



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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Statement at close of war, 1945.

The war is over. A dark chapter is closed. Democracy has emerged triumphant. The free spirit of man has been vindicated. Out of the midst of the overthrow, mankind is rising to build anew upon stronger foundations a juster, kindlier world.

Great vistas are opening up before the eyes of men. The presses of the mind and the spirit are bursting with new wine. Great is the mind of man, fathomless in inventiveness, nigh limitless in achievement. Great is the world of man, inexhaustible in resources, ample and sufficient for all. Great is the promise of man, pilot of the strathosphere, winged airman to the most distant lands brought near by vision, daring and the confidence of youth.

Everything that has happened in the last few years -- the gathering of the forces of democracy, taunted with decadence, against the power and ^{an} might of all-out tyranny and brutality, the quick rebound of America from the overwhelming disaster of Pearl Harbor, the amazing organization of the productive potential of this nation for war, the boundless energies which were unleashed by us in all parts of the world, and the emergency ^{and} in response to ~~the~~ need of the super-fortress, ^{and} the atomic bomb, all proclaim in one mighty chorus that whatever we set our hearts and our minds to ^{we can} ~~can be~~ achieved, that a new heaven and a new earth can be created in this gracious ^{land} once we free ourselves from the rust and tarnish of cynicism and complacency, once we respond to the challenge of our better nature, to the call of duty, honor and patriotism.

America will be greater than ever before ^{and} in wealth, in shared prosperity, in culture, in all the arts of civilization -- if so we will it. It is far more difficult to release new energies for justice, ^{and} brotherhood and peace than for destruction and total annihilation, ~~but~~ for you deal here not with things physical but with the tangled web of human emotions, passions, ambitions and fears, in all their waywardness and perversities, ^{and} But it can be done through the same process of pooling our highest thinking, our noblest motives and our firm perseverance.

~~Everything that has happened in the last few years -- the gathering of the forces~~

This is a great age for young men to grow up in. In a real sense we are just at the beginning of man's intellectual and spiritual evolution, and only on the threshold of our country's heroic destiny. When our young men and women return from the distant battlefronts to our cities and to our homes, may they grasp the opportunities of the new *day* ~~and age~~ ~~world in the making~~ and may they face the tasks of tomorrow with eager spirits and with stout hearts.

