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# *Judges Shouldn't Select Their Own*

An architect of Israel's judicial reform defends the government's plan.

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People hold Israeli flags as they march during a protest against the government's judicial-reform plans in Tel Aviv, March 18.

PHOTO: ABIR SULTAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

In “Netanyahu’s Judicial-Reform Blunder” (Politics & Ideas, March 22), William Galston calls for a halt to all judicial reform in Israel, due to large weekend demonstrations against the reforms. In Mr. Galston’s perfect knowledge of the future, he predicts “unending discord” as the result of Israel’s democratic process.

Naturally, Mr. Galston acknowledges the imperfections of the “status quo” and that the Israeli Supreme Court has “expanded its jurisdiction.” But rather than encourage the people’s representatives to fix one of the most obvious issues, he demands a halt.

The Israeli Supreme Court effectively selects its own. This problem is easily understood by Americans. Imagine if Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, Neil Gorsuch, Samuel Alito and John Roberts could have nixed Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. The self-selection problem is so pronounced that intellectuals of the right and left have opposed it for years. But Mr. Galston would have Israel hold up removing this undemocratic self-coronation process than allow the Knesset credit for doing its job.

The political forces of a democracy are working to solve the problems that Israel faces. Even though the left chooses the streets rather than engage in conversations, the ruling coalition has modified some reforms and suspended others, as Mr. Galston notes.

Rather than encourage the protesters in do-or-die intransigence, the readers of these pages are better served appreciating the strength of the democratic process at play in Israel. The voters deserve this and other common-sense reforms. With due sensitivity for the needs of all our citizens, this government intends to deliver them.

**MK Simcha Rothman**

*Jerusalem*

*Mr. Rothman is chairman of the Israeli Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee.*

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