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Some aberrations of our day, 1935.

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SOME ABERRATIONS OF OUR DAY

Some of the besetting social and political heresies of the modern world.

By

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

At

The Temple

On

Sunday Morning, November 17, 1935



My Friends, when the deep waters are roiled, mud comes to the surface. The deepest waters of our intellectual and spiritual lives during the last two decades have been roiled so that there is today much mud and slime in our thinking and in our deeds. I venture to say that no generation of men has ever had its nerves wracked quite as much as in our generation, or its mental life assaulted quite as violently and as continuously as ours.

We speak of change. Change is always unsettling in social life. And ~~when~~ the changes to which our generation has been subjected in the last twenty years - years resembling more earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, because of their number and frequency and violence, have left us in a sense dazed.

We have been forced to go so swiftly from great peaks of emotion and exaltation to the deepest depressions, from high hopes to great despair. Just think for a moment what has happened in previous years through which we lived: The bloodiest war in the annals of mankind; a radical reshuffling of the whole map of Europe - of the world for that matter; a communist revolution which engulfed one-sixth of the earth; a catastrophic breakdown of democratic governments in half of the world after a world war which presumably made the world safe for democracy; an economic depression swept all over the world whose magnitude and severity remain unparalleled in the history of mankind. A great many individuals try to organize mankind for peace, to defend the world against war - world courts, the League of Nations, the outlawry of war measures - resulting in the most desperate for war known to mankind.

All these major disturbances plus a great number of lesser disturbances played like incessant gunfire upon the minds and hearts of men over a period of years and have given us the world we have - a world more or less hysterical, tense, restless, full of depression and particularly full of aberrations at all times.

Sooner or later, of course, mankind will rediscover its mental poise and its emotional balance. At least that is the hope of all of us who have not lost our faith in mankind. But this rediscovery of balance and poise, of intellectual stability will not come about automatically as some people think, as a matter of course. That is not the way things happen in the world. It will come about only with patient labor and leadership which those people of the world who have not lost themselves in mental and emotional confusion, who can still think with a minimum of bias and feel with a maximum of restraint.

I want to point out this morning a few of the aberrations which afflict our world today. In the first place there are certain basic values in the world which apply at all times in any civilization regardless of the particular political economic or social complexion of that decade. There are constant values in our social life just as there are constant values in the character of an individual which were present and which will retain their identical worth in the eyes of mankind thousands of years hence - honesty, courage, loyalty, integrity, social-mindedness. These worths were important to individuals five thousand years ago but they will be indispensable one hundred thousand years hence. They don't change in civilization as a whole. Certain



values which were indispensable in the Olden Days and which must remain supreme in our future civilization regardless of the forms of those civilizations, regardless of the particular shape which the future may decree for civilization.

The saddest evidence of our confusion today is that people seem to have lost sight of these classic values and have turned away to worship certain conditions - to worship altars long ago desecrated and discarded by mankind.

Let me point out the first aberration of our day. One of the immemorial enterprises of the human spirit has always been the quest for truth - ~~the seeking of knowledge~~. Man has groped for knowledge since the beginning of his reflective life ~~and oft-times in a crisis~~, in the face of terrific obstacles outside of himself and within himself. Man has succeeded only meagerly in this quest of truth, not enough to make him wise, but enough to encourage him in his quest.

This quest for truth, truth unshackled, unbiased, true, fearless, that has been man's most magnificent adventure, his cross to be sure, man's immortality. One of the most precious legacies of the great Renaissance to the modern world has been this very thing - the spirit of free inquiry, the right of the human intellect to move forward into undiscovered worlds of thought. In other words, the autonomy of the human intellect.

One of the great aberrations of our day has been that this quest for truth is again being made subservient to the political interest of the State. Man is no longer free to seek truth. Truth is again being shackled, harnessed, to serve the particular interest



of the party in power.

In those absolutist States which are spreading all over the world, where one party alone is in control and dominates the lives of the people, people are not free to think. All thought is regimented. Every scholar who makes contributions in the fields of social science, or physical science, whose findings deviate from the presented views of the government, that man makes himself liable to the concentration camp. Every thinker, every writer becomes a state functionary. Every journalist becomes a vehicle of state propaganda. You take education - which we always looked upon as making people seek truth, enlightenment - education in these dictatorial lands of which I am speaking, is no longer education. It is pure indoctrination. The children are trained to accept and obey. In these countries an effort is being made to rewrite the whole accumulated knowledge of mankind in terms which will conform to the political and economic prejudices of the party in power.

For example, in Russia, people want a communist or proletarian mathematics and in Germany the people want a Nazi Anthropology. The Nazis pride themselves that they have "nationalized" truth, that is to say, propagandized truth. The Nazis maintain that a man should think with his blood. You know what kind of thing that leads to when you start to think with your blood instead of with your brain.

In our own country, too, very often attempts are made to harness truth to the chariot of power and privilege. Some times we try to muzzle our educators and teachers. There are many organized



groups in the United States who would like to erect emotional barriers in the minds of the rising generation and in the minds of our adults against ideas which to them seem unorthodox and revolutionary, forgetting that the radical ideas of today are frequently the ultra-conservative ideas of tomorrow. That is one of the aberrations of our day <sup>a</sup> legacy of the World War.

One of the curses of our day is that we have too much propaganda and too little of education. I used to think that ignorance was the deadliest foe of progress. But that is no longer the case. The deadliest foe of human progress is propaganda, - the cunning and skillful large scale dissemination of falsehood or half-truth. Propaganda today is far deadlier because it has perfected the act of befuddling the human mind, of undermining human reason calculated to make the worst appear the better reason. And it does it through an elaborate apparatus which disseminates through the radio, newspaper, platforms, half-truths, slogans, catch-words, appeals to the most primitive emotions of human beings. It does it by repeating the lies so often and forcible that people come to believe them as truths.

Mr. Hitler, in his book "Mein Kampf", wrote that "the generating power of great change is not so much insight as hysteria." In other words, if you want to bring about change in the political life of a nation or in the economic structure of a nation, don't do it by way of thinking and reason. Persuade people! Incite them! Drive them by passionate appeals to a pitch of hysteria. Then you will accomplish what you are after.

The Nazis in Germany, the Fascists in Italy, established themselves



in power through such devices as this technique of propaganda. This is the kind of propaganda that is attacking every citadel in all parts of the world. I don't know what we can do about it. But certainly I would introduce a systematic course in our schools of instruction where our young people will be taught to detect propaganda or how to distinguish between what is fact and what is propaganda. Have you any idea how much propaganda comes to your desk through the mail every week? There isn't a great industrial organization in this country, there isn't a group, there isn't a political organization that hasn't a highly paid propaganda machine, the purpose of which is not to provide you with facts but to sell you some goods. In the political struggle of our day - in the economic struggle of our day, this propaganda is helping to confuse the thinking of the world, to create endless aberration. You know how much we Jews have suffered from this propaganda in the last few decades.

I want to pass on to another aberration of our day - the aberration of sanctified ruthlessness and exalted brutality. In our day violence and terror have been exalted to the level of principles almost to the point of sacrificing the human. People used to be ashamed of violence and terror and brutality and force in a political struggle. Today, every devotee, <sup>of</sup> either Right or Left, simply gloats over such party phrases as "crushing the enemy", "the iron fist", "the bloody extermination of our enemies", "preying", "liquidating", "annihilating." A whole verbal sadism has crept into our political world. Tyrants in the past seldom resorted to this sadism of mind and speech even though they very frequently resorted to physical



brutality. Today this desire to hurt, to degrade, to humiliate that is being built up into a mystic cult, and the basic human decencies have not only been ignored but despised. A political opponent today is no longer a political opponent but vermin to be trampled upon under foot. Even war shows no parallelism to this sadism, this churlish vindictiveness which characterizes the politico-economic struggles of our day.

Mussolini, not so long ago, declared that he does not believe in the sanctity of human life. He was putting it mildly. The sanctity of human life has been cheapened and they have lowered human dignity in Italy.

The bloody purge of Mr. Hitler a year ago when he ordered the assassination of hundreds of his own followers, not to speak of his enemies, coldly ordered them to be butchered. This is a sample of what I mean by sanctified brutality. When Goebbels recently ordered that the names of those Jews who died on German battlefields for Germany be struck from the war memorials - that is a kind of meanness, vindictiveness, of sadism which I have in mind.

A party man is killed in Leningrad - Kiroff - and immediately hundreds of people in no way connected with the assassination are ordered to death and thousands more were exiled in order to frighten the people and to establish themselves more firmly.

Why in our own country, if you brand a man a communist, in the eyes of many patriots he ceases to be a human being entitled to his elementary human rights. He becomes an enemy, an individual to be stamped out.



In a sense, all this temper or distemper which has invaded our world is due to the doctrinaire quality of the programs of the parties involved in the politico-economic struggles of our day. Each party is convinced that it has the absolute, the final, the only scheme of national salvation. The opposition parties are therefore dangerous enemies of the nation - traitors. The highest moral considerations, therefore, demand their annihilation and this end justifies every means. This has been the traditional attitude of all those who believed themselves in possession of absolute truth.

