



## Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Reel  
176

Box  
64

Folder  
337

The boycott of Nazi Germany, 1934.

## ABSTRACT OF AN ADDRESS ON THE BOYCOTT OF NAZI GERMANY

- DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER -

*hundred*

Germany is our national battlefield. We are fighting not for the six<sup>hundred</sup> thousand Jews in Germany alone but for ourselves and our children and for Jewry throughout the world.

If Hitler succeeds in permanently undermining the economic and political position of the Jewish community in Germany it will serve as a guide and an inspiration to our enemies throughout the world. A triumphant Nazism will not stay confined within the boundaries of Germany. It will spread like a plague. No Jewish community anywhere in the world will be safe.


The vicious element in Nazism is not primarily its anti-Jewish bias but the pseudo-scientific race doctrines upon which it is based. Race bigotry is far more dangerous in the modern world than religious bigotry. The latter has been fairly well discredited. The former has not yet been sufficiently exposed and discredited and the minds of men, especially of young men can still be swayed and the passions of men can still be aroused by an appeal to primitive race ~~and~~ loyalties and idolatries. If the Nazis' contention that the Jews are members of an inferior human species, whose blood is tainted, whose minds are vicious, whose souls are corrupted and whose very presence among other races is a baneful influence, receives prestige and respectability through the success of the Nazi regime, ~~then~~ our position in the world will become intolerable. There is a fatalism, an irrevocable and inescapable doom about such a doctrine which is far deadlier than any prejudice to which our people had been subjected at any time in all of its past history.

We are entering a desperate stage in our history. In the bitter struggle of the next few generations which will engulf the whole of humanity, the struggle between private capitalism and the corporate state or between the bourgeois society and the socialized or socialistic society which is coming to be, the Jew more than any other group will suffer. The Jew has always suffered the labor pains of every

new social order. The contending economic forces will not hesitate to use anti-semitism as a weapon, a ready means of propaganda and a remarkably easy method by which to incite both the masses and the classes.

The 19th century was the most prosperous century for the Jewish people in Western Europe. It was the period when the bourgeois civilization triumphed. The power of the state was delimited and the rights of the individual were established. As an individual, the Jew was the equal of his neighbor. He could hold his own in the economic struggle. With the World War, the world entered upon a new era, that of the Corporate State where the rights of the individual will be sharply circumscribed and where groups and syndicates rather than individuals will count. The Jew everywhere will constitute a minority group which will be pushed and crowded and hemmed in on all sides. The State will control and direct the economic life of the country and the majority racial or national group will determine the policies of the State. The Jew will in no country belong to this majority. He will have to fight desperately to maintain his economic and his political status everywhere in the world. To keep from being utterly beaten down he will have to employ every means of self-defense and to utilize and exploit his powers to the utmost.

The struggle with Hitlerism, therefore at the present time, is of utmost historic significance for our future. It will turn out to be either a strategic victory or a strategic defeat of major significance.

 I cannot therefore consider the German Jewish problem at the present moment as merely one of relief. The relief problem is urgent and serious and the Jews of the world must send an adequate measure of material relief to the German Jews who have been dispossessed and driven from their professions and occupations or forced to flee. But the problem is far more a political one and must be attacked with political weapons and the strongest political weapon, when all others

fail, is the economic boycott. It is a legitimate weapon recognized even by the League of Nations which reserved the right to place a universal embargo upon a recalcitrant nation guilty of violating the covenant of the League. Economic non-intercourse has received international sanction. Other methods having failed us, we are justified in resorting to economic pressure to bring the present dictators of Germany to reason or to break their power. They are amenable to no other argument. Moral persuasion and the public opinion of the world have moved them not at all. They recognize and yield only to physical force.

I urge a universal, persistent and relentless boycott of Nazi Germany. To trade with Germany is to trade with our sworn and implacable enemies. It is to strengthen the hands of those who wish to destroy us.



## Battle-ground

- (1) Menace - race - rel. intrinsically more dangerous
  - (1) discredited
  - (2) Conversion - ~~not~~ merciful
- (2) Rise of Antisemitism in Ger - due to War?  
Bismarck
- (3) Entering stage; conflict bet. cap. & prol.
  - (1) Compensation - Nat. & Racialism  
Unit - class struggle
- (4) Fight for Rights, Minorities
- (5) Prevention of WRHS that may be in the future
- (6) Boycott -

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Listen to no timid counsel of <sup>the</sup> pseudo-diplomats  
among us, and ~~the~~ <sup>Hofjuden</sup> gun-shoe shod lackey, who flatters  
about helplessly about ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~office~~ <sup>government</sup>  
pieces, hoping to exploit their <sup>pastor</sup> influence for the  
obtaining of <sup>could carry out anywhere</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>old</sup> bankrupt stallanant  
of the Jews in Germany, and their descendants here -  
let the Jews, America - and the cruel-  
spoke was the horses, their copper and  
~~helpless~~ frightened leaders - to the free  
and <sup>unhappy, actually ~~free~~ wage, and the few unmanly, the would</sup> ~~parties~~ <sup>like</sup> ~~wage~~ <sup>and</sup>  
together crack <sup>in a ~~gathering~~ economic boycott</sup> ~~down~~ <sup>upon</sup> the  
horses of the terrorists.