An Analysis Of The Israeli Elections 2015
These are elections for the 20th Knesset whereby the 34th Israeli government will be formed. They were supposed to take place on November 7, 2017, but were set for this month after the Likud-led coalition had collapsed.

In these elections, the minimum amount of votes each party should get to enter the Knesset is the highest in Israeli history. It stands at 3.25% of total votes or what is equivalent to four seats in parliament. This was, in fact, the main reason Arab parties decided to run under one list, to avoid not making it to parliament at all.
It is noteworthy that the last government under Bibi Netanyahu was the first in a decade that Ultra-orthodox parties remained outside the government. This is definitely likely to change this time round.

For the new elections, Yitzhak Herzug from the labor party and Hantnoua, led by TsiPi Livni, decided to merge and run under one list. The agreement is that should they win, they will alternate as prime minister, two years each.

This is the first elections campaign for Shas after the passing away of its spiritual leader Ovadia Yousef.
This election is going to witness the demise of Yesael Beitenu, which had 13 seats in the previous parliament while polls predict it to garner five seats this time round. The party has been clouded by corruption charges.
The Stars
There is a Future

The Jewish Home

Kulano (Kahlon)

Shas

Yahdout Hatora

Yesrael Beiteno

Ya7had

Meretz

Expected Mandates

Actual Mandates
The four-seat difference gives Herzug legitimacy to form the next government.

Herzug in recent weeks has narrowed the gap in who is it that citizens prefer as prime minister.

Kachlon in momentum; no surprise of he gets more mandates than 10...
Who is Your Preferred PM?

Bibi 43%
Herzug 35%
Don't Know 22%

Bibi 43%
Scenarios
### Three Scenarios To Gov. Formation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Zionist Union</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Likud</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meretz</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Yahdut Hatora</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is A Future</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Jewish Home</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kachlon</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Shas</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shas</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Yesrael Beitenu</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yachad (Eli Yeshay)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

- **Yesrael Beiteno**: 5  
- **Kachlon**: 10

- **Or**,  
- **Yahdut Hatora**: 7

- **Unified Arab Party**: 12
Final Conclusions

- It has been years since the president, Ruvi Rivlin, has had such an important role to bridge the gap between the Likud and the Zionist Union. In Israeli politics never say never.

- It is pretty clear that there is no more left-wing in Israel. The only Zionist party that could be considered leftist is Meretz.

- No matter who forms the next government, it is unlikely that there will be a genuine push towards reaching an understanding with the Palestinians.
Moshe Kaclon and his party Kulano are likely to be key to who forms the next government e.g. Bibi’s Radio announcement yesterday.

It is not necessary the case that whoever leads the biggest party would be the one asked by the president to try and form a government e.g. Livni in 2009.

In the last election, one out of four people decided who to vote for on election day so there is always room for surprises.
The End