

HAMAS'S RISE AS CHARTED IN THE POLLS, 1994–2005

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This report analyzes Palestinian opinion surveys over the past decade, tracking the shifting levels of support for Fatah and political Islam according to various indicators (e.g., refugee status, age, gender, occupation, and income level) and linking the shifts to political developments on the ground; the data are organized to highlight the impact of the second intifada. Among the interesting findings is the sharp gender division in support for the two movements, with women constituting the majority of political Islam's support and men dominating support for Fatah. Less surprising is Hamas's growing support in the poorest segment of the population, showing a degree of social "class" polarization. The author ends with a brief analysis of the results of the 2006 legislative elections in the light of the survey findings.

THE DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE: HAMAS, FATAH, AND THE PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

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This article examines the lead-up to the recent Palestinian legislative elections, looking especially at the Fatah's long-brewing internal crisis, born of Fatah's inability to reconcile its role as a national liberation movement with that as ruling party of the Palestinian Authority. The author assesses the impact of the new reality presented by Hamas's victory on Hamas, Fatah, and the international community, specifically addressing the post-election strategy put forward by certain Fatah elements, and backed by the United States, to undermine Hamas's victory by shifting power away from the Hamas-dominated legislative branch to the executive under the presidency of Mahmud Abbas.

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GRAHAM USHER, a journalist based for many years in the occupied territories, is the author of several books, including *Dispatches from Palestine: The Rise and Fall of the Oslo Peace Process* (Pluto Press, 1999). Though he continues to cover Israel/Palestine, he is now based in Pakistan.