Who Gets to Decide

Instructor guide for Class edition 1.3

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Students apply one test for democracy to two populations in spring 2000. They revisit both scopes in November 2026, then consider what adding East Jerusalem and Gaza changes. They learn Sammy Smooha's ethnic democracy and Oren Yiftachel's ethnocracy and test both approaches on the same records. In the final step they revise a guide entry in response to a reader's question.

Assign the activity

Post the game link or distribute the standalone HTML file. Ask students to choose For Class and enter their name and course. This is a self-contained assignment for introductory students. You can pair it with the Smooha and Yiftachel readings or use the game to prepare students to read them.

Budget 90–100 minutes across two parts. This is a planning estimate. Part 1 takes about 35 minutes and ends at the first judgment, a good place to pause. Part 2 starts at the West Bank desk. The schedule includes at least 280 words of writing.

When	What students do
0–15 min	Part 1 begins at Katzir. Choose what to investigate first and open both records.
15–26 min	Knesset. Reconstruct the vote and compare land-policy appointments.
26–35 min	First edition. Record a standard and a spring 2000 judgment.
35–46 min	Part 2 begins at the West Bank desk. Keep spring 2000 fixed, trace who can vote and decide, and record a wider judgment.
46–69 min	2015–2026. Open the three evidence desks in any order. Check each, then save a participation record and a rights or authority record.
69–79 min	Two theories. Work through Katzir and record both readings of the new Resolution 922 funding case before opening the sample.
79–95 min	Final edition. Compare dates and scopes. Record the guide, open the reader's question, and answer it.

Submit the Class report to Canvas

1. Open the completed report and select Print or save as PDF.
2. Choose Save as PDF in the print dialog and save the file.
3. Open the saved PDF and check your name, answers, and final page.
4. Upload that PDF to the Canvas assignment and confirm your submission there.

If the print dialog closes before saving, reopen the report and try again. Both modes cover the same evidence and factual checks. Writing is optional in For Fun. To submit after exploring For Fun, start or resume a Class run from the start screen.

Grade the reasoning

Use the report verification summary to find the student's recorded writing, evidence choices, and factual checks. The seven assessed responses total 280 minimum words. Completion verifies the required actions and entries. Grade the reasoning in the writing.

Writing checkpoint	Words	What to look for
What changed at Katzir?	35	Names the new legal obligation and explains which decision or outcome was still open.
What did five votes change?	40	Compares 61–59 with 56–59 under the stated assumption and distinguishes a recorded vote from broader influence.
First judgment	40	Applies a stated test to citizens inside the Green Line in spring 2000 and considers a contrary fact.
Wider spring 2000 judgment	15	Keeps the date and test fixed and explains the effect of adding the West Bank cases.
Try both theories	45	Uses the same Resolution 922 record to make two readings and propose a further check.
First version of your guide	70	Leads with one saved record, compares dates and groups, and gives a provisional wider judgment.
Reply to the reader	35	Uses the case in the reader's question to defend, narrow, change, or leave the claim open.

Ten point rubric

Score each row 0 for missing or incorrect reasoning, 1 for partly demonstrated reasoning, or 2 for the full performance described. Apply the same rubric to each defensible regime judgment.

Criterion	Evidence for full credit
Scope and democratic standard	Applies a clear test at both dates and for the two matched scopes, explaining any revision.
Evidence	Interprets one political participation record and one rights, resources or authority record. Identifies whose decision, vote or outcome each measures.
Two theories on a fresh case	Gives a plausible reading of Resolution 922 under each approach. Tells what finding would give one reading more weight.
Counterevidence	Uses the reader's record accurately, says what it does to the first claim, and identifies further evidence.
Judgment across scopes	Defends the wider 2026 judgment and explains what East Jerusalem or Gaza adds. Gives a reason for any mixed or open finding.

Instructor historical reference

Keep these reference answers with the instructor materials. Accurate responses can use different language, rely on different records, and reach different regime judgments.

