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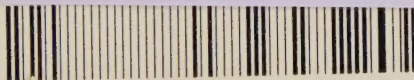


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THE JEWISH WAR FRONT

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V. JABOTINSKY



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# THE JEWISH WAR FRONT

BY  
V. JABOTINSKY



1940

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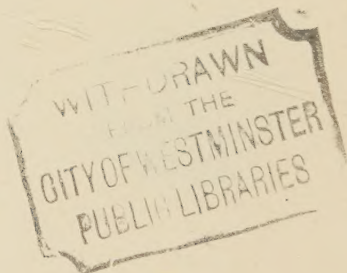
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PART I  
IS IT A WAR AIM?



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTORY

ON the outbreak of the present war the author of this book signed an appeal to the Jews which contained the following statements:

“A brutal enemy threatens Poland, the heart of the Jewish world-dispersion for nearly a thousand years, where over three million Jews dwell in loyalty to the Polish land and nation.

“France, all the world’s fatherland of liberty, faces the same menace.

“England has decided to make that fight her own; and we Jews shall, besides, never forget that for twenty years, until recently, England had been our partner in Zion.

“The Jewish nation’s place is therefore on all the fronts where these countries fight for those very foundations of society whose Magna Charta is our Bible.”

Five months have passed since that was published, but it seems that there is no intention of treating the Jewish people as an Allied nation, nor the Jewish people’s need as one of the causes for which the Allies are fighting.

With rare unanimity, all sections of the Jewish



national movement have asked for the formation of Jewish military units for active service on all fronts. There was nothing unprecedented in these demands: a "Judaean" infantry regiment (38th-41st Royal Fusiliers) was formed in 1917, and did good service in Allenby's Palestine campaign, and even before that there had been a Jewish transport unit, the Zion Mule Corps, in Gallipoli. Now the offer was for service not only in the East but wherever required. The only conditional demand was that Jews should be allowed to fight as Jews; that it should be recorded in the annals of this war that the Jews were one of the peoples fighting for the common good cause.

All these demands have so far been rejected. At the same time, a Polish army is being raised; Czechoslovak troops are recruited; and Jewish emigrants or refugees from both Poland and Czechoslovakia are being, in some cases advised, in some cases driven, to enlist in these formations, regardless of the fact that the brotherly treatment of Jewish recruits in some of them cannot always be guaranteed. A double humiliation is thus being inflicted: it is recognized that a destroyed nation is still a nation, and that its scattered members in exile should be given a chance to fight for their nation's reinstatement—but the Jew has no place on this waiting list of admitted claimants; he must give his devotion, his enthusiasm, his very life to the restoration of communities which have never

## INTRODUCTORY

pretended to love him, while fully aware that his own community is not to be included.

There is an obvious and deliberate policy behind this refusal to revive the Jewish Legion. Once a nation had received recognition as a partner in the fight, it could not be prevented, in due course, from presenting and pressing its demands. In the councils of Allied statesmanship, the desire is lacking that the Jews should become entitled, now or later, to present and press any demands\* of their own, no longer as petitioners but as equal partners.

The bitterness which this attitude arouses in Jewish minds can be measured only by the horror of the Jewish misery throughout East-Central Europe. In that zone of chronic yet acute anti-semitism the Jews have, so far, paid in actual human suffering infinitely more than the Czechs, considerably more even than the Poles. But in the majority of British Press organs their plight is hardly ever mentioned: their eagerness to serve, the justice of their cause, and even their agony are simply "not on the map."

British statesmen commonly discuss their war-aims without any reference to the Jewish problem. This attitude is even more unwise from the general standpoint than it is hurtful from the Jewish. It overlooks the fact that the abscess of Nazidom has been fed above all, on Jew-hatred, and would never have attained to such maturity but for that aliment;

and an operation that failed to remove the roots of antisemitism would be no cure.

On the infrequent occasions when Allied statesmen are reminded that a Jewish problem exists, they vaguely hint at equal rights for all in a future East-Central Europe democratized by the Allies' impending victory. Only one of them, Sir Archibald Sinclair, has had the courage, so far, publicly to warn the Jews that even after that victory no such equality could be effectively guaranteed; and what he said in public others must realize in private. They are no doubt genuinely determined to enforce the recognition of Jewish equality in treaties and constitutions; but real equality for the Jews in that Zone of Distress—unless a great exodus relieves the situation—is doomed to remain a mirage; sullen hatred, boycott and starvation, with the threat of violence always in the offing, will be the rule as before; as the Allied statesmen surely realize.

