



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 V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Interfaith cooperation, 1937.

It should also be borne in mind that ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~drawn~~ ^{drawn} and ~~bigoted~~ ^{bigoted} choose, as a rule, to act and not to speak. They do not, ~~as a rule,~~ ^{generally speaking,} ~~actually~~ count the light, day. They prefer to lurk in the shadows. They are not proud of their positions ^{as they are} but are unwilling to surrender them. It is only in abnormal times, ^{such as the one in which we are living} when the customary procedures ^{+ disciplines} of civilized living break down, and men become shamelessly unscrupulous in their exploitation of ^{their real desires & their real methods} their real selves, that prejudice dares to come out into the open and attempt to rationalize itself into respectability.



~~The only way of fighting this new intolerance which~~
and especially Christianity - for it is the dominant religion -
a minority rel. group - under pressure - can not do much -



what libraries of books! ^{at-tempted} ^{what} ^{struggles} ^{democratic}! what ingenuity was employed and what energy ^{effused} in opposing each other theories, errors or assumptions! What public disputations! What atrocious charges! What infamous weapons of torture and coercion! And all in the name of Chr. which melted into both "that all that the Lord requires is, that they should love me, that they should love their neighbor as themselves".

And what avails it? Can laws? Jud. was driven into a hard, incurable isolationism as a result of this centuries-old persecution, from which only in the last century or so, did it begin to emerge. And this ^{respected} ^{exalted} ^{prayer} ^{salvation} ^{trust} to ^{unpatient} ^{unilateral} ^{prescriptions} ^{standards} ^{of} ^{law} - brother hood - and peace was not destroyed. Both were sorely ^{gravely} wounded. Intolerance has helped neither ~~in this way~~ to save the world. There need not be spread

5. What needs to be stressed at this time is that both Jud & Chr. - that is to say, the whole Judaeo-Chr. ~~complex~~ ^{complex} which supplanted the ^{without} ^{heretic} ^{heresy} ^{has} ^{been} ^{fully} ^{accepted} pagan complex in the W. world - is to-day being ^{attacked} ^{along} the entire front, as it has never been attacked since the collapse of Paganism. That the upthrust of violent Nat. is only the symbol of this ^{defeat} ^{humeral} ^{conflict}, and that the triumph of Am. ~~at the~~ spells the defeat of Christianity. There is no other way, ^{unintentionally} ^{made} ^{sharply} ^{by} ^a ^{sort} ^{of} ^{benighted} ^{prejudice} the sign, these times. ⁱⁿ ^{which} ^{they} ^{evidence} ^{their} ^{kind} ^{very}

6. The socialism of the Nazis is in violent contradiction to the ^{very} ^{essence} of the Chr. teaching - "no blood" - It is that ^{which} ^{Chr.} ^{prided} ^{itself} ^{as} ^{its} ^{most} ^{significant} ^{contribution} ^{to} ^{the} ^{rel.} ^{progress} of mankind. What happens to it - in a ^{Christian} ^{society} where ^a ^{new} ^{blood} ^{act} ^{is} ^{set} ^{up} - and ^{what} ^{and} ^{Scholle} ^{become} ^{the} ^{race} ^{become} ^{the} ^{criteria} ^{of} ^{virtue} ^{respectability} ^{and} ^{citizenship}? When race is exalted ^{above} ^{all} ^{else} ^{what} ^{is} ^{the} ^{value} ^{of} ^{virtue} ^{respectability} ^{and} ^{citizenship}? When men are conceived ^{as} ^{belonging} ^{to} ^a ^{diff} ^{race}.

