



[Netanyahu is Ousted as Prime Minister as the Israeli Knesset Narrowly Approves a New Coalition Government](#)

Earlier this week, Benjamin Netanyahu was deposed as prime minister after Israel's parliament, the Knesset, narrowly approved a new coalition government by a slim margin of 60-59. Naftali Bennett, a former ally of Netanyahu, has become prime minister and is slated to serve two years in the post before handing the reigns to political partner Yair Lapid under the agreement to rotate the position. The coalition is comprised of a range of improbable partners from the extremist-nationalist right to the liberal left who are simply unified in their deep hostility towards Netanyahu. Due to his controversial governing style and a serious ongoing criminal case against him, Netanyahu himself had failed to recruit partners to form a coalition, which resulted in the mandate being given to opposition parties to try and do so. The unlikely coalition government largely came to fruition on its anti-Netanyahu platform against the criminally-indicted former premier. Now that Netanyahu has been removed from power, Bennett is faced with the challenging task of holding the delicate bloc together – which shared a strong desire to oust Netanyahu but has major disagreements on substantial policy issues. As such, some analysts suspect that the new government will avoid addressing polarizing topics which could jeopardize the fragile alliance.

Having lost his position as prime minister, Netanyahu will now become opposition leader and remain head of the right-wing Likud party. In the preceding years, and particularly during the recent string of successive inconclusive elections, resistance to Netanyahu has grown – not only throughout the left and center of the political spectrum, but also among right-wing parties that are ideologically aligned to Likud. One of the main reasons for this is the significant ongoing criminal corruption trial against him, in which Netanyahu has been indicted on severe charges of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust. Although he is not the first Israeli prime minister to be criminally charged, he is the first to face this while still in office, and therefore political figures across the board have attempted to distance themselves from Netanyahu. This includes new prime minister Naftali Bennett, once a close ally but someone who has had a frictional relationship with the former premier in recent years and was thus more than willing to join the anti-Netanyahu coalition.

The new Israeli coalition government consists of right-wing nationalists, such as Bennett and his Yamina party, who support illegal Jewish settlements in the West Bank, but also includes center-left parties who back the creation of a Palestinian state. However, due to Bennett's uncompromising stance on longstanding regional issues like these and his nationalist attitude which is similar to that of his predecessor (if not even more harsh), most expect a continuation of the status quo. Palestinians and the majority of the global community view Israeli settlements in the illegally-occupied West Bank as a considerable obstacle to lasting peace and social justice because they make it nearly impossible to create a contiguous and viable Palestinian state alongside Israel. As a result, many Palestinians see little hope for any positive change from the Bennett-led government, with one official pointing out that the coalition is likely to only "entrench the status quo...since Bennett is a copy of Netanyahu, and he might even be more radical."

So long as Israel allows for the expansion of illegal settlements, makes plans to forcibly displace Palestinians from their homes and demolish others, and implements an array of discriminatory measures toward Palestinian citizens, social injustice will continue to prevail – regardless of the makeup of the governing coalition.