Evidence checks

Court order. The state had allocated Katzir land through the Jewish Agency. In March 2000 the Court ruled that the discriminatory allocation was unlawful and required the state to reconsider the Ka'adans' application on equal terms. The state still had to decide the application.

Later Katzir outcome. ACRI, the family's legal counsel, reports a second petition in 2003 and the Court's rejection of the cooperative's objection in 2004. The Israel Land Administration signed a plot contract on December 19, 2005. This establishes the outcome for one household more than five years after the first judgment.

Recorded tally. Five yes votes were cast by members of Hadash and the Arab Democratic Party. Holding all other votes fixed gives 56 yes and 59 no if those five abstain. This identifies leverage in the recorded division. Different bargaining, other parties' reactions, and influence across issues require additional evidence.

Two decisions under Oslo. West Bank education responsibilities began transferring in 1994. Oslo II set out Palestinian responsibility for schools in 1995 and reserved the status of settlements for later negotiations. Israeli authorities made settlement expansion decisions. An eligible Palestinian voter could help elect Palestinian representatives, and an eligible Israeli citizen in a settlement could vote for the Knesset. Follow a specific decision to its authority before inferring the reach of either vote.

East Jerusalem. Eligible Palestinian permanent residents could vote in city elections. A Knesset vote required Israeli citizenship. Special arrangements allowed eligible Palestinians in East Jerusalem to take part in the 1996 Palestinian elections.

Different conclusions that can earn full credit

Ethnic democracy within the citizen scope. Under a standard centered on usable rights, the court order and pivotal votes support Smooha. Admissions and council appointments show where access remained uneven.

Ethnocracy within the same citizen scope. The allocation chain and council roster show who held power over land. A strong answer explains how the lawsuit and pivotal votes constrained that power.

A liberal benchmark or a qualified finding. A liberal-democratic judgment can weigh enforceable equality against group-based preference. A qualified judgment can name evidence that would resolve it, such as decisions on comparable applications. Students can reach distinct conclusions for the two scopes.

Worked case and independent transfer

Compare the 2000 ruling with the 2005 Katzir contract. Then have students write their own readings of Resolution 922. A strong Smooha reading asks what public institutions delivered and whether minority actors influenced the decision. A strong Yiftachel reading asks who controlled land or other conditions for spending. A useful next check might compare similar councils with different land and co-funding constraints and track which projects they completed.

Instructor contemporary reference

Use the later evidence to test whether the mechanism students identified in 2000 still explains particular outcomes. Ask whether a new record changes their judgment, describes a different institution, or supplies another observation under the same standard.

Ballot access and seats. The threshold rose from 2% to 3.25% before the 2015 election. The four-party Joint List won 13 seats. The Court declined to approve the proposed exclusions of Haneen Zoabi and Baruch Marzel. In 2026 it unanimously reversed the Joint List and Ra'am list exclusions. Results of the October 27 election, certified November 4, gave the Joint List 11 seats and the separately running Ra'am eight.

Collective status and individual rights. The 2018 Basic Law assigns national self-determination in Israel exclusively to the Jewish people, gives Arabic special status, and makes Jewish settlement a national value. In 2021 the Hasson majority upheld the law while reading it alongside protections for equality. Justice George Karra dissented and identified a risk that the settlement clause would reverse the direction of Ka'adan. The disagreement is over the legal and practical force of the law. Outcomes need separate observation.

Coalition participation and budgets. Ra'am joined the 2021 coalition with four seats. The government won confidence by 60–59 with one abstention. Resolution 550 planned about NIS 30 billion over five years. The Bank of Israel reports NIS 6 billion allocated in 2022, with about 90% of that first-year allocation used. It describes later planned reductions. In the separate Resolution 922 study (2016–21), education used about 90% of its allocation, and infrastructure and construction about 50%. These are rates of budget use.

Higher education and medicine. In 2025/26, about 63,700 Arab students were 20.6% of the students in the CBS comparison, which excludes Open University undergraduates. Rosen and Miaari (2025) estimate that the Arab share of employed physicians up to age 67 rose from 8% in 2010 to 25% in 2023. Their survey includes East Jerusalem Palestinians and excludes the rest of the West Bank and Gaza. Both figures concern social participation.