7- The narrow, divisive, hellish, nationalism, to-day rampant in ~~the~~ ^{the} world - which is fragmenting mankind as never before - is a primary assault upon the internationalism of our civilization, to the Jud. thrust - which gave mankind ideals & overarching nat. boundaries and ~~kept~~ ^{kept} ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~working~~ ^{at} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~disrupting~~ ^{disrupting} mankind. Extreme nationalism is the malady of the modern age - and, since the world war, it has become a dangerous and deadly disease -

8- The world's satisfaction of war - has ~~been~~ ^{again} been restored. Never has war - as nat. policy and nat. destiny - been as firmly established as to-day. What of the Jud. Ch. vision of "heating swords into plowshares" and "peace on earth - good will to men". It must be grasped like ^{dim} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~well~~ ^{well} in such a world. Surely the Ch. must realize that there is no room on the throne, the world both for the god of wars and the Prince of Peace!

The spirit of man is warlike. Few peoples have ^{ever} resisted war. Rel. has sought to bridle this human bellicosity. Modern states are unleashing the last restraint upon the martial passions and appetites of men & nations.

9. The pagan idolatry of the State, whose symbol was the divine Emperor who was worshipped in every Temple, the ancient world has again been restored in half of Europe. The idol with whom both J. & Ch. were primarily concerned - his worship, his moral upliftment, his salvation, his happiness here or hereafter, is being submerged - absorbed - reduced in stature, dignity, propensity, and power, ~~but~~ ^{not} ~~like~~ ^{like} Prometheus to a rock, but petrified ^{within} a marble monolith - and obliterated -

The Middle Ages were theocratic. The Renaissance - anthropocentric.

The post-hellum age has become ^{politic} imperial.

Middle Ages gave us - as its sequel - The Priest

Renaissance - " " " " - The Humanist

Our age " " " " - The Dictator - Service.

Our was an age, Faith - Law, Reason - Order of Subjection. Service.
Rel. cast over the state under the 706 Moral Law. In its
name a prophet could denounce a King.

Use Rel. as vehicle

10. Rel. offered a new method to mankind by which to attain
desired ends: ~~this is its unique contribution~~ methods
as worthy of the ends! To establish justice and peace in
society - Rel. urged upon men ways of justice & peace. In-
justice will never establish justice, and war will never establish
peace. ~~The~~ Moral ends do not justify immoral means - for the
means have a way of interfering ends with the ends, and
of defeating them.

This method is planted every where in the world to-day. ~~for~~
~~the~~ Econ. life has resolved itself into a class-struggle, wherein
each class resorts to methods of ruthlessness, terrorism,
repression, without ^{comp. - Soc.} compunction - all in the name of exalted
ideals - justice - the classless society - paternalism - race or
culture! - and all hoping to abandon their unpleasant methods
as soon as their goals are attained! But the goals are never
attained - and the means - remain - a blight & a curse upon
men.

Every where there is the hand thrust out in defiant acknowledgment
on the clenched fist of threat. Whether the hand - beating the

heart - "mea culpa" - for an ~~in~~ ~~case~~ in humility - in
conduct - for an ~~common~~ + collector's sins - and nowhere
the resolution to establish justice & peace - then good will and
sacrifice, ^{self-reproach} and justice & peace.

The War is after the war.

11- This is how the battle-line is drawn to-day, my friends, - in the
~~one on side - between paganism and antiquity, the further a~~
~~second - out for antiquity; Valley & Revision!~~ ^{this florid romanticism}
^{of the petty bourgeoisie}
^{you have seen}
And to this struggle the Jew is vitally involved. The triumph of their
my own doctrine - which has about the phylacteries & phylacteries
chain. Not a sacrifice of the war by those / the Fascist states ^{books}
evil for his free existence in the world. But it breeds evil also and
defeat for the Faith which is Judaism and the Faith which is Christianity.
It breeds evil for all men ~~who~~ everywhere, who ~~want~~ ^{long} ~~to be~~
~~free, just, noble and significant~~ ^{books have made} ~~cannot~~ ^{of} ~~life~~ ^{desecrated}
from the values which these faiths have had to maintain. ~~the~~

