

Abstract

This bachelor's thesis puts into context the current development of Israeli Arab political representation. It builds upon the existing situation in Israel, where Arabs and Jews do not enjoy equal positions on many levels. The thesis then poses the question, what are the goals the Arab representation seeks to achieve, and what are the obstacles it faces in the Israeli political system. The thesis follows the historical development of Arabs' position in Israel and then continues by examining the goals and behavior of four Israeli Arab parties present in the Knesset. By presenting each party separately, the thesis shows their different positions toward the State of Israel and the strategies they use to advance their goals, which are then categorized as national and civic. The thesis then observes the existing or potential challenges the parties face, identified as legal obstacles, as presented in reports of Adalah or Amnesty International, and delegitimization. The thesis then evaluates their effect on achieving the parties' goals. The limits of Arab political representation are further highlighted in two case studies dedicated to one of its greatest potential obstacles on the one hand and one of its most important achievements on the other. As a result, the goals on the national level were identified as directly contradicting the nature of Israel as a Jewish state but also having a significant influence on advancing the civic demands of the Arab community. Whereas the current situation in Israel does not pose legal challenges specifically targeted on the Arab representation, however as its main challenges were identified as the unwillingness to cooperate and delegitimization from the Jewish political actors, which puts them even more into the position of undesired coalition partners.