Now the liberal is not a dogmatist and never is a doctrinaire. He is as much concerned with means as with ends. Therefore he is not inclined to make ends justify means. The liberal is as much concerned with means as in achieving the ends themselves. This is one of the classic aberrations of our day. It is a sad thing about ends. They are seldom reached. The most glorious, great, messianic ends are seldom if ever attained. Cruelty and barbarism are never short cuts to Kingdom Come. You succeed in brutalizing the present for a distant future which might never come to be. That is a terrible aberration of our day, my friends.

And then, too, there is the aberration of nationalism. And here I should like to note the difference between nationality and nationalism. They are two different things. Bertrand Russell deftly defines the two: "The advocates of nationality say that 'every country must be free to achieve its legitimate ambitions.' The advocates of nationalism say 'My country must be free to achieve its ambitions,'"



whether legitimate or not." Nationality means self determination, the right of every people to control their own political destiny free from foreign domination. That is as old as mankind. That is wholesome. That is commendable. But nationalism - that is a different thing entirely. Nationalism is quite a recent development, a product by and large of the 19th Century. It came into the world in France following the French Revolution. In Germany it came with the Napoleonic War. In Italy, with Mazzini and the struggle for unification. In this nationalism, this abstract conception of national destiny, there has always been a romantic, mystic element which was oft times corrupted into chauvenism, imperialism and dangerous belligerency. All national destiny and national mission were pious phrases coined by this aggressive and militant nationalism to cloak expansionist ambitions and economic piracy. This nationalism and its ritual patriotism has become man's other religion in the modern world.

Now, my friends, there is a kind of patriotism that is as wholesome and natural as the love of one's own home. That kind of patriotism does not require artificial stimulation. But the patriotism which is rampant in the world today makes a mockery of this wholesome, instinctive love of country.

Instead of teaching the new generation those ideals which enkindled the minds of great thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries - the idea of the federation of mankind, of world unity, the ideal of humanity. As such, this patriotism teaches the youth of the world to think in terms of terror, prejudice. Never was the world so broken up and disintegrated by this super emphasis which is being laid on nationalism as it is today.



And in a country like Germany, of course, this aberration is still further aggravated by another aberration - race. A man, in order to be a citizen, must belong to the racial stock of his country. If you are not of their race, you are an outcast. A few days ago, there was an announcement in the paper that the Jews of Germany are no longer citizens. They have been disfranchised because of their race. Now this trend, if continued in Europe, spells danger not only to the Jewish people, but for the peace and progress of the whole of mankind. When you identify race with nation as the Nazis have done, you are not merely eliminating a small Jewish group. You are aiming to include in that race question all those other people who are racially allied but who are now allied to other nations. There are 35 million Germans who now live in Czechoslovakia, France, in the Ukraine. If the Nazis mean that a nation must include all those who belong to the race, then war is the only way of achieving that end. If Germany means to include all those other millions not living in Germany, if the Nazis intend to include them, then Europe is in for one of the bloodiest of world wars. We know what the race question in terms of the negro problem meant to us in the United States and what it still means. Not even a bloody civil war could finally still solve it. That problem is one of most menacing aberrations of our day.

So, I close, my friends, with this thought - the enduring values of mankind are not to be found in these aberrations. The royal highway along which civilization has marched since the beginning of time - sometimes haltingly, often painfully, often deviating from the highway and losing itself in the byways and underbrush, but always trying to find its way back to the royal highway - this civilization always marched the way



of the free untrammelled quest for truth - not the way of propaganda, the way of the emancipation of the human intellect, not of indoctrination. It has been the way of reverence for human life, not of brutality and savagery. The great highway of human civilization has always been the way of open-mindedness, the way of intellectual tolerance, not the way of dogmatism, fanaticism, not the way of ends justifying means but the way of international cooperation, racial and religious toleration, of integrating mankind instead of dividing the solidarity of the human race. This is the only way, my friends. There is no other way and there is no other goal.





1. - When the deep waters are roiled, much mud comes to the surface. The deepest waters of the world's intell. & sp. life have been profoundly roiled in the last 2 decades and there is much mud and <sup>sludge</sup> ~~scum~~ in our thinking and feeling. No generation has had its nerves racked ~~and~~ <sup>as</sup> much as ours and its mental life subjected to such continuous and furious onslaught. Change in social life is always unsettling but the changes which shook the world in the last 20 years have been in the nature of earthquakes or volcanic eruptions, and so numerous and frequent as to leave our Western world dazed and bewildered. The bloodiest war in the annals of man - an unprecedented reshuffling of the map of the world - a communist revolution engulfing one sixth of the earth - a catastrophic break-down of democratic government in half of Europe following a war in which the world <sup>apparently</sup> was made safe for democracy - an economic collapse of <sup>scope</sup> magnitude and severity unknown to history - ~~new~~ and great, new international efforts at organizing the world for peace and covenanteeing nations against war, resulting in the costliest and most menacing race for armament and preparations for war <sup>ever</sup> known in the world's history of mankind - there and many other lesser disturbances which played like an incessant fanfare upon the minds and hearts of men, have given us the kind of a world we have - a world full of ~~transition~~ <sup>transition</sup> more or less hysterical, tense, restless, full of aberrations.

2. Sooner or later mankind will rediscover its mental poise and its emotional balance. That is the hope of all of us who have faith in mankind. But this rediscovery will not come about automatically, as a matter of course, but only through the patient labor of those and leadership of those who are not too far lost in confusion and bewilderment, and who can still think without



a minimum of bias and fear with a maximum of restraint.

3. There are certain values which are essential to every civilization regardless of their social, political or economic <sup>(such as civilization)</sup> complexities. There are the abiding and enduring values, the constant factors in human progress. Just as there are values in personal character which were precious in the night of man thousands of years ago and which retain their identical worth among men to-day and will in the future all times - courage, loyalty, honesty, self-restraint, social-mindedness - so there are social values which were accounted indispensable of old and which must persist in the future regardless of the new forms of social life and organization which the future will decree. The saddest evidence of our life's confusion to-day is that ~~we~~ so many have lost sight of these classic values, and have turned aside to worship at altars long ago broken, and desecrated <sup>+ discarded</sup> by mankind.

4. One of the immortal enterprises, the human spirit has been the seeking of truth. Man has groped for truth, for knowledge, for wisdom, since the beginning, his reflection life and in the face of terrific obstacles, outside, himself and within himself. He has succeeded only ~~in part~~ <sup>in part</sup> amazingly, not enough to make him wise, but enough to encourage him in his quest. But the quest for truth - unshackled, unbiased, fearless, that has been man's magnificent adventure, his cross, to be sure, but also his crown and his immortality. One of the by-products, the Renaissance to the modern world is the spirit of free inquiry in all domains of thought, the autonomy



are frequently the ultra-conservative ideas, to-morrow.  
Our age has too much of propaganda and not enough of  
education. Ignorance used to be the great enemy of  
human progress in the past. To-day propaganda is that  
enemy. This new foe of civilization is far more cunning  
and deadly. Propaganda in our day has <sup>deliberately and systematically</sup> perfected the art  
of befuddling the mind, man with half-truths, slanders, catch-words,  
and a variety of <sup>persuasive</sup> emotional appeals calculated to make the worst  
appear the better reason. It has an <sup>elaborate</sup> apparatus for undermining human  
reason. The Fascists and Nazis destroyed democracy by propaganda,  
<sup>especially among the young and the disaffected.</sup>  
Hitler wrote that "the ~~force~~ generating power of great change  
is not so much insight as hysteria". Repeat it often  
enough and forcefully enough, and men will come to believe it.  
This is the deadly technique of propaganda, <sup>the technique of lies and hysteria</sup> which is every  
where attacking the citadels of civilization.