12- True Christ. who are aware of what is going on in the world
to-day - will war upon Antis. as upon ~~the~~ modern Anti-Christ.
~~This~~ Antis. is not the foe of Israel only. It is the foe of
Mankind. Anti-J. prejudice is being exploited to-day by groups,
and gangs of hot patriots, to gain unholy power, to ~~even~~ draw the
attention of people away from the real econ. issues, as day, to
write & stampede them into surrendering those decent attitudes,
those sound judgments and those precious liberties which in
their ^{other} ~~moments~~ ^{they} would never think of doing. It is
up to the ^{glorious} ~~glorious~~ ^{to} ~~destroy~~ ^{Antis.} ~~Antis.~~
An attack upon all forms of anti-J. discrimination, ^{employment is} ~~in~~
industry, in the professions, in social relations is a service
not alone to the Jew - but to mankind, ^{only} the eradication of
^{early} prejudice, thus a fairer more honest account of the whole Christ.

it has been said, has been through
The *any* line of progress in human relationships - *to* Persecution, *the has been* Forbearance, Tolerantion, *It has been a* Appreciation and Cooperation. Particularly true of *the* relationship between Judaism and Christianity. Not a continuous, unbroken line through the ages. *It has been a* Rather ~~an~~ zig-zag line of many recessions, but, albeit, forward moving in its general direction.

In some countries today and in some groups within these countries, the line has not gone much beyond ~~religions~~ forbearance and toleation. There is a grudging ~~condemnation~~ *condescension* or a sort of unctious broad-mindedness which allows also other religious denominations the right to exist when really they should know better - and not insist on it. In other places and among certain groups the line has moved forward to sincere efforts to understand one another, to envisage each other's problems, and to find common bases for cooperation.

This is especially true of *WRHS* our own country, where more earnest thought has been given to the task of increasing contacts between religious groups and widening the scope of mutual appreciation and cooperation, than in any other country in the world. Organizations such as the "National Conference of Jews and Christians", the "Fellowship of Faiths" - have been intelligently active in this field. There is hardly a community in this land where Christian ministers and rabbis are not working together and in the friendliest of spirit as religionists in civic or social projects, in these common undertakings for the moral improvement and social betterment which unite and integrate our diverse and heterogeneous populations. Ministers and Rabbis frequently exchange pulpits, share each other's points of view in ministerial associations, and write for one another's religious periodicals.

It should be remembered that liberal religious leaders have not always carried the lay following in their churches along with them in these laudable activities. - Criticized - Resented - The hand of the Past still lies very heavily upon many of them. They inherited, or from their environment they

Christianity - a Christianity without its quintessential Judaic elements, its Jewish Bible, its Jewish Jesus, its Jewish Paul, its Jewish apostles, its Jewish ethics, its Jewish monotheism, its Jewish messianism, its Jewish background, is no Christianity at all. And the pagan Nazis who would dissociate Christianity from its Jewish origins and Jewish thought patterns are not deceiving themselves or the world. The frontal attack upon the Old Testament is a clever against the. . What they really wish is to tear Christianity root and branch out of the lives of the German people for their system of totalitarianism and their philosophy of life are altogether incompatible with the basic life philosophy both of Judaism and Christianity. The two are enemies.

That Judaism is indebted to Christianity for elaborating and stressing the universal implications of Judaism and spreading the prophetic teachings and law of truth throughout the world, thereby fulfilling divine purpose, was already acknowledged ~~by~~ centuries ago by Rabbis of the stamp of Maimonides and Halevi. And that throughout the last 2000 years Jewish and Christian theologians and scholars have each other, profited by each other's researches and studies, is a matter of recorded history.

Furthermore, it need not be argued at great length ~~an~~ that their millennial hostility has done neither any good. The spiritual mission of each was seriously retarded by it. It is frightening and saddening to contemplate the seemingly inexhaustible armory of malice, and vituperation which these religions in their employed.

