IEMed Mediterranean Yearbook 2021

The Israeli Roller Coaster between Pandemic, Peace, War and Political Turmoil

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Setting the Scene: Internal Challenges and Opportunities

After over two years without a stable government, Israel's 36th government was sworn in on 13 June 2021. The unity government will have two alternating prime ministers: Naftali Bennet, the leader of Yanima (rightwards in Hebrew), and from August 2023 Yair Lapid, leader of the centrist Yesh Atid party. It comprises factions from across the political spectrum including – for the first time – Ra'am, an Islamic Arab party. The cause that brought this hodge-podge of a coalition together was the goal to unseat Netanyahu as Prime Minister. The unity government will attempt to avoid controversial issues such as annexation, peace with the Palestinians and deep-seated reforms in the legal system, and focus on handling mainstream challenges such as economic growth, homeland security and rehabilitating the healthcare system.

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