



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.

Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

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Kill Bolshevism with justice, undated.

- Kill Bolshevism with Justice -

If I were to sound any keynote at this meeting, or at any meeting of business men at this time, it would be the keynote of confidence. Business men are laboring under a sense of restlessness, of uncertainty, of doubt. I suppose such a temper is inevitable in a period of reconstruction, and yet such a spirit may lead, if we are not careful, to a panicky period that will paralyze our efforts.

At the bottom of all radical theories, such as are sweeping over the continents at this time, is the conflict of the Good vs. the Best. All the sane men are on one side. All the grievers and the fanatics and visionaries are lined up on the other. No one today would say we should restore without reconstruction. Few would go back to the days before the war. Our enemy is not the reactionary so much as ^{who} he is not satisfied with the good or the better, but insists on the best in the briefest possible time, no matter what the ~~tremendous~~ cost. The man who seeks the best without reference to practicability often is the greatest stumbling block in the path of progress.

Society is not a great simplicity, but a great complexity. There is no panacea for all social evils. The evils of society must be corrected singly and gradually.

Those who would create a vast simplicity and call it society, and another vast simplicity and call it a panacea for all society's evils, have the child type of mind that deals in superlatives and constructs ideals, but when it comes to practically working out ^{these} ~~their~~ ideals, they throw up their hands. They deem righting wrongs gradually too tedious a task, so they destroy and build ^{new}. Rome may be destroyed in a day, but ^{it} can't be rebuilt in a day. The leader who is too far ahead of the people is no leader at all. Society doesn't need some one to hold up tantalizing visions of ultimate perfection. Society needs some one to show it the next step, to show us what to do tomorrow, ~~not one thousand years from now.~~ That is the basis of all radicalism and Bolshevism.

It is not a battle between good and bad, but between practical good and theoretical best.

Bolshevism has become the nightmare of the American business man. It promises but has not the power to fulfill. It can't feed life, it makes it only more ^vh~~an~~gry. Bolshevism believes in revolution. Progress doesn't come by revolution. Life moves forward slowly, it gropes, stumbles, crawls. Bolshevism is a menace because it preaches class struggle. The glory of civilized life is in co-operation. Bolshevism preaches tyranny of the proletariat. We are opposed to all tyranny.