5. Another aberration of our day is that of sanctified ruthles-  
ness and exacted brutality. Violence and terror have  
been exalted into principles, nay sacraments of social  
progress. Advocates of all forms of political monopoly whether  
the Right or the Left fairly flout our such ~~concepts~~ party  
phrases as 'the iron fist', 'the hard, relentless rule' the  
"bloody extermination of our enemies", "purging", "liquidating",  
"annihilating". Few tyrants in the past even indulged in  
such verbal racism, even though they frequently  
practiced it upon their subjects. But political racism  
has now, in many parts, the world become a mystic  
pious cult. <sup>The grandeur of personal morality and basic human decency are not only ignored but despised.</sup> A political opponent is no longer a  
political opponent - but a vermin, to be crushed



under foot into the dirt. War has few parallels to this savagery,  
this churlish vindictiveness which characterize the politico-economic  
struggles of our day. ~~to justify war~~ When Mussolini declared that  
he did not believe in the sanctity of human life - he was putting  
it mildly. Human life has been cheapened, and human  
dignity buried with the dirt. ~~The~~ Hitler's bloody purge of  
last year, when he ordered the slaughter of hundreds of his  
own party - not to mention his enemies - is a horrible  
<sup>As is the recent order of Goebbels to</sup> symbol of this age of frightfulness. A party leader is  
slain in Lemmer - and multitudes, in no way involved  
in his death, are slaughtered and thousands more exiled.  
Brand a man a communist in our own country and  
in the eyes of many patriots he ceases to be a  
human being - entitled to ~~the~~ elementary human con-  
siderations. ~~Only~~

In a sense, then, <sup>simple, or disorderly</sup> ~~the~~ which has invaded the war world is  
due to the doctrinaire quality of the programs of the parties involved  
in the politico-economic struggles of our day. Each party is con-  
vinced that it has the absolute, the final, the only scheme of  
<sup>national</sup> ~~national~~ salvation. The opposing parties are therefore dangerous  
enemies, their nations - traitors. The highest moral considerations  
therefore demand their annihilation, and this end justifies  
every means. This has been the traditional attitude of all  
those who believed themselves in possession of absolute  
truth.

The Liberal, who is never a dogmatist or a doctrinaire,  
is as much concerned with the means as with ends,  
particularly nice ends - great, glorious, necessary ends - are  
redone if even ~~some~~ attained. Cruelty and ~~expulsion~~ <sup>brutality</sup> are  
no short-cuts to Kingdom come. You succeed only in  
brutalizing the present for a distant future which



as a rule, never arrives. Neither Rome, Moscow or Berlin  
offer any convincing refutation, the liberal's position.

6. I point to another observation. Nationalism. Now I draw  
a clear line of distinction, which men frequently overlook, between  
the principle of nationality and the principle of nationalism.  
Bernhard Russell deftly defines the two. "The advocates of  
nationality say: Every country must be free to achieve  
its legitimate ambitions. The advocates of nationalism say:  
"My country must be free to achieve its ambitions,  
whether legitimate or not." Nationality is the principle  
of self-determination. Every people, conscious of being  
a distinct people, has the right to control its own  
political destinies, free from foreign domination. That  
is as old as human groupings, conscious of their group  
solidarity, existed upon the earth. But nationalism is  
quite a recent development, a product of and sign of  
the 19th c. It began it begins with the Revolution. In  
Germany with the Napoleonic Wars. In Italy with  
Mazzini and the struggle for unification. This nationalism  
has always had in it a mystic, ~~unreasonable and a special confidence~~ romantic element, which has  
~~made~~ <sup>frequently</sup> been corrupted into imperialism and chauvinism,  
and dangerous belligerency. National destiny and national  
mission were pious phrases coined by this aggressive  
and militant nationalism to cloak expansionist  
ambitions and economic piracy. This nationalism,  
and its ritual patriotism, has become man's other  
religion in the modern world.



7. Now there is a patriotism etc. p. 41.

8. In Germany to-day this destructive nationalism has been still further <sup>and the aberration</sup> ~~concentrated~~ by the ~~concept~~ of race. Nation has been made synonymous with race. Only those belonging to the racial stock, the dominant majority are recognized as citizens. All others are disfranchised, and politically, economically and socially degraded. For today, the Jew, German men specially disfranchised, and real out of German life. This trend, if it is a trend, spells danger not only to the Jewish people but to all peoples. I am not concerned with this problem, simply as a Jew. The Jew, I am persuaded, will outlive Hitler. The Nazi regime is 3 years old. We are 3000. The Jews lived in for centuries without the rights of citizenship, and the Jewish Community of Germany will endure in their ~~dislocation~~ <sup>They have lost the citizenship.</sup> I agree and wait for the coming of a better day - <sup>in the city of Jerusalem.</sup> ~~But so have all Germans. There are no citizens in the city of Jerusalem. <sup>What does this recrudescence of racialism mean for the modern world?</sup> We know what racialism, in terms, the negro problem, meant to us in the U.S. and what it still means. Not even a bloody civil war could <sup>finally</sup> ~~solve~~ it. In Europe it spells <sup>a caution of races</sup> ~~danger~~ <sup>a revival of human progress</sup> ~~but~~ a source of endless conflict and war. The race principle in nationalism, proclaimed by the Nazis means not only the exclusion of Jews, but in <sup>in division, this was within the Reich of all Teutonic people were citizens of neighboring countries. This means was in Europe.</sup> ~~in division, this was within the Reich of all Teutonic people were citizens of neighboring countries. This means was in Europe.~~~~
9. My friends: The enduring values of civilization are not to be found among these aberrations - however popular and prevalent they may be to-day. They are retarding civilization to-day; in many ways, they are menacing it.







, the human intellect.

One of the characteristics of our day is that truth, <sup>is again being made</sup> ~~is again being made~~ the political end, the State. In the absolutist states which have been established, where the only party tolerated in the state dominates the ~~complete~~ total life of the people, the human intellect is again made subservient to the interests of a political autocracy. The spirit of free inquiry leads to the concentration camp. Thought is regimented. Any scholarly contribution to the field of the social sciences and even of the physical sciences which is a deviation from the prescribed ~~political~~ views of the government is heresy. Every writer is a state functionary. Every journalist a vehicle of state propaganda. The education of youth is pure indoctrination. They are not taught to think. They are trained to accept and obey. In the totalitarian states - and they cover a considerable part of the Western world to-day - they are rewriting history, economics, sociology to conform to their party dogmas. I read of Russians wanting a proletarian mathematics, and Germans concocting a Nazi anthropology. The Nazis boast that they have "nationalized" truth. One must think with his blood, they say.

In our own country, attempts are frequently made to harness thought to the chariot of power and privilege, to muzzle educators, to punish the expression of unpopular and unconventional views, to erect an emotional barrier in the minds of our children and our adults against ideas which appear <sup>to be</sup> radical or revolutionary. pretending that the radical ideas of today



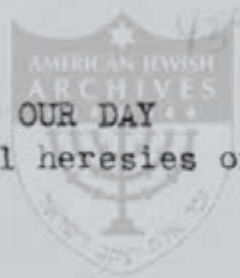
WRHS  
SOME ABERRATIONS OF OUR DAY

Some of the besetting social and political heresies of the modern world.

By  
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

At  
The Temple

On  
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My Friends, when the deep waters are roiled, mud comes to the surface. The deepest waters of our intellectual and spiritual lives during the last two decades have been roiled so that there is today much mud and slime in our thinking and in our deeds. I venture to say that no generation of men has ever had its nerves wracked quite as much as in our generation, or its mental life assaulted quite as violently and as continuously as ours.

We speak of change. Change is always unsettling in social life. And ~~when~~ the changes to which our generation has been subjected in the last twenty years - years resembling more earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, because of their number and frequency and violence, have left us in a sense dazed.

We have been forced to go so swiftly from great peaks of emotion and exaltation to the deepest depressions, from high hopes to great despair. Just think for a moment what has happened in previous years through which we lived: The bloodiest war in the annals of mankind; a radical reshuffling of the whole map of Europe - of the world for that matter; a communist revolution which engulfed one-sixth of the earth; a catastrophic breakdown of democratic governments in half of the world after a world war which presumably made the world safe for democracy; an economic depression swept all over the world whose magnitude and severity remain unparalleled in the history of mankind. A great many individuals try to organize mankind for peace, to defend the world against war - world courts, the League of Nations, the outlawry of war measures - resulting in the most desperate for war known to mankind.



All these major disturbances plus a great number of lesser disturbances played like incessant gunfire upon the minds and hearts of men over a period of years and have given us the world we have - a world more or less hysterical, tense, restless, full of depression and particularly full of aberrations at all times.

Sooner or later, of course, mankind will rediscover its mental poise and its emotional balance. At least that is the hope of all of us who have not lost our faith in mankind. But this rediscovery of balance and poise, of intellectual stability will not come about automatically as some people think, as a matter of course. That is not the way things happen in the world. It will come about only with patient labor and leadership which those people of the world who have not lost themselves in mental and emotional confusion, who can still think with a minimum of bias and feel with a maximum of restraint.

I want to point out this morning a few of the aberrations which afflict our world today. In the first place there are certain basic values in the world which apply at all times in any civilization regardless of the particular political economic or social complexion of that decade. There are constant values in our social life just as there are constant values in the character of an individual which were present and which will retain their identical worth in the eyes of mankind thousands of years hence - honesty, courage, loyalty, integrity, social-mindedness. These worths were important to individuals five thousand years ago but they will be indispensable one hundred thousand years hence. They don't change in civilization as a whole. Certain



values which were indispensable in the Olden Days and which must remain supreme in our future civilization regardless of the forms of those civilizations, regardless of the particular shape which the future may decree for civilization.

The saddest evidence of our confusion today is that people seem to have lost sight of these classic values and have turned away to worship certain conditions - to worship altars long ago desecrated and discarded by mankind.

