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MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.

Series I: Wexner Heritage Foundation, 1947-2004.

Subseries 2: Writings and Addresses, 1947-2003.

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"The Future: How Will Israel Look in 2017?" undated.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
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LECTURE IV

THE FUTURE - HOW WILL ISRAEL LOOK IN 2017?

I. Prediction of Dangers - and How to Counter Them

A. Spiritual Danger

1. Fanatical orthodoxy
2. Secularism - leading to rebellion vs. religion, specialness, chosenness
3. Desire for "normalcy" - will result in loss of sense of covenant
4. Thus we will become like everyone else in this materialistic century - and then we are doomed to become a third-rate Albania (if we cannot cure our economic problems) or, at best, if we succeed, a first-rate high-tech Japan, with no soul.
5. Ignorance of heritage will abet this process and there will be total assimilation in Diaspora, plus Canaanism in Israel.

Some Solutions to This

1. Introduce religious pluralism - to re-attract modern generation to religious and ethical values.
2. Translate "chosen" and "mission" concept into service to less-developed Africa and Asia, as we were doing before Yom Kippur war.
3. Re-structure teaching of Judaism in state schools in Israel; and strengthen parochial schools in Diaspora under "community" auspices.

B. Physical Danger

1. Destruction by an enemy
2. Over-expansion into an empire - hold West Bank militarily; why not Jordan

Some Solutions

1. Come to terms with Palestinian nationalism
2. Defend ourselves by our own ^{production} ~~protection~~

C. Economic Danger

1. Standard of living beyond our means - i.e. beyond what we are producing
2. Thus dependent on outside money - U.S. aid, German reparations, Diaspora Jewish assistance
3. "Poverty-like" existence, like many "poor" countries, Greece, Turkey, southern Italy, etc.

Some Solutions

1. Cut standard of living
2. Switch work force from services to production

3. Switch to exports - to everything to ease bureauracy
4. Increase productivity and quality by involving workers

D. Ethnic Danger

1. Ashkenazi-Sephardi antagonisms and tensions could last forever. There could be "two Israels"
2. A-S conflict has religious overtures (A-liberal secular; S-religious); and economic overtures (A-middle class; S-blue collar)
3. Civil war if hatred, suspicion, discrimination grow and get sparked off by some religious, political or economic crisis, which pits the two groups against each other.

Solutions

1. Conscious effort at integration (not artificial as in "school busing"), in civil rights, jobs, housing, intermarriage.

2. Above all, political equality in public affairs and in army.

II. Prediction of Opportunities - and How to Capitalize on them

- A. Attract Western Aliyah (and reduce Yerida simultaneously)

Solution

Create a society which will attract and hold, by:

1. reduce bureauracy
2. reduce conservatism - innovate - try new ways of organizing daily life
3. arrange a 5-day week
4. develop a work ethic
5. develop a sense of keeping one's word - Government promises to Kiryat ^{Shemona} ~~Shower~~ after every rocketing

6. develop a sense of public morality

7. develop a sense of cleanliness and politeness

B. Settle Palestinian Question

Solution

Forget about military control of a hostile population. Make compromises in West Bank.

C. Reduce Defense Burden

Solution

Political peace and self-production

D. Define Basic Economic Policy

Solution

Decide on proper mix of capitalism and socialism, so economy can develop more vigorously.

E. Reform the Electoral System

Solution

1. Constituency elections for individual M.K.s
2. Stronger Parliament
3. Reduce power of Prime Minister
4. Increase accountability of Ministers to Parliament and people
5. De-politicize all appointments in every sphere

F. Re-establish Pride in Nation Building

Solution

1. Return to concept of Jewish labor building Jewish land, instead of relying on Arab labor as "hewers of word and drawers of water".

- G. Set goal of Unlimited Free Education for every citizen

Solution

1. Reduce kindergarten age to 3 years
2. Build many 2-year community colleges
3. Build dormitories at all universities
4. Increase technical schools - ORT, Boy's Town

Conclusion

- H. Picture of Israel in 2017?
1. Political Peace - with Arab world, Third world, Russia, Europe, U.S.
 2. Economic Prosperity - producing and selling - at home and abroad
 3. Internal Harmony - ethnic wounds healing and social services improving
 4. International Role - helping other nations