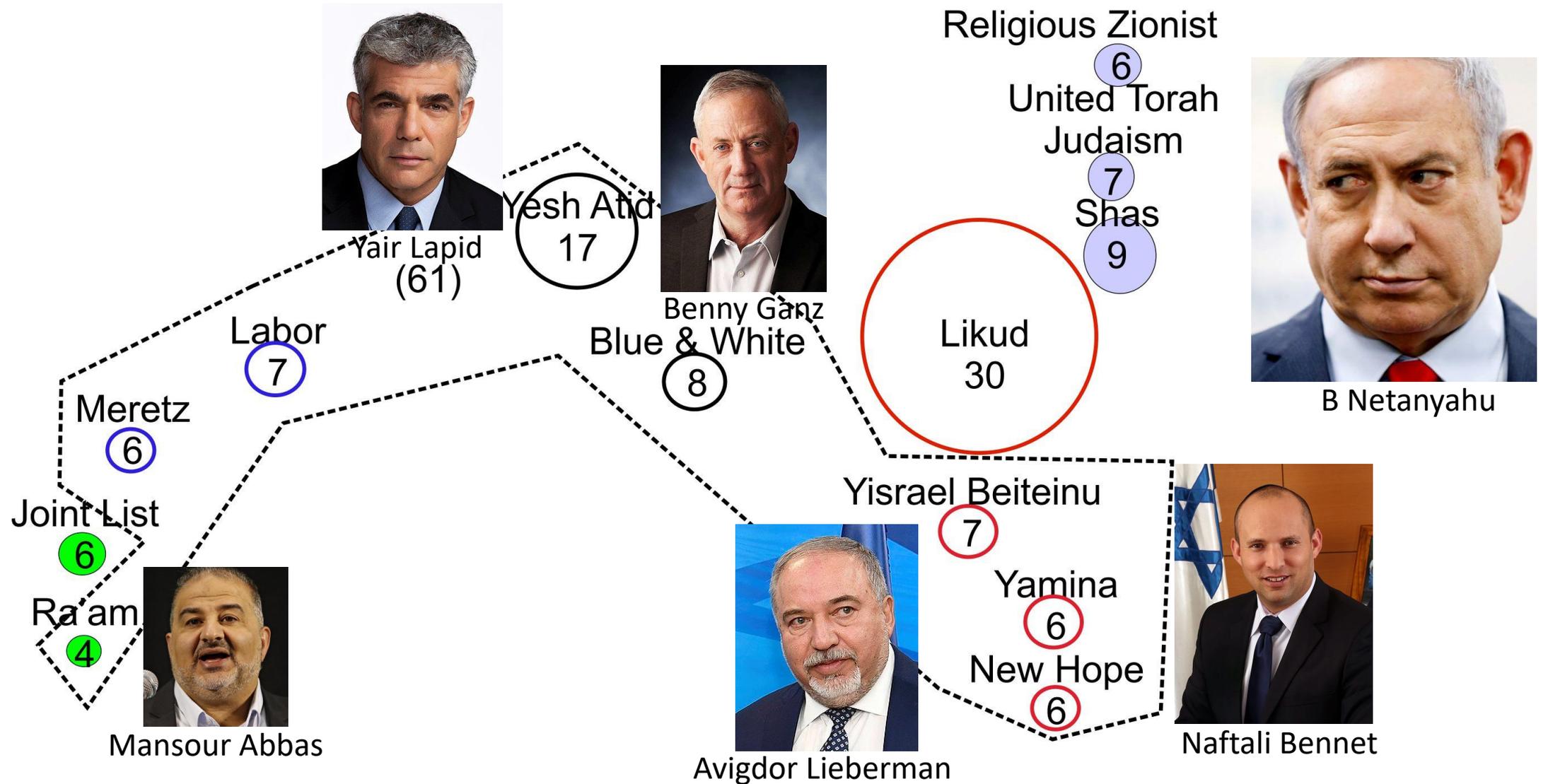


24th Knesset, elected March 23, 2021

Liberal/Left-wing

Centrist

Conservative/Right-wing





Naftali Bennet



Religious Zionism leader Bezalel Smotrich leads demonstrations against Naftali Bennet and the “change government.” The Israeli far-right sees Bennet as a traitor to their cause and to Israel. (Avshalom Sassoni/Flash90)

Operation Guardian of the Walls

April 13, 2021—Israeli Memorial Day/1st Day of Ramadan



Israeli security forces stand guard outside the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City (Menahem Kahana/AFP)



4/25/21. Settlers from the Chavat Maon outpost attack Homra village, defended by five Palestinians, around noon. These settlers have, in the past, vandalized the village's olive trees. <https://taayush.org/?m=2021>

May 7, 2021—Sheikh Jarrah demonstrations turn violent.