Let me point out the first aberration of our day. One of the immemorial enterprises of the human spirit has always been the quest for truth - ~~the seeking of knowledge~~. Man has groped for knowledge since the beginning of his reflective life ~~and oft-times in a crisis~~, in the face of terrific obstacles outside of himself and within himself. Man has succeeded only meagerly in this quest of truth, not enough to make him wise, but enough to encourage him in his quest.

This quest for truth, truth unshackled, unbiased, true, fearless, that has been man's most magnificent adventure, his cross to be sure, man's immortality. One of the most precious legacies of the great Renaissance to the modern world has been this very thing - the spirit of free inquiry, the right of the human intellect to move forward into undiscovered worlds of thought. In other words, the autonomy of the human intellect.

One of the great aberrations of our day has been that this quest for truth is again being made subservient to the political interest of the State. Man is no longer free to seek truth. Truth is again being shackled, harnessed, to serve the particular interest



of the party in power.

In those absolutist States which are spreading all over the world, where one party alone is in control and dominates the lives of the people, people are not free to think. All thought is regimented. Every scholar who makes contributions in the fields of social science, or physical science, whose findings deviate from the presented views of the government, that man makes himself liable to the concentration camp. Every thinker, every writer becomes a state functionary. Every journalist becomes a vehicle of state propaganda. You take education - which we always looked upon as making people seek truth, enlightenment - education in these dictatorial lands of which I am speaking, is no longer education. It is pure indoctrination. The children are trained to accept and obey. In these countries an effort is being made to rewrite the whole accumulated knowledge of mankind in terms which will conform to the political and economic prejudices of the party in power.

For example, in Russia, people want a communist or proletarian mathematics and in Germany the people want a Nazi Anthropology. The Nazis pride themselves that they have "nationalized" truth, that is to say, propagandized truth. The Nazis maintain that a man should think with his blood. You know what kind of thing that leads to when you start to think with your blood instead of with your brain.

In our own country, too, very often attempts are made to harness truth to the chariot of power and privilege. Some times we try to muzzle our educators and teachers. There are many organized



groups in the United States who would like to erect emotional barriers in the minds of the rising generation and in the minds of our adults against ideas which to them seem unorthodox and revolutionary, forgetting that the radical ideas of today are frequently the ultra-conservative ideas of tomorrow. That is one of the aberrations of our day <sup>a</sup>/<sub>7</sub> legacy of the World War.

One of the curses of our day is that we have too much propaganda and too little of education. I used to think that ignorance was the deadliest foe of progress. But that is no longer the case. The deadliest foe of human progress is propaganda, - the cunning and skillful large scale dissemination of falsehood or half-truth. Propaganda today is far deadlier because it has perfected the act of befuddling the human mind, of undermining human reason calculated to make the worst appear the better reason. And it does it through an elaborate apparatus which disseminates through the radio, newspaper, platforms, half-truths, slogans, catch-words, appeals to the most primitive emotions of human beings. It does it by repeating the lies so often and forcible that people come to believe them as truths.

Mr. Hitler, in his book "Mein Kampf", wrote that "the generating power of great change is not so much insight as hysteria." In other words, if you want to bring about change in the political life of a nation or in the economic structure of a nation, don't do it by way of thinking and reason. Persuade people! Incite them! Drive them by passionate appeals to a pitch of hysteria. Then you will accomplish what you are after.

The Nazis in Germany, the Fascists in Italy, established themselves



in power through such devices as this technique of propaganda. This is the kind of propaganda that is attacking every citadel in all parts of the world. I don't know what we can do about it. But certainly I would introduce a systematic course in our schools of instruction where our young people will be taught to detect propaganda or how to distinguish between what is fact and what is propaganda. Have you any idea how much propaganda comes to your desk through the mail every week? There isn't a great industrial organization in this country, there isn't a group, there isn't a political organization that hasn't a highly paid propaganda machine, the purpose of which is not to provide you with facts but to sell you some goods. In the political struggle of our day - in the economic struggle of our day, this propaganda is helping to confuse the thinking of the world, to create endless aberration. You know how much we Jews have suffered from this propaganda in the last few decades.

I want to pass on to another aberration of our day - the aberration of sanctified ruthlessness and exalted brutality. In our day violence and terror have been exalted to the level of principles almost to the point of sacrificing the human. People used to be ashamed of violence and terror and brutality and force in a political struggle. Today, every devotee, <sup>of</sup> either Right or Left, simply gloats over such party phrases as "crushing the enemy", "the iron fist", "the bloody extermination of our enemies", "preying", "liquidating", "annihilating." A whole verbal sadism has crept into our political world. Tyrants in the past seldom resorted to this sadism of mind and speech even though they very frequently resorted to physical



brutality. Today this desire to hurt, to degrade, to humiliate that is being built up into a mystic cult, and the basic human decencies have not only been ignored but despised. A political opponent today is no longer a political opponent but vermin to be trampled upon under foot. Even war shows no parallelism to this sadism, this churlish vindictiveness which characterizes the politico-economic struggles of our day.

Mussolini, not so long ago, declared that he does not believe in the sanctity of human life. He was putting it mildly. The sanctity of human life has been cheapened and they have lowered human dignity in Italy.

The bloody purge of Mr. Hitler a year ago when he ordered the assassination of hundreds of his own followers, not to speak of his enemies, coldly ordered them to be butchered. This is a sample of what I mean by sanctified brutality. When Goebbels recently ordered that the names of those Jews who died on German battlefields for Germany be struck from the war memorials - that is a kind of meanness, vindictiveness, of sadism which I have in mind.

A party man is killed in Leningrad - Kiroff - and immediately hundreds of people in no way connected with the assassination are ordered to death and thousands more were exiled in order to frighten the people and to establish themselves more firmly.

Why in our own country, if you brand a man a communist, in the eyes of many patriots he ceases to be a human being entitled to his elementary human rights. He becomes an enemy, an individual to be stamped out.



In a sense, all this temper or distemper which has invaded our world is due to the doctrinaire quality of the programs of the parties involved in the politico-economic struggles of our day. Each party is convinced that it has the absolute, the final, the only scheme of national salvation. The opposition parties are therefore dangerous enemies of the nation - traitors. The highest moral considerations, therefore, demand their annihilation and this end justifies every means. This has been the traditional attitude of all those who believed themselves in possession of absolute truth.

Now the liberal is not a dogmatist and never is a doctrinaire. He is as much concerned with means as with ends. Therefore he is not inclined to make ends justify means. The liberal is as much concerned with means as in achieving the ends themselves. This is one of the classic aberrations of our day. It is a sad thing about ends. They are seldom reached. The most glorious, great, messianic ends are seldom if ever attained. Cruelty and barbarism are never short cuts to Kingdom Come. You succeed in brutalizing the present for a distant future which might never come to be. That is a terrible aberration of our day, my friends.

And then, too, there is the aberration of nationalism. And here I should like to note the difference between nationality and nationalism. They are two different things. Bertrand Russell deftly defines the two: "The advocates of nationality say that 'every country must be free to achieve its legitimate ambitions.' The advocates of nationalism say 'My country must be free to achieve its ambitions,'"



whether legitimate or not." Nationality means self determination, the right of every people to control their own political destiny free from foreign domination. That is as old as mankind. That is wholesome. That is commendable. But nationalism - that is a different thing entirely. Nationalism is quite a recent development, a product by and large of the 19th Century. It came into the world in France following the French Revolution. In Germany it came with the Napoleonic War. In Italy, with Mazzini and the struggle for unification. In this nationalism, this abstract conception of national destiny, there has always been a romantic, mystic element which was oft times corrupted into chauvenism, imperialism and dangerous belligerency. All national destiny and national mission were pious phrases coined by this aggressive and militant nationalism to cloak expansionist ambitions and economic piracy. This nationalism and its ritual patriotism has become man's other religion in the modern world.

Now, my friends, there is a kind of patriotism that is as wholesome and natural as the love of one's own home. That kind of patriotism does not require artificial stimulation. But the patriotism which is rampant in the world today makes a mockery of this wholesome, instinctive love of country.

Instead of teaching the new generation those ideals which enkindled the minds of great thinkers of the 18th and 19th centuries - the idea of the federation of mankind, of world unity, the ideal of humanity. As such, this patriotism teaches the youth of the world to think in terms of terror, prejudice. Never was the world so broken up and disintegrated by this super emphasis which is being laid on nationalism as it is today.



And in a country like Germany, of course, this aberration is still further aggravated by another aberration - race. A man, in order to be a citizen, must belong to the racial stock of his country. If you are not of their race, you are an outcast. A few days ago, there was an announcement in the paper that the Jews of Germany are no longer citizens. They have been disfranchised because of their race. Now this trend, if continued in Europe, spells danger not only to the Jewish people, but for the peace and progress of the whole of mankind. When you identify race with nation as the Nazis have done, you are not merely eliminating a small Jewish group. You are aiming to include in that race question all those other people who are racially allied but who are now allied to other nations. There are 35 million Germans who now live in Czechoslovakia, France, in the Ukraine. If the Nazis mean that a nation must include all those who belong to the race, then war is the only way of achieving that end. If Germany means to include all those other millions not living in Germany, if the Nazis intend to include them, then Europe is in for one of the bloodiest of world wars. We know what the race question in terms of the negro problem meant to us in the United States and what it still means. Not even a bloody civil war could finally still solve it. That problem is one of most menacing aberrations of our day.

