

Jewish Genius and World Peace

By

DR. ARTHUR RUPPIN.



Dr. Arthur Ruppin, outstanding Jewish economist, views in this exclusive "Zionist Record" article, Jewish achievements and the role of the Jew in the solving of the great social and economic problems of our future.

THOUGH the principal Jewish contribution to the world's culture lies in the religious sphere Jewish influence has made itself felt in many other fields as well. Until the time of the crusades the Jews, in their capacity as traders, acted as almost the only link between the Orient and Occident and consequently had a large share in the bringing of Eastern cultural advances to the then semi-barbaric West.

And they have played an important role in the development of modern imperialism and capitalism, in addition to giving modern socialism its theoretical basis and many political leaders.

The cultural role of the Jew today is not merely passive. That is, he does not merely adopt existing cultural elements, but actively contributes to the further development of the world's culture. Here we must consider that in our age Jewry is concentrated in urban centres—which are the fountainheads of culture—and that an extraordinarily large proportion of Jews belongs to the educated group which leads the cultural field. So that the cultural influence of Jews in any country is by far greater than their numbers would lead one to expect.

In the realm of science this influence can be traced back to antiquity. In the Hellenistic period the Jew Philo popularised Greek philosophy and through his labours became one of the principal sources from which subsequent centuries derived their learning.

The Jews of Spain under Moorish domination, did much important work in philosophy and astronomy; their efforts did much to bring to Europe the knowledge of the Greeks with Arab additions and thus lay the foundation for our modern culture by means of the Renaissance.

In the seventeenth century Baruch Spinoza exerted a deciding

influence on the philosophical thought of his time. And in the modern period the half-Jew Heinrich Hertz opened a new world of marvels with his discovery of electro-dynamic waves.

Albert A. Einstein and Sigmund Freud, with the theory of relativity and psychoanalysis, have deepened our knowledge of the universe and of the human mind. Henri Bergson is one of the greatest thinkers of our day.

Modern medicine owes salvarsan to Paul Ehrlich, the blood test for syphilis to August von Wassermann, the discovery of the various human blood types to Karl Landsteiner. In the technical field Emile Berliner has given us the microphone, M. Davidsohn the electromobile (1854), Seigfreid Markus (1875) the gasoline automobile.

To Jacoby we owe electro-metallurgy, to Arons the mercury lamp, to the half-Jew Beyer the synthetic production of indigo dyes, to Fritz Haber and Nikodem Caro the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen.

In aviation the Jews have David Schwarz, who, preceeding Zeppelin, constructed the first rigid airship in 1892; and Karl Arnstein, formerly chief construction engineer of the Zeppelin works, who in 1924 piloted the first American Zeppelin across the Atlantic from Europe. Among explorers of unknown lands the Jews are represented by Emin Pasha (Eduard Schnitzer), Herman Vambery, Hermann Burshardt, Eduard Glaser and Sven Hedin (who had Jewish grandparents).

Of the hundred and fifty Nobel Prize winners from 1901 to 1930 fourteen were Jews who had to their credit outstanding achievements in the field of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature or the furtherance of peace. That is, Jews constituted 9.3 per cent. of the prize winners, or a proportion five times as great as their per-

centage—1.8 per cent.—among the civilised white races.

As Count Coudenhove-Kalergi has said, "if the greatness of a people is to be measured by the relative number of its prominent and gifted sons Jewry indubitably occupies first place to-day."

That the Jews have given the world many great musicians is well known. Among composers they have Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Anton Rubinstein, Jacques Offenbach, Giacomo Meyerbeer, Karl Goldmark, Gustav Mahler, Arnold Schoenberg, Ernest Bloch and many others.

Among concert artists, to mention only the greatest, are Joseph Joachim, Hermann Levy, Leopold Godowsky, Bronislaw Hubermann, Leopold Auer, Fritz Kriesler, Misha Elman, Jasha Heifetz. Similarly some of the greatest dramatic artists are of Jewish blood: Rachel Felix, Adolj van Sonenthal, Ludwig Barnay, Sarah Bernhardt.

Even in the pictorial and plastic arts, which until the nineteenth century lay entirely without Jewish sphere of activity, Jews have produced illustrious men like the painters Camille Pissaro, Josef Israels and Max Liebermann, sculptors like Mark Antokolski and Moses Ezekiel, architects like Alfred Messel and Erich Mendelsohn.

It is common knowledge that the great authors and dramatists of our time include a very large percentage of Jews. Here we shall name only Georg Brandes, Arthur Schnitzler, Jakob Wassermann, Ludwig Fulda, Max Reinhardt, Emil Ludwig and the half-Jew Marcel Proust.

Amazingly many Jews are numbered among the world's leading parliamentarians and statesmen. Even the Conservative Party of Prussia counted the Jew, Friedrich Stahl among its founders. In countries where no barriers hinder their rise Jews have reached the highest offices: Benjamin Disraeli in England, Luggi Luzatti in Italy.

