

## Israel's Relations With Germany To Remain Strong After Merkel

Daniel Sonnenfeld / Sep. 27, 2021

***But Jerusalem may have to work harder on ties if the center-left SPD and Greens lead the coalition***

After 16 years with Angela Merkel at the helm, Germany went to elections on Sunday to choose a new government and also, a new chancellor. Preliminary results show that the country's center-left party, the Social Democrats (SPD), has won 25.7% of the votes, overcoming the ruling Christian Democrats (CDU), which received 24.1%, by a narrow margin.

[...]

**Shimon Stein**, a senior research fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies** at **Tel Aviv University** and a former Israeli ambassador to Berlin, expects no major change in the relations between the countries.

"I think that generally ... if [SPD leader Olaf] Scholz forms the next government, things will largely continue as they are," **Stein** told The Media Line. A change could arise if the Greens are part of the coalition, he explained, as they are more critical of Israel's policies in the West Bank. The SPD also has within it elements more critical of Israel. It should be noted that most coalitions currently on the table include the Greens.

"The entire issue of arms exports [to Israel] could also become slightly more problematic," **Stein** said, "but speaking generally, no significant changes are expected."

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