So, I close, my friends, with this thought - the enduring values of mankind are not to be found in these aberrations. The royal highway along which civilization has marched since the beginning of time - sometimes haltingly, often painfully, often deviating from the highway and losing itself in the byways and underbrush, but always trying to find its way back to the royal highway - this civilization always marched the way



of the free untrammelled quest for truth - not the way of propaganda, the way of the emancipation of the human intellect, not of indoctrination. It has been the way of reverence for human life, not of brutality and savagery. The great highway of human civilization has always been the way of open-mindedness, the way of intellectual tolerance, not the way of dogmatism, fanaticism, not the way of ends justifying means but the way of international cooperation, racial and religious toleration, of integrating mankind instead of dividing the solidarity of the human race. This is the only way, my friends. There is no other way and there is no other goal.





SOME ABERRATIONS OF OUR DAY

Sermon  
439

1. When the deep waters are roiled -  
No generation has had its nerves -  
Change  
Emotionally we passed - peaks -  
exaltations  
The bloodiest war - incessant <sup>drum</sup> ~~gun~~-fire
2. Sooner or later
3. There are certain values -  
Saddest evidence - altars  
\* Such apostasy - in trouble - without  
leadership - Golden calf - for in  
crisis and great change -  
"Maranatha" - messianic dreams of  
quick salvation by revolution -  
short-cuts to the Kingdom
4. First aberration: Attempt to re-enslave  
the human mind.  
• The classic struggle of the ages has  
been for freedom of thought.  
One of the immemorial enterprizes  
Man has groped  
Succeeded -  
One of the proudest legacies - mind  
defying tradition - challenging  
authority - flaunting the cherished  
prejudices of masses and classes.  
Our age is trying to undo the work of  
ages.



Shackle truth to chariots of political or economic victors - Serve political ends of the party in control of the State.

In absolutist states - intellect made subservient to pol. autocracy.

Spirit of free inquiry - concentration camp That is regimented.

Scholarly research - deviation - heresy.

Every writer - a state functionary

Every journalist - a vehicle for propaganda.

Education - indoctrination.

They are not taught to think - trained to accept - obey.

In totalitarian states - rewriting history economics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, in fact all branches of the sciences, as well as some of the physical, to conform to pol. econ. racial or nationalistic dogmas of the party in power. -

Nazis boast - "nationalized" truth. One must think with "his blood".

Whatever book is out of harmony - they burn. - ~~Thus not the bodies,~~  
~~but the mind~~ - children of some of the greatest men of Germany have been led to the 20th century ~~auto-de-fe and burnt at the stake.~~



This is true of Soviet Russia as well - where much of the pre-proletarian culture not alone of Russia but of mankind has been discarded, as hostile to the regime, and where independent thought is absolutely proscribed.

5. In our own country - such attempts to harness thought to service of power and privilege - frequently made. Increasingly attempts made to muzzle education - to intimidate educators through teacher's oaths of loyalty - to punish expression of unpopular and unconventional views, to erect emotional barrier - forgetting that radical ideas of to-day
6. Our age has not enough of education and too much of propaganda. And civilization may be said to be a race between education and propaganda. Ignorance used to be greatest enemy - today - far more cunning, unscrupulous aggressive and deadly. Propaganda in our day perfected art of befuddling - with half truths - slogans, catch-words - primitive appeals, calculated to make the worst appear the better reason.



It has an elaborate technique for undermining human reason, and for stampeding masses into surrendering their most valuable political and spiritual possessions, and into doing what in sober judgment they would never do.

Fascists and Nazis destroyed Dem. by prop. especially among the young and disaffected.

Hitler wrote: "The generating power of great change is not so much insight as hysteria."

~~Musolini knows it. Gerald L.A. Smith knows it.~~

Gerald L.A. Smith knows it. They are not naive. They are shrewd, calculating and unscrupulous. They know exactly how to concoct the blinding, intoxicating drink - the drink which robs men of their reason - and drives them to do mad, indecent things.

And they are swindlers all. They will deliberately repeat lies or snyster 1/2 truths often enough, and venemently enough so that men will come to accept them as axioms.

When they rant against communism, for example, and rabole-rcuse the people against it - they don't mean communism at all, but all forms of



advanced social legislation and the influence of organized labor. When these men invoke with religious fervor in our country the ideals of democracy and the sacredness of the Constitution, and blood-curdle the nation with warnings against dictatorship - they don't mean that at all. At heart they are all hankering for dictatorship - their kind of dictatorship. They would be the first to tear the Constitution to shreds, if, for example, a Popular Front government like that in Spain, or in France, ever came into power constitutionally and through democratic elections - as they did in Spain and in France. See their open and shameless sympathy with the Spanish Fascist rebels and their mad fury at the loyalists and their loyally constituted government as if they had started the rebellion. They denounce the irreligion of the loyalist forces but these proud defenders of Christianity are not averse to seeing Mohammedan Arabs and the scum and human offal of the Spanish Foreign Legion being employed to bring ruin and horror upon the entire nation in an effort to destroy a legally constituted government elected by an overwhelming majority of the people of Spain.

*Swindlers*  
*Miserable - Their Speech*  
*East End*



Propaganda - today, made  
powerful through the radio, and the  
press - is undermining -

7. A 2nd Aberration: - the sanctification  
of ruthlessness and brutality in  
social struggles of our day.

Violence and Terror exalted into  
sacrament.

Partizans in politico-economic struggles  
fairly gloat.

Few tyrants in past indulged in such  
indecent hatreds - meanness - and  
sadism.

All mandates of sympathy, tolerance,  
civility not to speak of love and  
compassion - ignored.

Masters of mental violence, fist-shakers  
and braggards hold the stage  
in many great countries to-day.

A pol. <sup>apparatus</sup> ~~apparent~~, - vermin.

Few parallels in history to the  
churlishness, vindictiveness and  
savagery of present struggles -  
Spain, Germany, Soviet  
Russia.

When Mussolini - sanctity of human life -  
cheapened - ~~Hitler's~~ bloody purge -  
Nazis not only persecute Jews -  
degrade - rob them of human dignity -  
hurt their souls - ~~Stalin's~~ bloody  
purge - and trials.

Streicher  
9. 10. 1938



In our own land - brand a man - lynch  
him

8. This all goes with the impatient  
dogmatism which is replacing  
liberal thinking.

Age turning doctrinaire. - Each party  
convinced possessed of absolute  
truth and only key to human  
salvation - Opponents are therefore  
enemies of society -

End justifies means - all means to  
destroy them.

The liberal, who is never a doctrinaire  
interested as much in means as  
in ends -

Refuses to employ cruelty, barbarism -  
short-cuts -

You succeed only in brutalizing -

9. A 3rd Aberration: the submergence of  
the individual in state totalitari-  
anism.

Everywhere the state is encroaching  
upon the freedom of the individual.

\* Men are forgetting that "liberty  
today rests not so much on ~~the~~ <sup>men</sup>  
government's as on those rights ~~the~~  
have wrested from the Governments",  
(James A. Garfield)



Horn -

Hatch - propagandist teacher as  
class-room.

Mrs. Hyatt + express opinion - ex cathedra

Mrs. Ryan + Teacher branded as communist.

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- Parents into confidence

- Imminence of war -

- Neutrality - no solution -

However - weak fighters?

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Our responsibility?

League, Nat.



It took bloody revolutions to establish the dogma that man has certain inalienable rights - forever exempt - veto - Mussolini - "Here, as in Russia we are advocates - collective significance - at expense of individual Spiritual advantages to doctrine of collectivism - careerism - Both Judaism and Christianity.

The danger lies - excessive zeal and over-reaching - complete subjugation of individual.

Our experience in last 16 years - individual sacrificed to coordination. In place of freedom - dictators must give their people substitutes - national heroics - Delusions of conquest and empire, and mystic racial blood-cuets and rituals: These beguile for a time - but only for a time.

Regimentation - fatal to man's spiritual and intellectual life. Tends to dry up well-springs of originality and creativeness.

When man is not allowed to stand alone - to dissent - to proclaim the truth - own soul's travail - his spiritual life is destroyed.



10. <sup>3</sup>4th Aberration - Narrow, intolerant Nationalism, or Chauvenism. I draw - principle of nationality - nationalism Principle of nationality - as old as struggle of peoples for self-determination.