Friday, May 7, 2021. Weekly Sheikh Jarrah demonstration.



A Palestinian woman scuffles with an Israeli border police officer during a protest against the forced displacement of Palestinian families (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)



Sign in [Arabic](#) reads "We will not leave," on the walls of the [Sheikh Jarrah](#) neighborhood

May 9, 2021—Palestinian violence and police retaliation erupt in Jerusalem.



Violence escalated on Sunday, May 9.

May 10, 2021—Jerusalem Day, 28th Day of Ramadan.



Palestinians barricade the mosque and throw rocks at the Israeli police.
Credit...Mahmoud Illean/Associated Press

May 10, 2021—Jerusalem Day, 28th Day of Ramadan.

70 settlers attempt to break into al-Aqsa Mosque, May 10, 2021.



May 10, 2021—Jerusalem Day, 28th Day of Ramadan.



Israeli police run after a Palestinian demonstrator at Al-Aqsa Mosque on May 10, 2021, in Jerusalem. Laurent Van Der Stockt / Getty



Palestinians clash with Israeli security forces at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound on May 10, 2021. Mahmoud Illean / AP

Hamas employs more sophisticated weapons.



Rockets are seen in the night sky fired toward Israel from the Gaza Strip. - Anas Baba/AFP via Getty Images



Including new types of rockets, the SH85 and Ayyash missiles, fired at Ben Gurion Airport, Ramon Airport, Tel Aviv and Beersheba. – Algulf.net

May 11, 2021—Israeli retaliation on Gaza.



Israeli airstrikes in the southern Gaza Strip on May 11, 2021. (Ibraheem Abu Mustafa/Reuters)



Israeli air strike on the Hanadi compound, in Gaza City, on May 11, 2021. Mohammed Abed / AFP / Getty

May 13, 2021—Operation “Guardian of the Walls” begins.



Israeli reservists.



Israeli soldiers fire a 155 mm self-propelled Howitzer at targets in the Gaza Strip.

May 14, 2021—Israeli airstrikes hit “the Metro.”



Smoke and flames rise from an early morning Israeli air strike in Gaza City. (The Atlantic, 5/15/21)



Buildings are blown apart during Israeli airstrikes on Palestinian militants in Gaza City May 14, 2021. Reuters/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa

What is different this time?

- It began with Israeli Palestinians.
- All Palestinians, Israeli, East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza, rallied to support each other.
- Hamas stepped forward to defend the al-Aqsa Mosque and Israeli Palestinians rather than Gaza.
- Hamas fielded considerably more sophisticated weaponry than in previous conflicts.
- Support for Palestinians was openly expressed in the United States, including the news media.
- Members of the U.S. Democratic Party in Congress openly questioned Israel's actions and U.S. military support for Israel.

