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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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As religion sees it, 1935.

# As Religion Sees It BROOKLYN

5/13/35

The Mission of the Church and the Synagogue Is to Save Man from Sanctified Ruthlessness and Brutality and to Safeguard His Spiritual Freedom and Autonomy in a World Constricted by Encompassing Walls of Dictatorships, Says Dr. Silver.

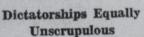
[This is the third of a series of articles by noted clergy of the United States, of various religious faiths, to be published weekly in The Eagle on the Monday Sermon Page.]

> No. 3-By DR. ABB A HILLEL SILVER, Rabbi The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.

T IS quite possible that in the new era organized religion will have to assume the role of the sole surviving champion of the rights of the individual.

In the face of the amazing pretensions of the State, religion may have to insist, and religious spokesmen in Nazi Germany

have already had to insist, that man possesses certain rights, over which the State, however noble its purposes and however exalted its program, has no power whatsoever. There are sovereign rights which are man's own by virtue of his humanity and not by virtue of his citizenship in any given political group.



It is clear that the new era is being ushered in by way of dictatorships. Whether these are passing or permanent, it is impossible to say. These dictatorships, wherever established, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver

have so far been characterized by their utter ruthlessness. This is true both of capitalistic and of communistic dictatorships. They are equally unscrupulous when they get into action. Both have no compunction whatsoever about trampling upon the prostrate body of human rights. For both, the end justifies the means. Both raise political violence to a principle. In the fury of class struggle the mandates of personal morality and basic human decencies and amenities are entirely lost sight of. We have entered an age of sanctified ruthlessness and exalted cruelty. Dark Ages could offer no comparable records of mass brutality.

But even more alarming than the toll of victims of dictatorship's physical violence is the tragic roll of victims of its spiritual and intellectual violence. Men are driven into terrified silence. Conformity is prescribed. Men dare not dissent. All opposition, all parties, all dissenting opinion in press, pulpit, classroom, platform and book is stamped out. The threat of all this to man's spiritual life is clear. It tends to dry up the mainsprings of his spiritual creativeness. When man is not allowed to stand alone, to dissent from the majority, to proclaim the truth which has been born in him through his own soul's travail, his spiritual life is destroyed.

Saving Man From Sanctified Ruthlessness The new era may thus burden the church and

synagogue with another task-to save man from the dark, ghastly heresy of sanctified ruthlessness and brutality, to preach anew and with increased fervor the mandates of reasonableness, tolerance and charity, and to safeguard man's spiritual freedom and autonomy in a world constricted by en-

compassing walls of dictatorships.

The new era is likely to witness the intensification of racial and national intolerance. Bitter economic distress is leading to national economic iso-lationism. Each nation is attempting to become economically self-sufficient. Nations are entrenching themselves behind tariff walls and other artificial economic barriers. The world is becoming fractionalized to a degree unknown in the past. The Universal idea which fired the imagination of men in the 18th and 19th centuries, the idea of a federated world, of an integrated humanity has been pushed out of man's mind by the demands of a blatant, militant and provincial nationalism. The youth of the world is being taught to think not in terms of international solidarity and humanity. but interms of exclusive, aggressive and competitive nationalism. In countries like Germany, nationalism is even further restricted to a fantastic race cult, and in its name citizens not of the majority race are being disfranchised, degraded, humiliated, and the very means of livelihood denied them. Here race idolatry has run riot to point where all human virtues have been sacrificed to it.

#### Cultural Pluralism the Need of Today

What is required in our day is not super-heated race or national apologetics nor mystic yearnings after social or cultural co-ordination, but a generous and tolerant way of life which will give each race and nationality the opportunity to live its own life, to express its own soul and to contribute its unique values to the commonalty of human life. Our age needs a form of good will which will not only tolerate differences but which will gladly use them for the enrichment of life.

Judaism and Christianity have a message and a mission which overleap national boundaries and race barriers. They speak not to the racial man or the national man, but to the man qua man. They speak of truths and values which all men need for their spiritual and moral sustenance and which all men may cherish regardless of their color, their station or their nationality. Neither Judaism nor Christianity has always been faithful to the universalistic, international implications of their respective teachings. In the new era they will have an historic opportunity to confront the rampant, nationalistic and racial aberrations of a confused and disintegrated world with their strong, ancient gospel of "One God in Heaven and One Humanity on Earth."