Welfare spending. In 2021 non-Haredi Jewish local authorities averaged NIS 9,168 in annual welfare spending per registered user and non-Bedouin Arab authorities averaged NIS 6,360. Registered users include family members. Enrollment, physician employment, and spending per user measure participation and resources in different institutions.

West Bank. In December 2025, 459 of the 925 obstacles counted by OCHA hindered access from Palestinian communities to main roads. For the Ar Rifa'iyya school, distinguish the court's temporary pause on demolition in 2026, authority over Area C building permits, and the school's place in the Yatta education directorate.

Gaza. Deir al-Balah was the only Gaza municipality to elect a council in April 2026. The last territory-wide Palestinian legislative election was in 2006. An October decree canceled the November 2026 date. Local crews and a utility extended a water line in June. Israeli authorities paused a cargo route in November.

Optional comparison with Puerto Rico

Eligible Puerto Rico residents can elect a governor. Puerto Rico appoints no presidential electors. Ask which authority voters can choose for a decision. The two settings have different legal statuses, citizenship rules and institutions.

Discuss a guide revision

Open the Class report to read the first version, the question and the reply in order. The game selects a question based on the record the student leads with. The question is imagined. Each case described in the question is documented and linked in the report.

What each question tests

A participation lead. The reader generally asks how far an electoral or legal channel reaches when the decision concerns a building permit or the power to pause a cargo route. Look for the precise decision and the people who can influence it.

A rights or authority lead. The reader generally asks what a case about a given power leaves open about local service delivery, a governing coalition, or ballot access. Look for a fair account of the powers the learner can establish in each record.

Grade the link to the evidence

A student can keep the same regime label and limit one inference. Another may change the label or leave it open. Award credit for how they use the new record. For example, a student could retain a judgment about the power to halt cargo while recognizing what Deir al-Balah’s local institutions delivered. The election and the water project provide separate observations. Showing that the vote caused the project would take additional evidence.

To distinguish a strong reply from a generic defense, look for a named decision and an explanation of how the reader’s evidence affects the claim. A further observation could concern how often comparable residents succeeded in challenging a cargo pause or whether a local authority could make a specific decision without outside approval.

Historical sources

The first edition is set in spring 2000. Later publications document or interpret earlier events. Students can complete the assignment from the in-game records. These links support instructor checks and further reading.

Katzir case. Paragraph 40A of the March 8, 2000 judgment addresses discriminatory state allocation through the Jewish Agency. Paragraph 40B orders consideration of the application on equal terms. ACRI, the family's legal counsel, documents the later proceedings and the 2005 plot contract.

Ka'adan v. Israel Land Administration, HCJ 6698/95, ¶40 · Jamil Dakwar's commentary, March 2000

ACRI case chronology, Hebrew · ACRI on the September 2004 ruling, Hebrew

National vote. Hadash took three seats and the Arab Democratic Party two in the 1992 election. These are lists and seats. Hadash's delegation included a Jewish member. The 5–6 October 1995 Oslo II and confidence tally reports legislators' votes, with 120 ballots cast. The 56–59 replay treats five affirmative votes as abstentions and holds the other 115 votes fixed.

1992 election results by list · Knesset roll call, PDF pp. 527–531 and 553

Land-policy representation. The 2001 ACRI judgment documents the 18 appointees in March 1997. Nine represented the government and nine represented the Jewish National Fund. The cohort included zero Arab appointees. The denominator is 18 appointments on this body for that date. Council votes and land-allocation outcomes require their own records.

ACRI v. State of Israel, HCJ 6924/98, ¶¶7–13

Palestinian elections and authority. On January 20, 1996, 736,825 of 1,028,280 registered voters voted, a turnout of 71.66% across the West Bank and Gaza. The election commission counted its Jerusalem district with the West Bank. Use the 1994 agreement and 1995 Oslo II provisions to trace who could decide about schools and settlements.

