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The world we want, 1943.

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THE WORLD WE WANT

By
Dr. Abba Hillel Silver



At
The Temple

On
Sunday morning, November 28, 1943

One thing is clear today -- that the world we want must be based on the principle of justice. It were well if we could all love one another as all the great religions of mankind have been teaching right through the ages. If all men loved one another then all our problems would be automatically dissolved. But we don't love one another -- all men -- and love cannot be ordered nor be made mandatory, while justice can. Out of justice there can come to be established the relationship between man and man, people and people, that respect for the rights of man which some day may flower into real human brotherhood and love. Justice must come first.

So, following this war, we want first of all justice meted out to the criminals who are responsible for this war, who unleashed all the horror and cruelty and bestiality upon the world, the criminals who have been responsible for the devastation and the ravaging of one country after another, the torturing of human beings and mass execution of entire civilian populations. All these criminals must be brought to justice and be punished by justice.

This is not motivated by any sense of vengeance. Society is not established -- its laws, creeds and principles and the aims of justice -- out of an instinct for vengeance, but in self-protection to make social life possible. Justice demands that these criminals be punished. The vindication of the moral law calls for it. Our future respect for international law and the rights of men make it absolutely mandatory because if such outrageous evils and such brazen and callous evil doers who set out avowedly and deliberately to conquer and subjugate the world because they regard themselves as the master race, entitled to subjugate the world in the prosecution of this avowed objective, by torture, war -- I say, if these evil doers are not punished, then there will never be respect in the world for international law. Then it will continue to be known that to wage war, wars of aggression, is not in itself a sin. The only sin is to lose a war. But when you lose a war, if you have failed in your objectives, and if you have brought havoc, evil on the world, then you can whine a little and plead that it wasn't

your fault in the first place -- that this man or that man or that party or this party was responsible for it, that you yourself are the innocent victim -- you can always count upon sentimentalists in every country, the naive preachers of forgiveness, and pity to see to it that you get off scot free. The world rushes to rehabilitate you as after the last war, even before the victims of the war are rehabilitated so that you will be given a chance to prepare and to wait for the next opportunity to wage another war of aggression, to try to win where now you lost.

Punishment of the guilty in this criminal war is a matter of justice to the Germans themselves, ultimately a great kindness to them, for they must once and for all have blasted out of them that militarism, that race arrogance, that self-assumed mission to save civilization. I say they must have it blased out of them in such a thorough-going manner that they will never try it again. Germany needs a radical surgical operation to have Prussianism cut out of it once and for all. For it can never be trusted in a community of nations. The world will never have peace. The Germans must be made to understand, as she is being made to understand now that her proud cities are being laid in ruins and her armies beaten on half a dozen fronts, that not only is she not invincible, but that she is terribly vulnerable, that future security lies not in militarism, but in peaceful habits cooperative habits of living with the rest of the nations of the earth.

The world must do justice to those who have brought this terrible war twice within a generation on the world. And it is a hopeful sign that the four great nations who met in Moscow recently agreed upon the punishment of the men responsible for the hundreds of Lidices and Warsaws, that they are to be brought back to the places where their crimes were perpetrated and to stand trial there and to be punished there.

But the justice of retribution is only the first step, unpleasant albeit necessary to bring about the world we want. The world we want must have for higher considerations

of justice. That justice calls for restitution of all the rights of man/^{of}which he was deprived in recent years, his political rights, his social rights, the rights to human equality, the restitution of property of which he had been robbed. That which was robbed must be restored. The loot, confiscated businesses and property must be restored. That will be a very difficult thing to do. But in the event that it can be done, it must be done. The booty must be rescued from the thieves and restored to the rightful owners.

Consideration of higher justice demands that we proceed as quickly as possible to feed the hungry, to shelter the shelterless, to help man and nations to self-help as rapidly as possible. For a hungry world is a spiritually sick and miserable world. Very little of constructive good can be done in this kind of a world. The world must be healed as rapidly as possible.

It is gratifying to know that organizations are being set through the leadership and inspiration of our own country for a unified nation's relief and rehabilitation administration which will as quickly as possible go into conquered and ravaged lands and feed the starving and help the sick and rebuild families that have been ravaged. The new world must have room for this kind of justice.

