



## 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.

---

Reel  
180

Box  
67

Folder  
624

B'nai B'rith, 1943.



Excerpts from address to be delivered by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland, Ohio in Cincinnati on Tuesday, June 1, 1943.

Three major tasks will face responsible Jewish leadership in the years immediately following the war. Broken lives in the broken centers of war-ravaged Europe will have to be rebuilt. While European Jewry will probably never again recover the position of primary importance which it occupied in Jewish life before the war, it is unrealistic to assume that all Jews will evacuate European countries after the war. — But surely there will be enough left to necessitate large-scale and uninterrupted aid to them over a considerable period of time.

Jewish leadership must insist at the peace conferences that such political conditions be established and such international machinery be set up as will protect the Jewish minority and all other minorities against a recurrence of those discriminatory activities which prevailed after the last war almost to the day when the Second World War began. A charter of human liberties must be proclaimed, and implemented by international action, by whatever global or regional international councils will be created after the war, which will protect every human being in his right to life and to earn a livelihood in the land of his birth or adoption, subject to no restriction or cancellation by any government whatsoever.

The second task which will confront Jewish leadership is the rapid upbuilding of Palestine. There will be very large numbers of Jews who will have to emigrate from Europe after this war, and there will be no places for them to go.

Palestine has been readied by decades of Jewish labor and initiative for just such an emergency in Jewish life. Unless Jewish leadership, regardless of shades of opinion, concentrates its attention and focuses whatever power our people still possess upon securing this one possible refuge for our homeless ones, we will lose out even here. If the White Paper remains in force, Palestine must be written off as a place for large-scale immigration for our people.

The third task which will face Jewish leadership in America is not the least important. It is to vitalize the spiritual life of our people and to strengthen and expand all institutions of religion, learning and scholarship. The American Jewish community is now the largest in the world -- the largest in all our history. Great



religious and cultural centers of our people in the Old World have been destroyed. The New World must now take their place.

American Jewry, together with Palestine, must now become the Jabneh of the new day. Jewish cultural survival, on a scale worthy of our heroic past, now depends upon what the Jews in this country and in Palestine will do. The center of our interests must shift from our over-emphasis upon the purely eleemosynary and philanthropic activities in our communities -- orphanages, hospitals, homes for the aged -- to the cultural educational and spiritual.

American Jewry cannot survive on philanthropy alone nor on fighting anti-Semitism. Its spiritual and intellectual life must be nourished. Definitely there is the possibility of achieving on the gracious shores of this free and blessed land, a Golden Age comparable to the best in our past, provided we plan intelligently on the basis of a total program, which experience has taught us will alone preserve us in worth and in dignity in the future.