# Church Seen as Champion Of Rights of Individuals Puttaburgh Free 5/11/35 Dictatorships Characterized by Utter Ruthlessness, Rabbi

Writes—Insists Man Possesses Certain

Privileges Over State

The mission of the church and the synagogue in the present world uncertainty is described by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, rabbi of The Euclid Avenue Temple, Cleveland, O., in the following exclusive article to The Pittsburgh Press:

In the new era organized religion may have to assume the role of sole

surviving champion of the rights of the individual.

In the face of the amazing pretensions of the state, religion may have to insist, and religious spokesmen in Nazi Germany have already, that man possesses certain rights, over which the state, however noble its purposes and exalted its program,

has no power. There are sovereign rights which are man's own by vir-

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The new era may thus burden the church and synagogue with another task—to save man from the dark, ghastly heresy of sanctified ruthlessness and brutality, to preach anew and with increased fervor the mandates of reasonableness, tolerance and charity, and to safeguard man's spiritual freedom and autonomy in a world constricted by encompassing walls of dictatorships.

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Saving from Sanctified Ruthlessness | Copyright N. C. J. C. News Service

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LANCASTER PA. NEW ERA MAY 11, 1935

### As Religion Sees It

Mission of Church and Synagogue Is to Save Man from Sanctified Ruthlessness and Brutality, and Guard His Spiritual Freedom from Dictatorships

By Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, who is active in many movements for the betterment of social conditions. He is the author of several books, including "Religion in a Changing World."

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Next week Rev. Francis Talbot, S. J. editorial secretary of the Catholic Book Club, will discuss the canonization of

Poems That Live

THE OLD STOIC And Love I laugh to scorn; and lust of fame was but a dream, That vanished with the morn:

That moves my lips for me Is, "Leave the heart that now I bear, And give me liberty!"

-Robert Stephen Hawker.

## As Religio

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"Homeward Bound." choir will sing appropriate anthems. Church School and Bible classes at 9.30 a. m. Young People's hour at 5 p. m. Mothers' Day program will be given by the young people. Mothers are invited as special guests.

### PILGRIM CHURCH

During the remaining Sunday evenings of this month the Open House group will meet in the ladies' parlor at 6.30 for a fireside meeting with the Rev. Dr. Harold L. Stratton. His subat 6.30 for a fireside meeting with the Rev. Dr. Harold L. Stratton. His subject is, "My Viewpoint of the Bible."

The Alpha Girls will meet Monday night at 8 with Helen Clapp, 26 Kingsbury Street.

"The Charm School" will be presented Tuesday night at 8 in Pilgrim

re will be a meeting of the h members Wednesday night at There 7.30 o'clock.

The Social Service Club will meet in Pilgrim Hall Thursday evening at 8. It will be a birthday party.

### DEWEY STREET BAPTIST

"Mary, the Mother of Jesus" will be the sermon topic tomorrow morning at the Dewey Street Baptist ing at the Dewey Street Baptist Church. In the evening at 7.30 the pastor, the Rev. Fred H. Bopp, will speak on the subject, "Does Man Fear God for Nought?"

The Christian Endeavor Society

will meet at 6.15.

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The new era is likely to witness the intensification of racial and national intolerance. Bitter economic distress is leading to national economic isolatonism. Each nation is attempting to become economically self-sufficient. Nations are entrenching themselves behind tariff walls and other artificial economic barriers. The world is becoming fractionalized to a degree un-known in the past. The Universal idea which fired the imigaination of men in the 18th and 19th centuries, the idea of a federated world, of an integrated humanity has been pushed out of man's mind by the demands of a blatant, militant and provincial na-tionalism. The youth of the world is being taught to think not in terms of international solidarity and humanity, but in terms of exclusive, aggressive and competitive nationalism. In countries like Germany, nationalism is even further restricted to a fan-tastic race cult, and in its name citizens not of the majority race are being disfranchised, degraded, humiliated, and the very means of liveli-hood denied them. Here race idolatry has run riot to a point where all hu-man virtues have been sacrificed to it.

Cultural Pluralism

What is required in our day is not super-heated race or national apolo-getics nor mystic yearning after social or cultural coordination, but a generous and tolerant way of life generous and tolerant way of life which will give each race and nation-ality the opportunity to live its own life, to express its own soul and to contribute its unique values to the commonalty of human life. Our age needs a form of good will which will not only tolerate differences but which will gladly use them for the enrichment of life. of life.

Judaism and Christianity have a message and a mission which overleap national boundaries and race barriers. They speak not to the racial man or the national men, but to the man qua man. They speak of truths and values which all men need for their spiritual and moral sustenance and which all men may cherish regardless of their color, their station or their nationality. Neither Judaism nor nationality. Neither Judaism nor Christianity has always been faithful to the universalistic, international implications of their respective teachings. In the new era they will have an historic opportunity to confront the rampant, nationalistic and racial aberrations of a confused and disintegrated world with their strong, ancient gospel of "One God in Heaven and One Humanity on Earth."