But all this is only preliminary to the real world we want. We want ~~it~~ an organized and orderly and peaceful world to follow the war. We want a world in which every twenty years or so nations will not be plunged into global murder and annihilation, a world in which every rising generation will not be broken upon the wheel of the battlefield, a world in which the wealth which men accumulate by their labor will not be drained into armaments in peacetime and colossal war expenditures in war time, a world which will not be economically dislocated every twenty to twenty-five years resulting in depression, economic misery and want for long periods of time. We want a world in which war will be as obsolete as slavery. And to bring that world about, we will need an international organization, not a precarious ballance of power, not a competitive

federation of nations, not alliances between groups of nations as against other groups of nations, not yet a world ruled by three or four great powers who will enforce so to speak a regime of law and order on the world. The latter is not feasible. It may be an interim requirement. But for a continuing structure which will insure peace, the world needs an organization which will embrace all peoples, large and small, those prepared voluntarily to abide by international law and self-imposed discipline of international rights, and those not prepared, must be forced into that discipline; a world order to which there can be no objections and no secessions any more than an individual can announce: from now on the laws of society are no longer binding upon me. Such a man is regarded as a lawless individual, an enemy of society. So must a nation be made to abide by a complex of rules and regulations and discipline imposed by an international body. We want such a world organization implemented so that it can force discipline, punish the recalcitrant nations, the evilly inclined nations.

Again it is heartening to know that at the last historic meeting in Moscow international the groundwork was laid for such an organization which according to Secretary of State, Hull, will make unnecessary alliances, balances of power. It is heartening to know that our own Senate has finally abandoned its isolationist policy and passed a resolution favoring just such an organization for collective security.

The world we want must insure the speedy freedom and independence of all the colonial peoples. There are nearly a billion of them. Nearly half the people in the world today enjoy neither freedom nor liberty nor independence. These people must be helped to obtain freedom quickly and choose it wisely. They are waiting for it. They are restive. Their political aspirations can not be permanently denied if we want to avoid revolution. In this direction only the very beginnings have been made for the world we want.

The world we want must be a place in which there will be a job for every man willing to work, decent security for his family and a decent chance to advance in the world. He must have a decent home to live in and he must have a chance to give his children a good education. The world we want must make this possible or it will never be a peaceful world. It will be a world in which every Fascist adventurer and every political tyrant will find ready and willing followers, because people who suffer from economic misery and want are ready for any change which promises to change their position.

The world we want must be a world of full production and fair distribution. And this is not Utopia. It is only our own stupidity and our own greed which have made this world we want a Utopia. It is possible to achieve it. It is within our reach. Four hundred years ago this great continent hardly supported a scattered and starving people -- a handful of Indians. Today, this self-same continent maintains a high standard of living, a population of 135,000,000, and this continent hasn't changed in the four hundred years. What has changed? What has changed has been the application of man's skill upon the resources. Man's skill, technology, his abilities have advanced. He has produced more, incomprehensibly more than he has produced ever before and not only for 135,000,000 people. The same thing is true of other parts of the world. Men's stupidity has kept them from a fairer distribution and a fuller production which have been responsible for the poverty, both socially and economically in our day. In this direction, too, only beginnings have been made.

I read the other day the very imposing words spoken by the Vice-President of the United States: He said: "We must make that common purpose inevitable. The future of the world holds a promise greater than the past has ever shown us. The future is not a fixed thing. It is not predestined. We have only to bestir ourselves in order to realize our dreams. For we have the lands, the forests, the mines and the people. We have in our hands the tools of science, gigantic in

their power, miraculously swift in their accomplishment. We can control floods, make the desert bloom, house a nation in comfort, conquer poverty and stamp out most disease. We know we can do these things if we will to do them. The common man is on the march. His vision of the future will large determine the world's future."

The world we want must finally free itself from that complex which we have come to call Fascism, but which is far more than the word suggests to most people. The word suggests to most people, dictatorship and lawlessless aggression. But that kind of ~~aggress~~ Fascism will be destroyed in this war. There is no doubt about it. But there is danger that after it is destroyed there might arise a nee-Fascism which will not be militaristic in terms of foreign aggression, but which will nevertheless be visible reactionary and anti-democratic in terms of domestic national life, under a different name, under a different set of slogans the same spirit of greedy entrenched privilege, of economic Bourbonism may conspire to wreck democratic insitutions from within. And they will, with the same technique that the old classic Fascism of Europe used -- the technique of lies, confounding propaganda. They too will use racism, fake patriotism. They too will employ scares, lies, glittering promises to confuse the masses of the people and to stampede them in the direction of undermining and destroying their free democratic institutions.