Palestinian CEC, 1996 results, p. 1 · 1994 agreement, arts. II–IV · Oslo II, arts. IX and XVII · Oslo II, Annex III, app. 1, art. 9

East Jerusalem. Israel applied its law to East Jerusalem after 1967. The UN Security Council rejected the change in status. Permanent residency, citizenship, and eligibility under Palestinian election rules carry different voting rights.

UN Security Council Resolution 478 · UN, The Status of Jerusalem · Palestinian CEC, Jerusalem voting rules

Boundary and theory. Smooha's main application concerns Jewish and Arab citizens inside the pre-1967 boundaries. The Knesset electorate extends to eligible Israeli citizens in settlements. Yiftachel disputes the appropriate political boundary and develops an account of ethnic control inside it as well. Treat the domestic citizen scope and the selected West Bank decisions as explicit analytical comparisons.

Smooha (2002), pp. 477–481, 488 and 499 n. 3 · Yiftachel (2006), pp. 34–37, 91–97 and 101–102

Basic Law: The Knesset, §5 · Knesset Elections Law, §147 · Ghanem, Rouhana, and Yiftachel (1998)

Related approaches. Apartheid directs attention to institutionalized group domination and carries distinct legal requirements. Settler colonialism asks how control of land reproduces a political order.

Rome Statute, art. 7(1) and 7(2)(h) · Wolfe (2006) on settler colonialism and land

Contemporary sources

2015 ballot access. Apply the 3.25% national threshold to valid ballots. The 13 seats describe the four-party Joint List. The cases concerned proposed individual exclusions for two candidates from different political camps.

Knesset electoral threshold history · Central Elections Committee, 2015 final results · Supreme Court, AB 1095/15 and 1096/15, Hebrew

2026 ballot access. The October 2 ruling restored ballot access. The results of the October 27 election were certified November 4. Both seat figures use 120 Knesset seats as the denominator. Later governing outcomes need a separate record.

Court ruling, Hebrew · Library of Congress account · Central Elections Committee final national results

Basic Law and judicial interpretation. Read the 2018 provisions separately from the majority and dissent in the 2021 ruling. Each source addresses a different question about the scope and enforcement of equality.

Nation-State Basic Law, §§1(c), 4 and 7 · Hasson official summary, Hebrew · Adalah translation

Coalition and budgets. The Bank of Israel tracks the share of the 2022 allocation used. The welfare data below describe 2021, before Resolution 550 began implementation.

Knesset confidence vote · Government Resolution 550 · Bank of Israel allocation and use

Inclusion and public services. The measures are shares of students or working physicians and spending per registered welfare user.

CBS higher education, 2025/26, pp. 1–2 and 7 · Rosen and Miaari, Fig. 2 · Taub Center, Fig. 11

West Bank and Gaza movement. OCHA's West Bank obstacles include East Jerusalem. In Gaza, 474 UN and partner trucks were listed for entry and 433 unloaded on the Israeli side of Kerem Shalom during November 9–15. Delivery to recipients occurs at a later step.

OCHA West Bank movement survey · Ar Rifa'iyya school and injunction · Palestinian Ministry of Education, Yatta · Israeli Civil Administration, building permits · OCHA Gaza update, November 18 · Gaza access map

Deir al-Balah and election dates. The April 25 election chose a municipal council. The June utility record documents a water connection. The 2006 election and the decree canceling the November 2026 date concern the Palestinian legislature.

CEC local results, p. 90 · Coastal Municipalities Water Utility · CEC election history · October 2026 decree

National Archives, Electoral College · U.S. presidential voting eligibility · Congressional Research Service on the Resident Commissioner

Writing and saved work

Class allows paste from the same answer during the active draft. Changing fields or reloading clears that permission. Name, course, and For Fun accept ordinary paste. Students with instructor approval can enable ordinary paste in Progress. The report records the setting as learner-reported.

Save a JSON progress backup to recover a draft or resume on another device. Edition 1.0, 1.1 and 1.2 backups open with their original writing requirements. After revising recorded work, record the revised answer and finish the report again before exporting.