But nationalism is a quite recent by-product of national awakening 19C In France - begins with Renn. In Germany - Napoleonic Wars. In Italy with Mazzini -

The one advocates: "Every country must be free to achieve - (Bertrand Russel) - "My country - regardless -

This nationalism has always had its romantic mystic element and frequently created fictitious concepts - national destiny - mission - rationalization of predatory expansionism - economic piracy.

It has led peoples to indulge in shameless excesses of self-praise vulgar boastfulness, arrogant conceit and indecent exhibitionism - listen to Hitler, Goebbels, Rosenberg in Germany, or Mussolini in Italy - excellencies - exclusive virtues - of their peoples



"Blessed are the meek - for they shall  
inherit the earth.

This nationalism with its ritual-  
patriotism - is today "man's other  
religion".

11. There is a patriotism - requires no  
indoctrination

But our Western World - harassed -  
It is a disgraceful strategy - to  
force youth into crabbed, suspicious  
provincialism - stampeded into war  
whenever interested parties want it-  
The Universal Ideal - 18C -19C -  
citizen of World - Washington -  
Jefferson - Benjamin Franklin -  
pushed out of men's minds - by  
restrictive - truculent - intolerant  
nationalism.

Internationalism - blackest heresy -  
Men no longer talk of Humanity -  
Modern man is being ghettotized -

12. Nat. synonymous with race - only those  
In name of this racial nat -



13. 5th Aberration - Glorification of War -  
as national destiny.

Under new dispensation - function of  
state not to preserve law and order  
and insure largest measure of  
justice among men -

Function - is conquest through war.

The new spirit is the "Wehrgeist".

Hites Goal of all education - "Wehrhaftigkeit".

"Battle is divine business of every  
German".

In Italy - children - science of  
soldiering.

"In pre-war days, in Europe (Franz Werfel)  
soldiers marched because they had  
to, now boys of 12 march for the  
fun of it" -

All industry - scientific research -  
organization skill - inventive  
genius set to one task - preparation  
for War.

A mystic adoration of force, of  
"schrecklichkeit."

He who speaks, as Gen. Sherman spoke,  
of the horrors of war - stupidity -  
wastefulness - and unholy motives -  
is a cowardly, traitorous pacifist -  
an enemy of the nation - and give  
him the boot and the whip and the  
fist!



Mad race for armament - These are  
never insurance against war -  
they insure war!

The days of 1914 - are back again -  
 and the only reason why they are  
 not yet blasting away at each other -  
 not yet fully prepared.

14. What can we do about it? Those of us  
 who can still think with -

*Teachers*  
Cling to, proclaim, teach, enduring  
classic values - which these  
 aberrations have eclipsed.

Not to accept defeat - The battle is  
far from lost -

In these dark days of confusion -

(1) Attempt to re-enslave mind of man -  
proclaim and defend autonomy and  
sovereignty of human intellect.

② Train ourselves to detect and  
expose propaganda. We need a  
 → course in the diagnosis of and  
 prophylactic against propaganda in  
 our schools.

*SDX-10717*  
 (2) Against increasing brutality in  
social struggle - let us as  
 liberals insist on right and  
just means as well as on right

and just ends. We once thought that the World War would end all war and we, therefore, sanctioned it. We know better now. War never ends war. Violent class struggle will never end classes, but create new warring classes. Dictatorship of the proletariat will never make the proletariat free. Freedom alone makes for greater freedom. Peaceful ways will insure greater peace.

- (3) Against encroachment of state - let us set up all possible barriers. We must debunk its idolatry, curb its pretensions and expose the ridiculous quacking of the Dukes, Fuehrers and Commissars -
- Since the Renaissance and the Reformation since Machiavelli and Luther, the concept of state moral self-sufficiency has fearfully advanced. Since Hegel and Fichte the state has been apothesized. The state is itself right! This doctrine degrades morality to political strategy. We must resist
- that. This is not a plea for rugged individualism nor against all forms of government management of business - but for a balance between individualism and collective management - a human plea

No Inter-Morality left

Ethiopia - Spain -



preserving for the individual sufficiently large and free areas in every field of human thought and endeavor - to give scope to his initiative, his originality and his spirit of adventure. Else life is doomed to a frightful robotism.

- (4) Against chauvenism - nationalism - we must unflinchingly stress solidarity of human family, international cooperation and good-will -

Must begin anew to talk of Humanity -  
 "Have we not all one Father - Hath Not One God -"

"The God that made the world and all nations therein - made of one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth".

*Adam*  
*Concept*  
*Answer*  
 We are all different in many ways but we are all necessary to each other. The strings of a harp are of different lengths and yield different sounds - but all the strings are of equal importance for they are all necessary -

~~Progress of man~~ has been from persecution - Forbearance -

Tolerance - Appreciation - To

Cooperation - Let us not reverse the

process -

- (5) Against War madness - education for peace - peace mood - international instrumentalities for consultation, arbitration and prevention of war. Collective action for collective security. War is here - not to be praised - ~~or~~ prepared against but to be eradicated.

15. This is the task of our age.





Hitler

"It will be the task of the  
Nationalist State to see to it  
that an adequate education  
is given to youth in order  
to provide for a generation  
prepared for the final and  
greatest decisions on this  
Earth"

1/ Roiled - <sup>nerves racked / - mental Substr.</sup> No generation - Change - Passed  
The bloodiest

2/ Sooner or later

3/ In this age of confusion - class, & Ref.  
reminds - 1917 1918

Saddest evidence - turned away -

4/ Supremacy of Moral Law <sup>there is</sup> "binding"  
Against this law - sin - "nature"  
In its name - summoned - "confessions" -  
penance - change of heart.  
In its name - "Prophet" - Samuel  
Zedekiah.

In our day State - end in itself - Source  
- goal - conformity -

Since Reform. Therapeutics - fearful increase  
in state prosecutions

Since Fichte & Hegel - "authorised."

Rulers - Führer - Duce - Commissar - beyond  
mandate

Man is left defenceless - in a world where  
changing "will" is "whim" of dictator, or bureaucracy  
- deprived of holy - to which - afford ventracles  
and words



5) Another aberration is Subservience, Intel.

{ To religious man is supremely significant -  
Bible by crisis - unique event - intel. -  
pol. life - intel. life

{ The new heresy - means not an end -  
tool - dragged into blind obedience  
driven into dumb conformity.

{ A frightful Revolution - man's dignity  
lowered into dust.

6) Another aberration - of Pride.

(1) Micah's def - walk humbly

(2) po. life.

(3) "Blessed are the meek - for they shall inherit the earth"

From humility one finds true recognition  
with one self <sup>and</sup> with one's fellow men.

- There being not an law for men & nations  
nations too - enjoined -

"The high ones of stature shall be hewn down  
And the haughty shall be humbled"

To-day - nations - wallow in orgy of self-praise -  
adulation - arrogance - and vulgar boastfulness

Each particular not only its power - might  
- exclusive virtues - excellencies - "Thou  
hast said in thy heart 'I am' and none else beside me!"  
Children trained in this chauvinism -

- national & racial

Nationalism is revived ugh to-day  
by an indecent exhibitionism.  
It idolizes its own convent -

7/ And with pride - another Ab  
- as methods of progress.

Violence - Hate

Force  
has on God  
& values in  
accepted

Love - neighbor - stranger - enemy

"The new list" "Purge" "Liquidating"  
" Ruthless accumulation" - "class struggle"

A Pol. fashion is to-day a mystic cult.

A sign of manliness and maturity.

- sign of power of "realism" - The  
n. 22 11. 11.

8/ Another Ab - "In look of size" - Great God  
& Subt -

Increased population - Frank Terri Terri

Great creature peoples - small - in small

countries  
More land - "Tolstoy"  
But



9/ In these rocked and muddy times -  
religion greatest service - prayer alone -

① Supremacy of Moral Law - <sup>imperative</sup> states that we must submit to it.

(2) Invidiousness of human Personality <sup>Reverend</sup>

(3) The volatility of <sup>average</sup> market returns

1/ deep - Certain Values - Saddest - Apostasy

2/ Re-education - Boast - Re-writing - N.T.

Not enough of Education - Race - Science of  
befuddling - Elaborate techniques - Concoct

Hitler write - Radios - SI BX

3/ Sacrifice Method To Means

Of the essential constitutions - Concoct, Method

There is not only God - God's - def. way - 5273.

Jesus - symbol the way

Offered new method for obst. - worthy, the Ends

Outland - Every step

Means have a way of integrating -

∴ to establish justice

More exacted - When impatient -

✓ Careful to define -

Obedience to a supreme moral law -

To a Sovereignty higher > overarches all

human groupings - temporary shifting

Crushing of all concentrated power

Safeguarding Sp. integrity of Ind - Nothing must

reduce - thursans

uses good-will bet. nations etc. to estab

✓ Never fully tried - Rejected -

President + etc



Each class is resorting - violence, suppression - etc.