What libraries of ill tempered books! What vicious pamphleteering! What ingenuity was employed and what every extended in expressing each other's theologic errors or assumptions! What public disputations! What atrocity charges! What infamous weapons of torture and coercion! And all in the name of Religion, which declared unto both "that all that the Lord requireth of Thee".....

And what availeth it? Crui Bono? Judaism was driven into a hard, isolationism as a result of this centuries-old persecution, from which only in the last century or so, did it begin to emerge. And Christianity its exalted program of salvation through love, brotherhood and peace to an impatient and intolerant prescriptive spirit of religious imperialism. Judaism was not destroyed. Christianity was not destroyed. Both were sorely and grievously wounded. Intolerance has helped neither to save the world. These need not be stressed.

What needs to be stressed at this time is that both Judaism and Christianity, that is to say, the whole Judaeo-Christian complex which supplanted the pagan complex in the Western world without having ever been fully accepted, is today being attacked along the entire front, as it has never been attacked since the collapse of Paganism. That the upthrust of virulent anti-Semitism is only the symbol of this desperate and universal conflict, and that the triumph of anti-Semitism spells the defeat of Christianity. There is no other way of interpreting the sign of these times.

The racialism of the Nazis - not to speak of the unspeakable and infra-human ways made ghastly by a sort of lunatic pedantry in which they evidence this Racialism is in violent contradiction to the very essence of the Christian teaching - "One blood" - It is that which Christianity prided itself most - as its most significant contribution to the religious thought of mankind. What then happens to it - in a Christian society where a new blood cult is set up - and race becomes the criterion, virtue, respectability and citizenship? Where race is exalted above Faith? Above all Humanity? Where men are crucified because they belong to a different race?

The narrow, divisive belligerent nationalism, today, rampant in the Christian world which is fragmentizing mankind as never before is a furious

assault upon the internationalism and universalism of both Judaism and Christianity which gave mankind ideals overarching national boundaries and aimed at uniting and not disrupting mankind. Extreme nationalism is a malady of the Modern age and since the World War, it has become its deathly disease.

The worship and adoration of War have again been restored. Never has war as national policy and national destiny been as firmly established as today. What of the Judaeo Christian vision of "beating swords into plowshares" and "Peace on earth - good will to men", It must be quenched like a dim and helpless wick in such a world. Surely the Christians must realize that there is no room on the throne of the world both for the _____ and the Prince of Peace!

The spirit of man is warlike. Few peoples have ever resisted war. Religion has sought to bridle this human belligerency. Modern states are unleashing the last restraint upon the martial passions and appetites of men and nations.

The pagan idolatry of the State, whose symbol was the divine Emperor who was worshipt in every Temple of the ancient world, has again been restored in half of Europe. The individual with whom both Jews and Christians were primarily concerned - his well being his moral improvement, his salvation, his happiness, here or hereafter, is being submerged, _____, reduced in stature, dignity and significance, and bound, not like Prometheus to a Rock, but petrified within a mamouth _____ and obliterated.

The Middle Ages were Theocentric. The Renaissance -
The post-bellum age has become politico-centric and imperio-centric.
The Middle Ages gave us as its symbol - the Priest.
The Renaissance gave us as its symbol - the Humanist
Our age gave is as its symbol - the dictator.
One was an age of Faith, another of Reason, ours of ~~subjection~~ servility.

Handwritten signature and scribbles

Line of Progress - Persecution. Forbearance. Toleration
Appreciation - Cooperation

True of C-S. - Not an unbroken - Zig-zag - recessions

In some Countries - line has not - grudging.
unctions broad-mindedness - know better

In other countries - providentially - understand - Encourage

- This is esp. true of our own country
contacts - widen scope.

- Organizations

- Hardly a community;

- those common undertakings for
which unite - diverse

- Exchange

Should be borne in Mind - Liberal R. Keller -

- Hand of Past

- They inherited -

- Even when they are unill. aware of.

- Generations.