### S RELIGION SEES IT

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio.

It is quite possible that in the new era organized religion will have to assume the role of the sole surviv-ing champion of the rights of the ing cham individual

In the face of the amazing preten-sions of the State, religion may have to insist, and religious spokesmen in Nazi Germany have already had to Nazi Germany have already had to insist, that man possesses certain rights, over which the State, however the purposes and however rights, over which the State, however noble its purposes and however exalted its program, has no power whatsoever. There are sovereign rights which are man's own by virtue of his citizenship in any given political exalted its

group.

It is clear that the new era is being ushered in by way of dictatorships. Whether these are passing or permanent, it is impossible to say. These dictatorships, wherever established, have so far been characterized by their utter ruthlessness. This is true both of capitalistic and of some their utter ruthlessness. This is both of capitalistic and of comistic dictatorships. There are ally unscrupulous when they get action. Both have no compunction. munistic equally unso into action. Both have no computa-tion whatsoever about trampling upon the prostrate body of human rights. For both, the end justifies the means. Both raise political violence to a prin-ciple. In the fury of class struggle the mandates of personal morality human decencies and basic human decencies amenities are entirely lost sight and amenities are entirely lost sight of We have entered an age of sanctified ruthlessness and exalted cruelty. The Dark Ages could offer no comparable records of mass brutality.

But even more alarming than the toll of victims of dictatorship's physical violence is the tracic roll of victors.

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Next week's article will be pre-pared by Rev. Francis Talbot, S.J., secretary of the Catholic Book and literary editor of the Review - of - the - week, Catholic America.

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35-28

# As Religion Sees It-I

The mission of the church and the synagogue is to save man from sanctified ruthlessness and brutality and to safeguard his spiritual freedom

IT IS quite possible that in the new era organized religion will have to assume the rôle of the sole surviving champion of the rights of the individual.

In the face of the amazing pretensions of the state, religion may have to insist, and religious spokesmen in Nazi Germany have already had to insist, that man possesses certain rights, over which the state, however noble its purposes and however exalted its program, has no power whatsoever. There are sovereign rights which are man's own by virtue of his humanity and not by virtue of his citizenship in any given political group.

#### All Dictatorships Equally Unscrupulous

T IS clear that the new era is being L ushered in by way of dictatorships. Whether these are passing or permanent, it is impossible to say. These dictatorships, wherever established, have so far been characterized by their utter ruthlessness. This is true both of capitalistic and of communistic dictatorships. They are equally unscrupulous when they get into action. Both have no compunction whatsoever about trampling upon the prostrate body of human rights. For both, the end justifies the means. Both raise political violence to a principle. In the fury of class struggle the mandates of personal morality and basic human decencies and amenities are entirely lost sight of. We have entered an age of sanctified ruthlessness and exalted cruelty. The Dark Ages could offer no comparable records of mass brutality.

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By Abba Hillel Silver
Rabbi of The Temple, Cleveland, Ohio

tiveness. When man is not allowed to stand alone, to dissent from the majority, to proclaim the truth which has been born in him through his own soul's travail, his spiritual life is destroyed.

#### Saving Man from Sanctified Ruthlessness

THE new era may thus burden the church and synagogue with another task—to save man from the dark, ghastly heresy of sanctified ruthlessness and brutality, to preach anew and with increased fervor the mandates of reasonableness, tolerance, and charity, and to safeguard man's spiritual freedom and autonomy in a world constricted by encompassing walls of dictatorships.

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#### Cultural Pluralism the Need of Today

WHAT is required in our day is not super-heated race or national apologetics nor mystic yearning after social or cultural co-ordination, but a generous and tolerant way of life which will give each race and nationality the opportunity to live its life, to express its own soul, and to contribute its unique values to the commonalty of human life. Our age needs a form of good will which will not only tolerate differences but which will gladly use them for the enrichment of life.

Judaism and Christianity have a message and a mission which overleap national boundaries and race barriers. They speak not to the racial man or the national man, but to the man as man. They speak of truths and values which all men need for their spiritual and moral sustenance and which all men may cherish regardless of their color, their station or their nationality. Neither Judaism nor Christianity has always been faithful to the universalistic, international implications of their respective teachings. In the new era they will have an historic opportunity to confront the rampant, nationalistic, and racial aberrations of a confused and disintegrated world with their strong, ancient gospel of "One God in Heaven and One Humanity on Earth." O N. C. J. C. News Service