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The Sociology and Epistemology of the Constitutional Crisis: Reasonableness and the Culture of Justification

This Article reviews the sociological foundations and epistemic characteristics of the public and legal debate surrounding the constitutional amendment regarding the reasonableness doctrine. The sociological explanation is rooted in the political need of the declining *Ahusal* (Ashkenazi, secular, veteran, socialist, and nationalist) hegemony to maintain its dominance through control over Israel's judicial system. This explanation draws on the works of Kimmerling, Mautner, Shamir, and Hirschl, connecting their insights to the controversy over the reasonableness doctrine.

The doctrinal guise and epistemic features of this need to preserve the hegemony are reflected in the “culture of justification,” a legal culture that requires the state to justify all of its actions before the court based on “public reason.” The Article concludes with a critique of the culture of justification, highlighting its significant democratic accountability deficit.