" " justifies its tactics in name

The shame - Idealism - Truth -

Methods which are abhorred & decried -

Then talk of justice - nation -

✓ By their way - objectives

then seem to have forgotten - Their - process

When ∴ you meet a person - not only

a church - specifics - incl. methods -

4. Submergence of Individual - President -  
(Reich) (Mussolini).

When individ - 1112J - "One Man"

5. Nationalism - nothing wrong - "Patriotism"  
Fragmentised -  
Racialism - "of one blood"

4. Idolatry, War - Pestilence - "Wehrgeist", Cradle -  
Vienna - altar 1125N  
Franz Werfel - 1112J -

7/ What can we do - Clarity - Not defeat  
(1) Resist - Courses (2) Method - War - Class Struggle  
(3) No mixed ind. balance - Dictatorship -  
Freedom above

④ Nat. Solidarity - all different - Harp

⑤ War - Inter-instrumentalities  
Collective action

Not - ① Unilateral legis.

② Referendum - naive

~~Inter~~

③ Disarmament -

④ Colonies

Organization

8. As these classic ideas W.M. - Jens -  
Anti's is caused by world-damage  
For the maintenance (Jub)

① Join forces -

② Look to our Citizens ① Horn ②  
School ③ Gay-gone

③ Relief -

④ Palatine

Grant our faith - an solidarity - in Vain



Angel - Holy wars

1. When the deep waters are roiled -  
No generation has had its nerves -  
Change -  
Emotionally we passed - peaks - Exaltations  
The bloodiest wars played incessant games.  
- great, new have given us -
2. Sooner or later mankind -
3. There are certain values - essential  
Just as there are  
Saddest evidence - altars
4. One of the immemorial enterprises -  
Man has groped  
Succeeded - But the quest -  
One of the legacies -
5. One of the aberrations - to serve pol. ends.  
In absolutist states - subservient.  
Spirit of - concentration camp.  
Thought is regimented -  
Any scholarly - hushy  
Every writer  
Education  
They are not taught - trained  
In the totalitarian - mentality - Russian  
Boast - "materialized" - blond

6. In our country attempts - harass -  
muzzle - punish - erect

Our age has too much - propaganda -

Ignorance - far more cunning

Perfection - befuddling - Slogans -

Fascist & Nazis destroyed democ. by prop

Hitler wrote: "the generating power  
of great change is not so much  
wisdom as hysteria"

Repeat a lie - Big Lie

This is deadly technique of Prop -  
lies and hysteria - every other

7. Another aberration - Sanctified ruthlessness - exalted brutality

Violence + Terror exalted - movement

Devotees - fairly gloat

Few tyrants - indulged - Verbal Sadism

But pol. racism - mythic cult

Mandates - is now, despised

A pol. opponent - Vermin





But Nationalism - quite recent -  
this nationalism has always had - myths <sup>myths</sup>  
National destiny - mission - coined  
This Nationalism - its hitherto Patriotism  
- was other religion -

10. There is a Patriotism

Western world harassed - making  
Love of country put under oppression -

Cabal - prescribes - & ind. bound

By means of this disgraceful strategy  
youth - stamped - arrogant  
provocations

The Universal ideal - 19C - Citizen -  
pushed out & men's united - dictate

Internationalism - blackest heresy

Youth & world is being taught -

Modern Nat. unquestionably shocking

11. In Germany - apart from Race  
Nation by any means  
only these -



Disfranchised -

If this trend -

Negro

11. Exaltation War

12. Religion - Universalism

1. Are we not all

2. The God that made

3. "Adam"

Science will Save

13. In these dark -

(1) Integrity of that - Sovereignty

(2) Elementary decisions

(3) Individual - unique - finger-prints

(4) Humanity - Nations - Solidarity

(5) Peace - Inter-cooperation - League

- Surrender of "collective rugged individualism"

14. This is task of our Age -

1/ Deaf - Sooner - Saddest - Apostasy

2/ Mind - Re-enslave - Boost -

Not enough Education - Def. a race -

Science - befuddle - technique. Concept.

Hitler - Radio

3/ Soc. Means to End.      11/23

Way of Integrating - More Exalted -

Shame of our Age - Talk - act -

4/ Submergence of India.      State -

Mussolini -

Unalienable Rights -      1/2/2

5/ Nationalism - Princ. of Nat - Provinc.

Fragmented - Racialism -      13/11

6/ Idioty, War - Cradle - Weygant -

Vienna - 17/5/11

Franz Werfel - 1/11/11

7/ all this led to War.



8/ Courses ag. Propag.

9/ Means as sacred - "Gradualism"

10/ Individ. - not "rugged" - golden mean

For every thing State seeks  
Freedom - Free economy.

11/ Nationalism - internat. cooperation - linked

12/ War - Peace - A League -

Collective action - Passivism - Disarmament -

Isolation - Aggression - (Less)

13/ We Jews - First to suffer - Abolitionism

bin facis - Austria - Pol - Ireland - Italy

Aggression - Attack

Attack on Russia

Inner Defense

# Finchley

## RECOMMENDS

### A FAMOUS PIPE

SINCE 1860

Ben Wade Ltd.



**SWEET SMOKING  
BRIARS, JUST ARRIVED  
FROM ENGLAND. PER-  
FECT BALANCE, BEAU-  
TIFUL GRAIN, SATIN-  
SMOOTH FINISH**

WALNUT FINISH \$8.50  
SELECTED GRAIN \$10

New York, Fifth Ave. at 46th  
Chicago, 19 E. Jackson Blvd.

## ARMY SEEN WEAK IN ANTI-AIRCRAFT

Has 42 Modern-Type Guns  
for Defense of Continental  
United States

### EIGHT GUARD THIS CITY

With but 29 More Weapons  
Ordered, Gen. Craig's Report  
Called Shortage Critical

By HANSON W. BALDWIN

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The United States Army has, except for machine guns, only forty-two modern mobile anti-aircraft guns available for the defense of continental United States, it was learned today.

Twenty-eight of these guns are assigned to regular army units and fourteen to the National Guard, but because of shortage of trained personnel, not all of the guns are manned.

General Malin Craig, Chief of Staff, in his annual report made public Monday, stressed the weakness of the army's anti-aircraft armament. Inquiries showed that the equipment available, although somewhat increased in recent years, was regarded as still totally inadequate.

There are four regular army anti-aircraft regiments in the United States, in addition to ten National Guard regiments, and all of these are far under complement, it was said, and most of them are but skeleton organizations.

Fort Totten Defense Here

## Reich Press Chief Denies Individual Liberty Exists

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
BERLIN, Dec. 9.—The Reich Press Chief, Dr. Otto Dietrich, explained to a student audience at Berlin University tonight that no such thing as individual liberty exists.

"There is no freedom of the individual," he said. "There is only freedom of peoples, nations or races, for these are the only material and historical realities through which the life of the individual exists."

The speech's burden was the attempt to prove the so-called individuals are not even realities but merely aspects of some community such as the race or nation. Therefore, Dr. Dietrich concluded, it is absurd to even discuss individual liberty.

## CHOICE OF KENNEDY FOR LONDON HAILED

Copeland and Others Want  
His Aid on Ship Law Before  
He Goes as Ambassador

### FEW MONTHS' WAIT SEEN

His Value in Post as Close to  
President Is Stressed in  
British Political Views

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—A report that Joseph P. Kennedy, chairman of the Maritime Commission, had been selected by Roosevelt to be ambassador to Britain, was hailed here.

## MUSICALE 'HE BY HELEN K

She Touches 'Cello  
Playing at Meeting  
Association for

### TELLS OF TRIP

American Foundation  
Session—More Wor-  
Afflicted Is Sol

Miss Helen Keller, who ordinary standards is blind, mute, paid an unexpected terday afternoon to the meeting of the New York Association for the Blind in London at 111 East Fifty-ninth street, telling of her recent trip to Japan, Miss Keller demonstrated her appreciation.

Between reports by the association, blind children of kindergarten age were in the auditorium stage tap dances. The children they were in the audience at applied shyly.

When Ed Gluck's "Cello" was played, Keller rose to the stage and played the cello. Her kin. L. B. King, hand with music as



# Topics of The Times

One of the most popular legends of latter-day mythology has just been retold for the benefit of the American people. It concerns allied responsibility for Germany's surrender to Nazism, and it was put forward day before yesterday in a speech by the visiting chairman of the board of the North German Lloyd.

"Conditions in Germany are not perfect," said Herr Lindemann in our report yesterday, "but Germany was forced to take many of her measures by the policies of foreign nations and by the Versailles treaty. Germany was to live or die, and she did not want to die. Hitler could have done nothing other than those things he has done."

The story of dying Germany rescued and restored by Hitler is on a par with the story of Italy rapidly sliding into communism but snatched from the edge of the gulf by Mussolini. Actually, the well-informed know that Mussolini "saved" his country from bolshevism almost two years after the workers of Italy had deliberately turned their backs on bolshevism.