Should also be borne - Intoler. + Bigotry choose to act

- Only in abnormal times - customary

- and Men become shamelessly

- attempts to rationalize itself into Respect.

It is :: difficult -

to appraise

- Altho - ignored

3). That Jud. + Chr. have much in Common -

~~4~~. Making full allowance

. The pagan Nazis - dissociate

. Their frontal attack

. What they really wish - incompatible

That Jud. is indebted -

That throughout the last 2000 yrs -

4). Again - it need not be argued - Millennial Hostility.

. It is frightening -

. What libraries of ill-tempered books -

. " Various pamphlets

. " Inguenuity

. " Public disputations - Advocacy tales

. " infamous weapons

And all in the name.

And what availed it! Cui Bono?

Jud. was driven -

" " not destroyed -

Both were sorely + grievously wounded -

Futurians had helped neither

This need not be stressed

5). What needs to be stressed - both Jud. + Chr.

That the upthrust of Ant.

" " Triumph, an - spells defeat, Chr.

No other way of Futurism.

2. Furthermore Problem - Oversimplified.

- Were it exclusively a rel. problem - Hypocrite
- For Rel. Tolerance
- Not so much because of the Sp. Evolution
- Shifting of Chief Interests of Men - Preferences.
- Leaving - generous latitudes
- Broad-mindedness is so often unconcernedness
- One can be so tolerant abst. things one can hit it all

up to 19C - Rel. was the decisive factor

The Objectives -

- In individ. cases that was the complete lot
- In the case, the people, as a whole -

Since the 19C. - other factors -

The Objectives now -

This is the avowed + official policy

You cannot confront this new Intol.
which capitalizes A - riding with power -
Weapon in fighting -

For this new Intolerance - uttered by religious
community counter - basic teachings.

And because this new Intol. is Hostile -

and threatens

Org. religion - + Esp. Christ. - must
wage - pagan + primitive

As a by-product of the collapse, there
Whence their Triumph can only -

6. Racism of Nazis - not to speak - unspeakable

. In violent contradiction.

. "of one blood"

. What, then, happens, - "new blood cult"

7. The narrow... Nationalism - is also a furious assault

. which gave mankind ideals - overreaching

. Extreme Nat - Malady -

8. Worship & Adoration of War - restored.

. Never has war -

. what becomes - Victims

. Drenched.

. Surely the Christ - God of Men.

. The Spirit of Man is warlike

. Few peoples -

9. Pagan idolatry of State - whose symbol

The Individ. with whom - submerged -

. not like Promethes -

. and obliterated.

Middle Ages - Theo-centric

Renaissance - Anthropocentric

Post-Bellum
Pro-day - Archo-centric / Politic-centric

- Symbol - Priest. Humanit. Dictator

- Age of Faith - Reason - Servility.

. Rel - cast state - Vehic - Tool -

10/ Rel. offered New Method - by which

- Methods worthy, the Ends.
- To establish Justice - Peace
- In Justice.
- Moral ends do not justify - for means

This Method is flawed -

- Econ. life resolved itself - class struggle
- When each resorts - Capital. Social.
- In the name - hypocrisy.

Everywhere the Hand - "mea culpa"

11/ This is how the battle-line is drawn -

In this struggle the Jew is vitally

- The Triumph, these noxious - which have
flour'd Roman tactics - bode
- But it bodes evil also -

12/ True Christians who are aware - will war
upon An - Antichrist

An. is not the Jew of Israel only -

.. is being exploited -

It is up to Church to war upon Ant

A chr. attack upon all forms of Discrimination
employment.

those who close the door - frustration
are guilty of fostering

The eradication of early prejudices then
a favor -

13/ A wider tolerance of differences - Cultural

• Recog. that uniformity means tyranny

• Mutual respect.

• Less of memories

• " of old world

will facilitate.

let us be rivals in doing good

" " Consent - Superintend - Service

Subsist - Privilege - Saampas

Aspire - Masterly - Self

Indulge - Envy - Virtues

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