25th Knesset



Yamina MK Nir Orbach

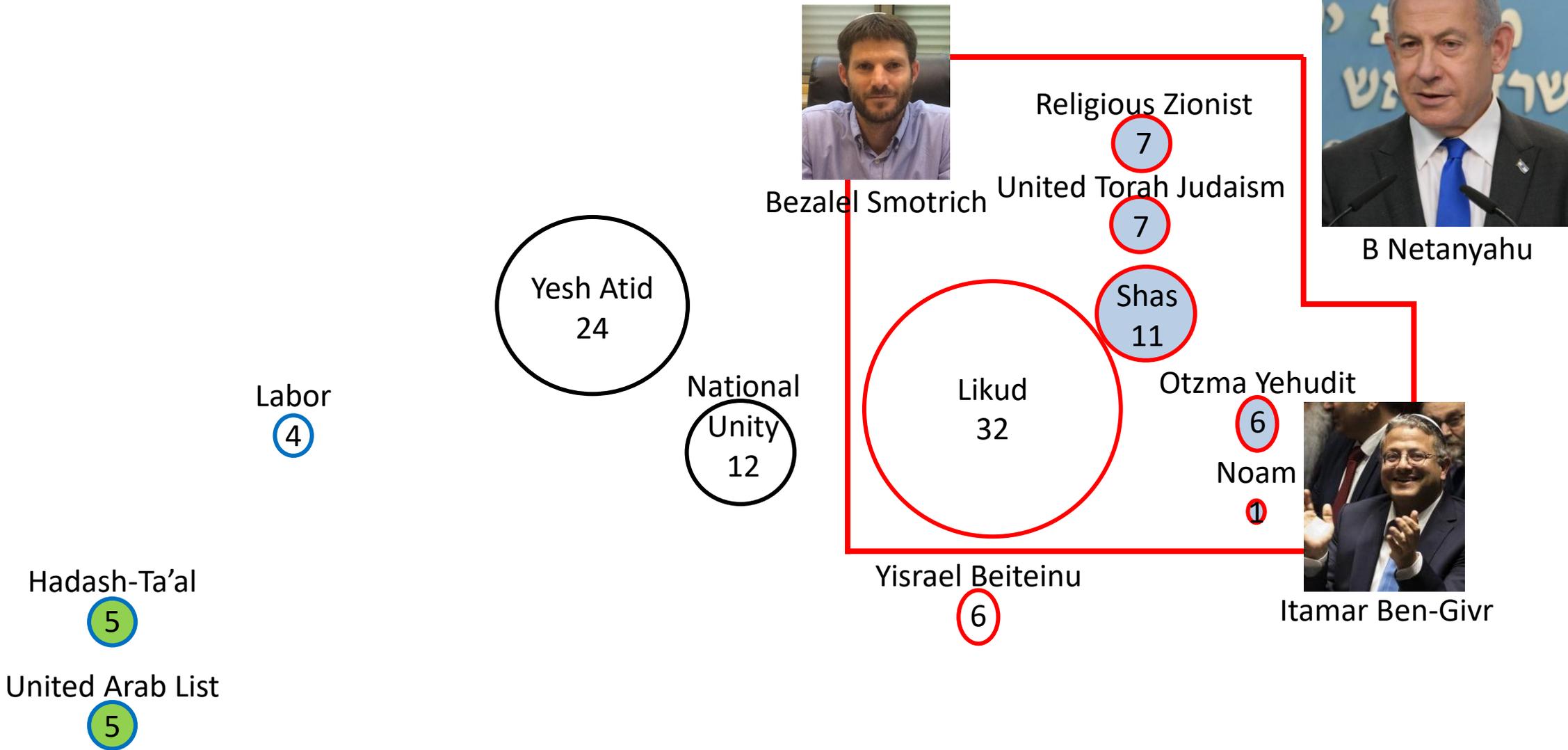


Yamina MK Idit Silman



B Netanyahu

25th Knesset, elected November 1, 2022



25th Knesset, elected November 1, 2022



Benjamin Netanyahu,
Prime Minister

Cabinet Ministers:



Aryeh Deri,
Shas, Deputy PM, and
Minister of Interior
and Health



Bezalel Smotrich,
Religious Zionist Party
Minister of Finance



Itamar Ben-Gvir,
Otzma Yehudit
Minister of National
Security



Yitzhak Goldknopf,
Agudat Yisrael
Minister of Housing
and Construction



Avi Moaz,
Noam
Deputy Minister,
Jewish Identity

25th Knesset, elected November 1, 2022



Benjamin Netanyahu,
Prime Minister

Cabinet Ministers:



Yariv Levin,
Likud, Deputy PM and
Minister of Justice



Bezalel Smotrich,
Religious Zionist Party
Minister of Finance



Itamar Ben-Gvir,
Otzma Yehudit
Minister of National
Security



Yitzhak Goldknopf,
Agudat Yisrael
Minister of Housing
and Construction



Avi Moaz,
Noam
Deputy Minister,
Jewish Identity

Judicial Reform

- 1. Judicial reform:**
 - **Eliminate Supreme Court's overview of government actions.**
 - **Government-controlled committee selects judges.**
- 2. Expand the authority of the Rabbinical Courts.**
- 3. Require Israeli citizens to abide by Jewish Law.**
- 4. Make Israel a state of Jewish citizens only.**
- 5. Remove the "Reasonableness" doctrine.**

(Also) Prohibit criminal proceedings against a sitting Prime Minister.



Protesters on Begin Road in
Tel Aviv, Jan 29, 2023



Protesters in front of the Israeli Knesset in
Jerusalem, Feb 20, 2023

Changes in the West Bank

Burned car and home in Palestinian village of Huwara after an attack on February 26, 2023.



Bezalel Smotrich,
Minister of Finance,
Administrator of the
West Bank



Khaled Arara and his son Ali pose on the road leading to his hamlet that was closed by Israeli settlers, April 30, 2024. (AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)



Damaged building following a raid on the city of Tulkarm in the occupied West Bank. © 2023 Sipa via AP Images





National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir poses with members of the civilian security squad in Eilat after handing them each a weapon on November 15, 2023. (Itamar Ben Gvir/X)



Ben Gvir moves security from Gaza to the West Bank.

Israel and Palestine