Some day it will be common information that it was not a dying Germany which slipped into Hitler's power. It was only a Germany hard hit by the economic depression as every other country in the world was hit, as England and France and the United States were hit. But if Germany, unlike these others, slid from freedom into despotism, one is forced to conclude that she had a strong secret hankering in that direction all along.

From time to time in this column over a stretch of nearly five years the thesis of a dying Germany in 1932 has been questioned. Bits of elementary testimony have been cited to the contrary. Since it is the head of a great German shipping enterprise who now brings up again the case of dying Germany, it may be in order to cite a few shipping figures.

The war almost annihilated Germany's merchant fleet. On the eve of the war in 1914 that fleet amounted to 5,500,000 gross tons. In June, 1921, nearly three years after the Armistice, the German shipping was down to 717,000 tons, or something less than 15 per cent of its pre-war strength. In June, 1932, just as Germany began the swift descent into Nazism, her merchant fleet had 4,164,000 tons.

A "dying" Germany under a government of "November criminals," to use the favorite Nazi phrase, had won back nearly 80 per cent of her pre-war merchant marine. At this time the English merchant fleet was about 90 per cent of its 1914 strength. On this 15 per cent margin shipping recovery as between victorious Britain and defeated Germany we cannot base the doctrine of a dying Germany.

Or we may take housing as a test of German well-being in 1932. This is very timely, because a distinguished amateur student of housing who has just completed a survey in Germany is about to conduct his investigations over here.

Hitler's arrival on the German stage really dates from his sweeping success in the Reichstag election of September, 1928. At the beginning of that year the figures show that since the Armistice there had been built in Germany very nearly 1,350,000 new homes. In approximately the same period there were built in England and Wales something over 1,000,000 new homes.

Thus the "November criminals" who presided over the German Republic succeeded in providing a defeated, humiliated and supposedly dying Germany with as many new homes as a victorious English Government built for its own people. This German home-building record was maintained up to the fall of the republic in 1933.

Allied responsibility for Germany's political and moral collapse is much too big a story for this place and occasion. But here, too, it may be noted that Germany gave herself to Hitler after more than half a dozen years of increasing allied conciliation and concessions.

To be sure, there was German disarmament. But that burden, too, we are justified in arguing, would have been lightened for her if the friendly international climate which set in with the Dawes agreement and Locarno had remained. But in any event, German disarmament does not fit into the legend of a dying Germany. A defenseless Germany was not being knocked about and trampled upon by the victors of Versailles. On the contrary, they were all the time knocking off her shackles and lending her money.

Germany  
Was  
Pushed

Legend  
and  
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1/ Deep waters - change - peace: <sup>last 2 weeks</sup> ~~last war~~.  
Sooner or later - Values - apostasy.

2/ Re-enclosure - Undo - <sup>In</sup> Absolutist - re-ventured  
Re-writing - "nationalized" truth -  
In our own country.  
Not enough of Education - Propagand  
Hitler - "generating power" - N. S. Rosenberg - Goebbels

3/ Submergence of Individual - encroaching -  
Liberty to-day rests... Revolution <sup>Belief</sup>  
Mussolini - (interview) - Religion - Danger

4/ Narrow Nationalism - "nationality"  
Post-war mythic - cloot exploitation - "Weak"  
Ritual - "Patriotism" - provincial  
disgraceful strategy  
Universal Ideal - 18-19C - "International"  
Nationalism synon. with Racism as  
Jew -

5/ War as Nat. history - "Weltpolitik"  
Franz Werfel  
All industry - set to one task  
Had race for armament - Vian Harp  
Program



4/ But world wants war - Apparentment -  
As long - as these ideas - + succeed -  
Chamber + Delors - "More Arms"

7/ What can we do -

① Resist - Defend - "Courses" - stress on  
Method -

- (a) Plan is a Method - as well as Goal
- (b) "End" does not - integrating -
- (c) The Process - High Goals -
- (d) Show you go - Show us acts
- (e) Mentality of future - demands -

② No Rugged Ind - "Price" - "bread  
and circuses" - Balance area

③ Nat. Human Solidarity -  
Classic Republican -

"The God - " Adam

④ Peace - Engineering - Collective Security -

① Unhatched legis - demand to revoke

② Referendum

③ Disarmament - Effect on laws

④ Colonies - no hint to abolish

⑤ Organization for Peace!

Pay Price - America -

Refused - Shirk!

8/ These are tasks, our Age!  
Teachers -



## ABSTRACT OF THE ADDRESS

### "SOME ABERRATIONS OF OUR DAY"

By  
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver  
The Temple - Cleveland, Ohio

No generation has had its intellectual and emotional life subjected to such swift and radical changes as ours. Hence we have the kind of a world which we have - a jittery world, out of balance and full of aberrations. There are four major aberrations which are victimizing this present age.

The first aberration is the attempt to re-enslave the human mind. One of the immemorial enterprises of the human spirit has been the untrammelled quest for truth, often in defiance of tradition, authority or the prejudices of the hour. Our age unfortunately is guilty of organized large-scale efforts in many countries to undo the work of the ages. The intellect is again shackled to the political dogmas of the state. Thought is regimented. Any deviation from the prescribed pattern is heresy and leads to the concentration camp. Education has been connected with indoctrination. Children are not taught to think. They are trained to accept and obey. The social ~~xx~~ sciences and, in some instances, even the exact sciences, are being rewritten to conform to the political, economic, racial or nationalistic dogmas of the party in control of the state. The Nazis boast that they have "nationalized" truth, that they train their youth to "think with their blood". One cannot think with his blood or his stomach. It is only with his mind that a man can think and that mind must be free to think.

In our own country, too, attempts are sometimes made to muzzle education, to intimidate teachers and to punish the expression of unpopular or unconventional views.

Our age has not enough of education and too much of propaganda. Civilization



today may be said to be a race between education and propaganda. Propaganda in our day has perfected the art of befuddling the minds of men with half-truths, slogans, catchwords and primitive emotional appeals. It has elaborated a technique for stampeding people into doing that which in their sober judgment they would never think of doing.

Education under Fascism, Nazism and Communism is clearly and avowedly propagandistic and dogmatic.

The second aberration is the submergence of the individual. In the wide-spread trend towards co-ordination and "Gleichshaltung", which utilizes the school as its most powerful weapon, the individual, as such, is steadily being submerged. There is much to be said for the spiritual values which may be derived from stressing the collective significance of human life as against self-seeking and careerism. The great religions of mankind have always sought to teach men to link up their personal lives with great social purposes. But the co-ordination tendencies of the modern absolutist state is quite another matter. It is regimentation of the most tyrannical sort and it is fatal to man's spiritual and intellectual life. It tends to dry up the well springs of creativeness and originality in man. Under Fascism, Nazism or Communism, the teacher must perforce become a drill sergeant.

The third aberration is the narrow, intolerant nationalism which is again provincializing mankind. Nationalism as preached in Germany and Italy today is something quite different from the wholesome instinctive love of country. It carries with it a dangerous romantic mysticism, which has evolved fictitious concepts such as "national destiny" and "mission", pure rationalization for predatory expansionism and economic priacy. This nationalism is forcing the youth of the world into a crabbed and suspicious provincialism. The universal ideal which enkindled the imaginations of the great thinkers of mankind in the



18th and 19th centuries and which inspired the best of European and American culture is being pushed out of men's minds and in its place there enters a constrictive, truculent and intolerant nationalism. In Germany and Italy this concept of nationalism has been further narrowed to an insolent and rabid racialism. In the Soviet Union an economic dogmatism divides the world into two hostile camps, and man's minds are constricted within this intolerant dogma.

The fourth aberration is the glorification of war as national destiny. Fascism is the idealization of war. The goal of all education in Nazi Germany is "Wehrhaftigkeit" - complete preparedness for war. In Italy ~~xxx~~ children, almost from infancy, are trained in the science of soldiering. Hitler wrote in "Mein Kampf": "It will be the task of the Nationalist State to see to it that an adequate education is given to youth in order to provide for a generation prepared for the final and greatest decision on this earth." This task is being carried out relentlessly in Germany today.

It is the urgent task of education in a democracy today to resist these tendencies which are fatal to all that democracy stands for.

Children should be trained to detect propaganda. We need a course in our schools and high schools in the diagnosis of and prophylactic against propaganda.

Democratic education should stress the classic ideal that the state exists for the people and not the people for the state. It should "debunk" state idolatry. It should direct men's minds to a wise balance between private and collective management of human life. Sufficiently large areas in every field of human thought and endeavor must be preserved for the individual in order not to cramp his initiative and his spirit of adventure. Else human life is doomed to a rightful robotism.



Democratic education should wage war upon chauvenism and national isolationism and should steadily stress international cooperation and the ideal of human solidarity.

Democratic education is education for peace and against war. The school should encourage the rising generation to think not in terms of the inevitability of war and preparedness for war, but in terms of ~~xxx~~ setting up such competent international agencies and instrumentalities as will lead to collective security and to a lessening of the occasions, the opportunities and enticements of war.