Now, this kind of neo-Fascism and to its poisonous propanda we have not yet found adequate answer, and the armistice at the close of the war will not see the last of Fascism. In this country and in England there are groups of people who certainly would like to see their country win the war, but who would not be averse to having this type of neo-Fascism established at home and abroad.

But the world we want must be free of these Fascist adventurers, of these buccaneers of the 20th century. And much more will have to be done in our country to protect our free institutions from native Fascistically inclined powerful individuals and groups of people.

And finally, the world we want must be a more humane and less brutal and less violent kind of a world. I cannot recall a period in human history which has seen so much of cruelty, hate and persecution and intolerance, an age which has so much organized malevolence and mischief, so much contempt for the for the spirit of man in our day. Our world needs a cleansing, not by blood, but by spirit because our world is befouled and unclean. We need other types of freedom besides the four freedoms of which our great President has spoken. Mankind needs freedom from hate. Mankind needs freedom from persecution. Mankind needs freedom from tolerance. The hate between classes and groups, the persecution of races and religions, the intolerance and bigotry -- politically and economically. Our tired and tortured world needs to ^{dis}recover ~~from the~~ something of the chivalry of spirit, the idea of nobless oblige. It is noble to be obliging -- something of the generous instinct, the cleansing of the heart, compassion.

Shameful dictators of our day have made a virtue of being hard, of being gross, of being inexorable, of grim resoluteness. But that is a vile mood for men and nations to live in. Strong men are not hart men. They are resolute and true, also kind and considerate. And our age has confused strength of character with brutality of method.

Within the last week or two the netire nation was shocked at an act to which American ~~an~~/general resorted -- to this very thing I am referring to. In a way, General Patton is a symbol of our age in which we live. It has shocked me all through the months that newspapers and commentators were describing him as "Blood and Guts". They thought that this hardness and roughness and vulgarity was in some way indicative of the strength of character as well as of great ability. the hardness of Unfortunately/~~this~~ man who is undoubtly a man of rare gifts in other fields, expressed ~~himself~~ itself in an act so shameless, so foul that the whole nation recoiled against him -- that of striking a shell-shocked soldier in a hospital. We come to understand that brutality, hardness, grossness of manner, of speech are hostile to the idea of a world in which we want to live. That ought to be

discredited. That ought to be driven out from the homes of men.

Our religion attributed omnipotence -- all power -- to only one being -- to God. And yet we spoke of our God as a God of grace, pity and kindness, because those are the qualities which we ascribe to our Heavenly Father. Those are the qualities which we in our mortal ways must seek to emulate, if we would like at all to omnipotent.

This world we want ~~ix~~ a just, clean, a fair world can be had. Don't listen to the cynics who tell you that there will always be war and poverty. They are the dregs and the lees in the cup of life. There is nothing that man has made crooked that he cannot make straight. Behind every idea, every system, is man.

What our world needs is a new type of spiritual leadership, a new type of spiritual disciple, loyal brave disciples who will follow. One of the disarming things of the world is that racketeers, Hitlers can always win masses of followers who will sacrifice themselves for these leaders at their behest, but the great spiritual leaders, the man of true vision is oft-times looked down upon, crucified, and is followed by a pitifully few, a handful of disciples. If a tenth or a hundredth of the substance, the skill, the enthusiasm which we pour into the war effort which never solves any problem of men but only makes the solution possible, with a hundredth of that spirit of selflessness, sacrifice, for which men are ready to leave occupations, careers and offer their lives for it, could be made to follow that type of leadership, we could achieve the world we want -- quickly too, and much of it in our own life time. What we need is a demobilization of the old spirit, and a mobilization of the new spirit, the new age, tomorrow.....

1) World we want. - world based on Justice.

It were well if we could ^{all} love one another. Then all -

But we don't! It cannot be ordered or made mandatory -

But justice can! Let's begin with that -

But it will flow that respect for rights of other men -
which some-day may flower into real human brotherhood.

2. So that following this war - we want first of all justice

meted out to criminals - unborn horrors - murders
cruelty - herbicide - mass speculations - devastated &
ravaged lands & intended human beings.

