



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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180

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575

Civilian defense, 1941.

- I am not bearing anything - Am listening to you
// Back of Army morale is Civilian Morale.

Fighting Spirit of armed forces no greater >
Fighting Spirit of Civilian Population

In fact line of demarcation - obliterated -
Bombing has put civil. men, women, children
into active fighting zone

- Thousands civilians killed > ball fields
or high seas - The Wokey

2/ What defeated France - not only -

- Lack of fighting spirit - apathy - Munich - Danzig

- no goal to awaken martial spirit!

- Bitter inner class struggle - Hated each
other > Hitler

- To military mistakes added colossal
sp. blunders - deficiencies
702 ft

3/ - We are facing over grand Hour of Decision.

- In fact Decision has already been made

- We are in the War - a shooting war -

- Enemy is powerful - Enemies - E.H.W.

- Struggle long and bitter - Dangers -

- 4/ We discovered very late that our
military preparations in adequate
 - Not enough of anything - for ourselves,
our allies - ships, guns, tanks,
planes -
- A peace-loving people - we trusted in
the efficacy of the Wish for Peace -
- We did not help to build the League
- We did not arm ourselves - to
- We watched Jap. aggression in China
Italian - Nazi - Land and -
power hungry empires -
- Not until collapse of France - war -
collapse of Eng - awoken.
- We are now getting into high gear
- 5/ We are yet to discover that our
sp. preparations is inadequate -
- Our morale is low for task ahead -

6/ As a people - not sufficiently aroused -
not sufficiently united - not sufficiently
prepared for major sacrifices.

① Still discussing in Congress & not
whether this is an war or not. Whether
we should aid G. B. at all - or only with
war-material - Money or not - Refer
an Neutrality Law or not?

Help win the war without taking
any risks of becoming involved. Burton
and Boettner -

all this at a time when H. is com-
pleting his conquest of Europe - Japan -

The world is afire - "Gallies Ball" "Stops"

② Not sufficiently united - Labor -
unreasonable - unpatriotic -

Dissident Propaganda - Nations & Mags. in U.S.

③ Not suff. prepared for sacrifices -

econ. self-denial - taxation -

rationing - Reduction in our standard of
living - Regulation -

7/ Morale depends upon one's strong belief that
one's cause is just, is worth the struggle
and can be won. (4)

- ① Let all Am. an. get persuaded -
- Suffering - "cynicism" the deadly parallel
- Last war - won + lost -
- President - Armistice Day -
- Democ. has he fought for again -
- another attempt at peaceful world org

- ② Confidence in Democ. shaken
- Permanence of last 2 decades
- Fascist propog - inefficient -
- New econ. Order calls for New Pol. Order
- Return to Old - in threat of "Stream-lining"

③ Can be won - Lindbergh - 10 M.

Unviability - Eng - Russia

Fill up with anxiety - yonder is an morale

8/ Sp. Recharging

① Our Decl. for Bull, Ryzak which
are America - are worth dying for.

(2) Nazis menace them - imminently
and directly

(3) War is Bad - but Hitlerism is Worse.

Load of Debt - Chains of Slavery
(4) We failed last time - We must try again

(5) It is better to go in want of
some material comforts + recreation
than to live in want of Freedom, Dignity
Mat. things = dispensable. S.P. = Indispensable

(6) We can win. We have the resources
and the resourcefulness - the productive
capacity and the inventiveness
the power of org., coordination.

- and in times of danger, when true
insight finally comes, the power of
uniting and using to great heights
and of releasing vast potentials.

9) Each of us, in days ahead, ^{bel. justice} ~~in~~ ^{worthy} ~~faith~~
and confidence, uniting with other Americans.
to do the spe. jobs which will be re-
quired of us - whatever they be and
at whatever cost will build up and sustain
that Morale - needed for victory.