

# **MEI MEDIA WATCH**

**(A Survey of Editorials)**

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**Wednesday, 1 May 2013**

## Israeli Elections, January 2013

Note: On 22 January 2013 Israel went to polls to elect the nineteenth Knesset which saw a drop in the popularity of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his ruling Likud-Yisrael Beiteinu coalition. A new centrist party Yesh-Atid under the leadership of former journalist Yair Lapid emerged as the surprise winner with 19 seats in the 120-member Knesset. The editorials commentaries from the international and the Middle Eastern media and Asia on this are reproduced here. **Editor, MEI@ND**

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Washington, Editorial, 21 January 2013, Monday

### **1. Following the elections in Israel, a reset**

**T**olosefavor in Washington was once political poison for Israeli prime ministers. Twice during the 1990s, Israelis voted out leaders who quarrelled with the U.S. president; the second one was Benjamin Netanyahu. So one of the more remarkable aspects of Israel's current election campaign, which ends at the polls on Tuesday (22 January), is that Mr. Netanyahu hasn't been afraid to play up his notoriously bad relations with President Obama. **For the full text:** [http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-01-21/opinions/36473233\\_1\\_palestinian-statehood-israelis-prime-minister](http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-01-21/opinions/36473233_1_palestinian-statehood-israelis-prime-minister)

**guardian.co.uk**

Middle East Institute @ New Delhi, [www.mei.org.in](http://www.mei.org.in)

London, Editorial, 23 January 2013, Wednesday

## 2. Israel: the new normal

The Israeli voter is to be credited with taking a good look at the far right and rejecting it – Netanyahu is 'King Bibi' no more. In the end, the crown prince of Israeli politics was not the dotcom millionaire who would annex 60% of the West Bank. He was neither of the far nor the national religious right, as many had confidently predicted. **For the full text:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2013/jan/23/israel-election-netanyahu-editorial>



New York, Editorial, 23 January 2013, Wednesday

## 3. Israel's Election

The political opponents of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel were ecstatic at his apparent losses in Tuesday's (22 January) elections. Ha'aretz, the left-leaning newspaper, called it a vote of no confidence that showed Mr. Netanyahu has "failed in the political sphere, the foreign policy sphere and the socioeconomic sphere." **For the full text:** [http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/24/opinion/israels-election.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/24/opinion/israels-election.html?_r=0)



Toronto, Editorials, 23 January 2013, Wednesday

## 4. Israel's election a rebuke to Benjamin Netanyahu and far right

In Israel's election, moderates who supported Yair Lapid's there is a Future party stole the thunder from Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud and from Naftali Bennett's far-right Jewish Home party. **For the full text:** [http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2013/01/23/israels\\_election\\_a\\_rebuke\\_to\\_benjamin\\_netanyahu\\_and\\_far\\_right\\_editorial.html](http://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials/2013/01/23/israels_election_a_rebuke_to_benjamin_netanyahu_and_far_right_editorial.html)



New York, Editorial, 24 January 2013, Thursday

## 5. Re-starts peace talks

With incumbent Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu poised to win a third term in Tuesday's (22 January) voting, concerns and even worries for the Middle East peace process are running high, as it is believed that he will continue to push his

hard-line policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict once he forms a coalition government, which will in turn dampen hopes for an early resumption of the peace talks. **For the full text:** [http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2013-01/24/content\\_16167953.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2013-01/24/content_16167953.htm)

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## THE DAILY STAR

LEBANON

Beirut, Editorial, 24 January 2013, Thursday

### 6. The same Israel

**F**or decades, Palestinians and Arabs have watched and waited as elections take place in Israel, speculating on the scenarios that might unfold if either “the left” or “the right” takes office. **For the full text:** <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/Opinion/Editorial/2013/Jan-24/203544-the-same-israel.ashx>

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## TheNational

Abu Dhabi, Editorial, 24 January 2013, Thursday

### 7. Israeli vote reveals political weakness

**J**obs, rent and food: these are the issues that sent Israelis to the polls this week. The occupation of Palestinian lands on their doorstep and the uprisings that are reshaping the entire region were largely ignored. But the ostrich with its head stuck in the sand is hardly in a position of strength. **For the full text:** <http://www.thenational.ae/thenationalconversation/editorial/israeli-vote-reveals-political-weakness>

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## THE TIMES OF INDIA

New Delhi, Editorial, 25 January 2013, Friday

### 8. Good election performance of centrist candidates in Israel augurs well for Mideast peace

**F**ears of Israel's lurch to the right may have been premature. The single most salient take away from the recently concluded Israeli elections is that Benjamin Netanyahu, for all his aggressive rhetoric, has failed to make Israeli nationalism in the form of hard-line stance on Palestine the defining issue of the Israeli polity. **For the full text:** <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/opinion/edit-page/Good-election-performance-of-centrist-candidates-in-Israel-augurs-well-for-Mideast-peace/articleshow/18171613.cms>

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# THE JERUSALEM POST BETA

JPOST.com  
Israel's Best-Selling English Daily and Most-Read English Website

Jerusalem, Editorial, 26 January 2013, Saturday

## 9. Fixing things

Last week's election returns didn't reflect anything resembling a swing to socialism. The true socialists can be found in Labour and further left in Meretz and Hadash. Israeli definitions for the political Left and Right are idiosyncratic in the extreme. The world resorts to our characterizations without quite understanding what we mean by them, erroneously dubbing our Right conservative and our Left liberal. **For the full text:** <http://www.jpost.com/Opinion/Editorials/Fixing-things>

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# THE HINDU

Chennai, Editorial, 1 February 2013,

## 10. Nothing for the Palestinians

The Israeli Central Election Committee's announcement of the final results for the January 22 (Tuesday) general election shows a sharp fall in support for the Likud-led coalition under Binyamin Netanyahu. Mr. Netanyahu will remain Prime Minister, but his right-wing Likud Yisrael Beiteinu alliance has lost over a quarter of its members in the 120-member Knesset, plummeting from 42 to 31 seats. **For the full text:** <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/nothing-for-the-palestinians/article4365918.ece>

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