



The Zionist Alliance



In the State of Israel's current time of crisis, a new horizon is emerging, one that ties together the constituent parts of Israeli society in a single alliance. So, what is this Zionist alliance? What are its boundaries and its fundamental values, and how does it facilitate the coexistence of the most basic components of our identity?

We are experiencing a painful and ongoing division between our core democratic and Jewish values. We find ourselves compelled to choose between our Jewish identity and our commitment to democracy, as if to say these two values are no longer compatible. The perceived necessity of such a choice not only undermines the essence of these values and their unique connection, which forms the bedrock of the State of Israel, but also erodes the very essence of Zionism, which relies on the bond between them.

This situation is bad for the Zionist enterprise and fails to reflect the views of the Israeli public, instead pushing us towards a dark and partisan future. The battle over the image of the State of Israel unites anyone who recognizes the Zionist ideal as one where democracy and Judaism coexist. These values complement and reinforce one another, enabling the formation and empowerment of a large multi-sector alliance: a Zionist alliance.

And what is this Zionist alliance?

An alliance is a connection or bond between individuals, groups or collectives. The biblical alliance was an agreement that included a promise for a better future. Historically, such an alliance was forged between man and God, requiring both parties to commit to working to fulfill a promise for the future. An alliance encompasses moral and ideological elements, granting it a higher status than a mere partnership or contract. While a partnership merges two individuals into a single entity, an alliance fosters collaboration between distinct individuals. It allows its constituent parties to maintain their unique



identities and interests while generating a synergy so that the whole becomes more than the sum of its parts.

In the Israeli-Zionist context, an alliance can emerge among diverse groups that choose to cooperate based on common values and working to create a joint future guided by them. The groups comprising this alliance willingly commit to its implementation but are not required to sacrifice their unique identities as a prerequisite to participation.

Why Zionist? Zionism's mission, our focus here, did not end when the Jewish people arrived in Israel and established a national home — its role extends beyond the creation of a safe haven in the Land of Israel. Rather, its purpose is to renew Judaism and create an exemplary democratic society. It is a slow and ongoing process of developing and establishing the national home so that it marries Judaism and democracy, the sacred and the secular, the national and the universal. The “both/and” principle.

Democracy and Judaism are mutually dependent. The establishment of the State of Israel and the ingathering of the Jewish people were intended to position them at the forefront of humanity, creating a model state founded on democratic principles. The Declaration of Independence proclaims, "Israel shall be established on the foundations of liberty, justice and peace according to the vision of the prophets of Israel, and it is committed to upholding the individual rights of all its citizens."

Zionism is rooted in the Jewish people, but it does not reduce Judaism to mere religion nor to a completely secular culture. It embraces religious, secular and traditional perspectives, seeking to establish shared values. It enables us to take pride in our nationality while strengthening the Jewish narrative and democratic values, protecting us from destructive nationalism.

A Zionist alliance based on the "both/and" principle is the renewal of the natural partnership between the Zionist right (conservative-traditional-religious), the center, and the Zionist left (secular-liberal). It is an alliance between those who are inspired by the



profound connection between the two foundational elements of the State of Israel and who hurt when one of them is weakened. It brings together those who proudly see the flag of Israel waving in the wind and those who know in their hearts that what unites us is greater than what divides us.

The alliance operates along two axes: horizontal and vertical. The vertical axis links the alliance to the Jewish historical continuum, fostering a shared vision and future. The horizontal axis emphasizes the significance of mutual responsibility and social resilience, and the commitment of each group to safeguarding the alliance.

The Zionist alliance also includes non-Jewish partners who are an integral part of Israeli society. This inclusion arises from the unwavering commitment to both Jewish and democratic values. Israel's dedication to its Arab minority and other minority groups within its borders not only aligns with its Jewishness but complements and is essential to it. Beyond the clear humanistic and universal values which require us, as people, to view all members of our society as equal partners with rights, listen to their concerns, and aid them in overcoming challenges — particularly those for which we bear responsibility — minorities are part of our joint future. All groups aspire to ensure stability, security, prosperity and unity.

At the core of the Zionist alliance lies the concept of national responsibility for the existence of the State of Israel. It is with reverence and trepidation that the partners of the alliance accept a shared responsibility for the ongoing success of the Israeli miracle. They understand that the continued existence of the state cannot be taken for granted and is entirely dependent on their actions. Across generations, they honor the legacy of those who sacrificed their blood and sweat for the state's success, embodying the sentiment, "Everything I have built, I have built for you. Take care not to destroy and desolate my world, for once you do, there will be no one left to repair it."