- They must all be lost to justice - and punished!

- This is not vengeance! ~~But it is necessary~~ justice demands it. Vindication &
moral law! Future respect for law -

- If such evil + evil-doers ~~are~~ who set out unwillingly
to subjugate world - Hitler - Total War

are not punished - then law will never be respected!

6. War - is not a sin - to lose it
only sin is to lose - And when - after have - you

lose - you can whine - not my fault - war
can on sentimentalists - preachers & priests

to see that you get off scot free - in fact -

rehabilitate you - even before your victims

are rehabilitated - and you wait for your next chance at aggression

- ~~It~~ It is only a matter of justice to human eyes

→ must have with fairness war - but not see anyway
self aggression working to see with eyes

blasted out of them - in such a thorough

manner - never say it again -
Rightful surgery - at Pharmaceutical industry
World may have peace.

not only not
in unworthy - but
damnable valuable

3) It is a helpful sign - they are spread at Moscow - Jewish
adversaries - Russians - bring them back to places. Italian
Johannes & Nazis - the last the vilest of all

4) But the justice of retribution is only first step - unpleasant
albeit necessary.

- World we want has higher considerations & of
- which calls for restoration of the rights & property to those
robbed & theirs. That which was robbed must be restored
the lost - the business of property unprotected.

- Difficult -

- Ford to hunger - shelter - Help men & nations to self-help
a hungry world is a sp. not miserable world - and
very little constructive good can be accomplished

- It is gratifying - plans have already been laid - "Urna"

5) But all this is ^{only} preliminary to what we want.

① we want an org. orderly & peaceful world:

- Every 20 yrs - every generation - wealth poured out in
armaments in peace - time + war expenditures - drawing -
dislocating com. life -

- war as obsolete as slavery.

- Internat. org. - not precaution balance of power
not competitive regional federations always not by 3 or 4.
to rule world & impose system / place - Interim

- But of all - large & small - prepared to abide
forced to join - accept discipline - no secret
implemented -

6. Heartening to know - Monroe - proclamation - what Hull ⁽³⁾
Senate finally abandoned isolationism

7. World we want - must insure speedy independence & freedom
to colonial peoples, must be helped to achieve rise
that F. wisely. A billion people are awaiting this F.
- Pol. aspirations cannot be long denied. Revolt & plunge
world into war again - only beg, army

8. World we want - with work for every man willing to
work - + decent security + decent chance to advance
+ a decent home to live in - and a good education
for his children. Full production & fair distribution
This is not Utopia - It is man's stupidity & greed
which keeps it a Utopia - 400 yrs ago this Continent
(Just) only beg, army

9. World we want - free from complex called Fascism
which is man's lawless aggression & dictatorship.
= We will destroy that in this war. only begin res
to a new Fascism - which need not be nightmare
in terms of freight of aggression - but reactionary
and anti-democratic in domestic, national life

= Under a diff. name, diff. slogans - same spirit
of exploitation, ready entrenched privilege, economic
enrichment - may conspire to wreck our democratic
institutions from within.

- And with use same tempers of lying + compounding propaganda reasons, path patronage, scares, lies, chilling promises
- World wants to be free of F. adventures, the pirates + mercenary, the 20th C. - and their propaganda
- We have not yet found the complete answer to this menace - and the answer will not see the last of it.
- There are people of groups in this country who certainly would like their country to win the war - but who are not anxious to having this type of "neo-Fascism" established both at home and abroad. Must to be done

- 10/ World we want - more humane - less brutal - less violent
- never so much cruelty - hate - persecution - with so much big materialism + misery - such contrasts
 - World needs a cleansing - not a cleansing by force but a cleansing by spirit. It is helpful - valuable
 - 4 Freedoms - we need of this -
 - Freedom fr. Hate - Bitterness - class groups
 - " " Persecution - race + religion.
 - " " Intolerance - bigotry - pol. system.
 - Redemption - chivalry, the spirit - "noblese oblige"
the generous united - the clemency, the heart compassion humanity
 - Shameful dictators - virtue behaves begin hard gruesome imprisonment hardness makes
- a vile word for human existence
strong men are not hard men - only resolute stare
but also kind, considerate, fair Gen Patton

- / 1971 p 107 k -

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11/. What we want - can be had - cynics - leadership -
making-up.