Even to-day, half a century after Disraeli's death his memory is honoured in England. In Germany Walter Rathenau was Foreign Minister after the world war, and Hugo Preuss, as Minister of the Interior, created the new German Constitution.

Recently, a Jew, Lord Reading,

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Capetown's Enthusiastic Welcome to Chalutz Delegates

Initial Activities of Messrs. J. Baratz and A. Harzfeld.

A Strong Local Drive Committee Elected.

A large crowd of Capetown Zionists gathered at the Station on Monday morning, 2nd inst., to welcome Messrs. Baratz and Harzfeld, the Chalutz delegation from Eretz Israel, on their arrival from Johannesburg. Considerable excitement prevailed as the train steamed into the Station and the first glimpse was caught of the two visitors. Cheers and the singing of Hatikvah rang through the Station as the delegates alighted.

During the afternoon of the same day Messrs. Baratz and Harzfeld visited the Young Israel Camp at the Strand. A large party from Capetown also attended, and their numbers were further augmented by Strand residents. It did not take long for everyone to become infected by the happy atmosphere created by the delegates and maintained throughout the afternoon. Sitting on the ground the Young Israelites and their visitors, led by the two Chalutzim, sang Hebrew songs till evening, when the gathering collected round a large camp fire. During the evening short addresses were delivered by Messrs. Baratz and Harzfeld, also by Mr. I. Dunsky of the Organisation and Propaganda Department of the S.A. Zionist Federation; Mr. H. Kirsch, as guest and previous head of the Camp, also spoke. Mr. H. Zuckerman presided.

During the week the guests attended a number of private functions. On Thursday evening they met the Committees of all Zionist institutions in the Peninsula. Their first Mass Meeting is scheduled for the evening of Sunday, 8th inst., at the Zionist Hall, with Mr. M. Alexander, M.P., in the chair.

Arrangements for Drive.

Arrangements for the Dunam Drive are well in hand. A meeting of all combined Zionist Committees

in the Peninsula to discuss the plans for the Drive was held last Sunday, 31st ultimo, and a Central Committee for the whole Peninsula was formed as follows:

President: M. Alexander, Esq., M.P.

Vice-Presidents: Rev. A. P. Bender, Rabbi C. H. Mirvish and A. M. Abrahams, Esq.

Chairman: I. Ochberg, Esq.

Vice-Chairman: W. Harris, Esq.

Joint Hon. Secretaries: Messrs. J. Gitlin and D. Getz.

Hon. Treasurer: J. Zuckerman, Esq.

Committee: Messrs. J. Frank, M. Rosen, A. Liberman, L. Gradner, and Dorshei Zion Association Committee, with two representatives of every Zionist Society in the Peninsula.

The ladies are also organising themselves for the purpose of the Drive, and already a special Ladies' Committee has been formed.

To Jewish National Fund Box-Holders!

All Jewish National Fund Box-holders are reminded once again of the need to have their Boxes cleared before January 15, after which date English coins cease to be legal currency.

As announced previously, the period of the 1932 Box Competition, the prize for which is a set of Graetz's "History of the Jews," will be extended to include also the special January clearance.

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held the post of Viceroy of India, and another, Herbert Samuel, was High Commissioner for Palestine; and only in 1931 a Jew, Sir Isaac Isaacs, was named Governor-General of Australia.

The dispersion of the Jews through all the lands of the earth has made them peculiarly fitted for certain cultural tasks. As long as any sense of brotherhood, however feeble remains among them any blow directed against any political state must be felt by Jews as a blow at themselves, for some of them live in the country affected.

Consequently they have a vital interest in the bridging of the gaps that still exist between the various peoples, and therefore in the advancement of a rapprochement between the nations.

The world to-day stands at cross-roads. Modern invention, by its

development of rapid means of transportation and communication, has brought together the farthest ends of the earth.

The physical distances between the nations have shrunk to a tiny fraction of what they were a century ago. The exchange of goods has brought the economics of the various countries so close together that an upheaval in one land is felt immediately in every other.

Never have conditions been so favourable to a peaceful understanding among the nations. But modern invention has also given us terrible means of destruction which can kill millions in war, which in a few minutes can raze great cities and destroy the cultural achievements of centuries.

Our age must choose between the two roads reconciliation or annihilation. And should the latter road be taken the Jews inevitably will be the losers.

With their constant travelling

and migration from land to land, their international commercial connections they must lose more, in case of war, than they ever could gain.

That is why the Jew is the "natural" apostle of international peace and of the outlawry of war. As a matter of fact the League of Nations has more enthusiastic adherents among the Jews than among any other people: they are pacifists par excellence. We can hardly consider it coincidental that two Jews, Alfred H. Fried and Tobias C. Asser, received the Nobel Prize for peace efforts, and that the originator and legal formulator of the Kellogg Peace Pact of 1928 was the Chicago Jew Levinson.

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