



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series IV: Sermons, 1914-1963, undated.

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The religions of the Far East, 1942.

1). War - but we close - Far East - Heretofore - largely Westward -

Atlantic & Europe - It is from Europe - derived our immigration
creation - large way of life - the whole world that has any sig.
for us.

And yet - ~~increasingly~~ ^{steadily} ~~been~~ with in last generation or two - Far
East was becoming larger & larger on our horizon.

Philippines was our important pol. Econ. link.

But there was much else! Our trade with China & Japan.

1/4 B. Japan. 77% = China
= ~~large~~ ^{large} ~~part~~ ^{part} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~trade~~ ^{trade}

Japan was becoming a formidable econ. competitor.

Politically, her imperial ambitions since 1905, increasingly
disturbing. Her aggression in China aroused us.

Her vast army & navy ~~in~~ expansion -

increasingly - as those have reluctantly enough turned
more & more - Eastward.

And Pearl Harbor ~~invited~~ ^{invited} them there for all time to come.

This war will shift permanently our interests ^{predominant} from our
Atlantic Power to a ^{new} Pacific Power.

It is with the Pacific World that we shall now more
concern ourselves from now on.

2). And a great world it is - that world with whose maps -

familiarly ourselves - have names Pers - Persian

the world worked by the China Sea & the S. Pacific

750% - nearly 40% of the earth's population

Hence, the Yellow - Brown races -

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A crowded world. 450 M. in China. 72 M. Japan - smaller > Calif

JAVA - most densely pop. land mass in the world. 821 to sq. miles

A ^{scattered} cauldron of peoples - languages - cultures & religions - in all stages of development - most primitive - most advanced. Living under every conceivable form of govt. - nations & peoples

A world of pol. ^{intrigues} tensions, ~~even struggles~~, where the under-vent. the West was slow in coming, but is now advancing, ~~at~~ in places, at an amazing tempo. - causing sharp breaks with earlier ways of life & necess. difficult adjustments.

Dominated until recently - pol. econ - by West - by the White Man's world. - Challenged - coming into its own - and now again challenged by one of its own peoples - Japan. Even as Europe - Axis

It is not a quiet, sleepy romantic world - turbulent in the West - Machines - Factories - industrialization - Planes, Tanks, & battle fleets.

3. - We shall have to get better acquainted with that world!
- Try to understand them - cultures - art - civilizations -
 - Also all their Religions - spirit of a race reflected most
 - Dominant Religions - primitive - Buddhism - 75 M. in China
and 50 M. in ^{Burma & Thailand} Japan - ^(160 M.) Confucianism
Shintoism - 20 M. ^{1901 M.} Moths - 36 M. in Dutch East
Indies - Christians -

4) Shinto - Japan - Best index to Spirit & People.

while most J. are Buddhist - Shinto is more or less the State cult - and obedience must be paid to Shinto shrines by all Japs.

The official attitude is that State Shinto is not a religion at all, but and its shrines are not religious institutions but national shrines - and revenue paid to them are on a par with revenue paid to the King of a country.

But modern Nippon has been very zealous to in fostering State Shinto - because it finds in it these ideas and predecessors which are favourable to the idea of a heaven-born Japan, with a united-conquering mission and a heaven-born Emperor, whereas the corner-stone of the State.

Shinto is the best advanced of all the great religions. It is crudely polytheistic. It is a combination of Nature worship and ancestor worship. It worships, like all polytheistic faith, many Kames, or spirits, Heaven, Earth, Birds, Beasts, Plants, all objects, good or evil, calculated to inspire general dread - all human heroes!

In this pantheon, there is no Supreme Deity, of infinite knowledge and power - but there are some deities which are exalted above the others - Principal Sun-Goddess - Amaterasu - Ise ^(Ise) Shrine - her token is the Mirror - Light - Success - protects Nippon from foreign invasion.

Then a Mythol. genealogy - the Mikado is descended from

Sun-Goddess.

Mikado is chief priest of Shinto - (Caesar + Pope (4)
(~~Czar~~ - ~~Orth. Church~~)

Simple offering of uncooked food, of rice & salt fish - garments

Ritual is very simple - family solemn - bowing &

hand clapping - No idols!

Greatest Shinto Ceremony - OMOHARAH - "Great Purification" Emperor
together is very birth of prayer - Sp. Communion - Devotion
P. City

With said abt. God - Hieroglyphs - Future State

No moral code - in scriptures of Shinto - Ritualistic

Ceremonial & mythological (Prophets of Israel)

Moral vision & ethical idealism

It is a primitive religion, but not of a primitive

people. Hence its dangerous potential -

Sp. not kept pace with its sc. progress. A modern

advanced people - avoided itself, latent tendency.

Advances - is Sp. when their ancestors were 2000 yr. ago.

deepest
hydro-atomic
power &
spun off before
to warlike

- its ethnic cult - revived!

4. Shinto - is the old national Rel. of Nippon.

It is to-day the cult of Nipponese Nationalism.

Nationalism
idolized.

Japan is the country, the gods
Japanese are the children, the gods.

Rel. of Patriotic

Destiny is to rule the world (~~of Asia~~)

It sustains the genius, the people

It means loyalty to all things Japanese.

- the manifest Kami

7. In the concept, the Mikado as the Divine descendant of Sun.
J. rulers have found rel. sanction for the prin. of "divine right".

Hitler, Mussolini } "The Emperor is the Foundation of the nation"
Also all law - government & morality -
Basis for military & total answers which they have
established.

The J. man or woman is not the free citizen of the emperors
but the "dutiful subject of an emperor"
Supreme virtue is absolute obedience - to divine will of Emperor
Supreme merit - self-sacrifice to divine state & emperor
Emperor.

Overlords, Japan have same racket as Nazis
- with this added advantage - Religion!
- A divine and inviolable Emperor
Far more dangerous

8/ Bee of divine origin - Mission - World - Conquest
like Nazis. (p. 9/12)
Have contempt for all other races - like Nazis
"Honorable Aryans" - ~~the~~ ancient Yamato race -
Hated of foreigners - Middle of 17c. as advanced
as England! Contact with Europe - missionaries
1638 - closed! 200 yrs! No one could enter, leave
1853 - Commodore Perry - realized - outdistanced -
catch up! Amazing! Within a single
generation a Meek people - outdistanced Europe

9/ It has many of the qualities & virtues of a - Persians
- organization, industry, discipline, patriotism -

un, fa tirs (China), ^{writing, architecture, art, music, dance, theater} urgent, help, ^{self-entitled} moral, ¹⁶ observed
with demin for Wald-Courant.

They logically belong to an Ax. 15.
Logically moved to war - prepared -

10/ Wald-Courant - war -