The worst feature of the situation is the tendency, when the problem cannot be altogether ignored, at all events to minimize its importance; to make a pretence of believing that there is no actual Jewish tragedy; that it is simply a matter of just some tiresome skin-deep wounds which can be repaired with a couple of stitches. Whereas the truth is that the tragedy has reached a formidable intensity of pain and doom which is without precedent in all human history; that to end it a colossal world-



## INTRODUCTORY

effort is needed, an effort equally without precedent ; and that this effort *will have* to be made.

In July 1938, Mr. Roosevelt made an endeavour to ensure international co-operation in the problem of initiating the great exodus ; but as this meant forcing a solution of the Palestine question, his effort—the Evian Conference—was cunningly frustrated, and his plan reduced to a futile patchwork.

Palestine today is regarded as out of bounds even for fugitives perishing in what is worse than No Man's Land—in the frozen No Man's Waters of the Danube estuary—for Jews marooned on disused iron oil-tankers, with newborn babies among them ; and as for the future of Palestine, it is the policy of the 1939 White Paper—the death sentence of Zionist hopes—that now holds the field.

So, if we summarize our outlook, it is this : No admission to the national homeland ; nothing but the *status quo ante* in the chief centres of distress ; not even the right to fight as Jews, nor the honour of acknowledgment as an ally in a cause for which we have paid and are paying more in blood and tears than any other race on earth. The Jewish people is the one and only people to whom Allied victory is to bring no positive guarantees of welfare ; nothing but the negative satisfaction of the Nazis' downfall. There is a short-sighted statesmanship that believes this to be quite enough : the Jews fear and hate the Nazis ; they have no choice but to side with the Allies ; why then trouble to offer them

prospects of betterment?—This is a poor wisdom. A thoughtful organizer of victory will want those who support his cause to pull their maximum weight. Supporters are of doubtful value when their sole incentive is hatred of the enemy, without a spark of constructive hope; when the only national anthem to suit their case would be a hymn to the lesser Evil!

All the wholesome forces of the Jewish public in the Allied and neutral countries should join in a determined effort to smash the influences which are tending to obliterate the existence and the importance of a Jewish war-front. If that effort be strong and resolute enough, it will be victorious. They need have no patriotic scruples; the more rigorous the assault, the better for all concerned. Theirs is a struggle for the right to fight together and hope together; a struggle to overcome those who are obstructing the full scope of the supreme effort.

In this war the Jewish people should count as one of the Allied nations. Long before they are through with it the Allies will have to make room for our troops on their many fronts, for our leaders among their governments, for the redress of Jewish wrongs and the erection of Jewish statehood among their war-aims.

## CHAPTER II

### NOT ON THE MAP

IN this war (so it seems at the time of writing), it is not desired that the Jews should be "on the map": neither as active allies, nor as fellow-sufferers, nor as the subject-matter of any special Allied demands or war aims.

Arthur Szyk, the gifted miniaturist who recently exhibited in London his brilliant and terrible drawings of tortured Poles and Jews under the German invader, has also a genius for finding the *mot juste*. To describe the attitude of the majority of the Allied statesmen and the greater part of the Allied Press to this "Jewish" aspect of the war, he uses the word pornography.

"They treat us," he says, "as a pornographical subject. Pornography covers a most important department of life and nature; nobody denies it, but you cannot discuss it in polite society—it is not done."

There is a sort of shamefaced conspiracy, almost entirely dominating Parliament, the Press,\* and the public platform, to obliterate the Jewish war-

\* There are a few exceptions, the *Manchester Guardian* among them.

issue by silence. The term "conspiracy" is not necessarily intended to suggest that there has been any explicit collusion on the subject between speakers and writers, or that all the newspapers have received a hint to that effect from some authoritative quarter. A "conspiracy" of this kind may be spontaneous and instinctive; when it is all the more deplorable in its callous unfairness.

So far—this is written early in 1940—of all the peoples attacked by Germany that one which has paid the greatest price of all in human suffering has been the Jewish people. No careful observer is likely to question this statement. True, the Czechs have lost—let us hope only temporarily—their independence, and the Poles have lost more than that: but in terms of actual human misery, hunger, torture and death, the Jews head the list, even in Poland. There are indications that the number of Jewish civilians who have died since the invasion is already in excess of the combined casualty list of both armies, German and Polish. All this is not said to minimize the greatness of the Polish people's losses; they are surely greater than those which any other nation—excepting one—has ever suffered in modern times outside of the trench or the battlefield. That one exception is the Jewish people: the Jews still head the list, and are hardly ever mentioned as fellow-sufferers.

For many months past it has been one of the writer's recreations to collect, from the Jewish Tele-



graphic Agency's *Daily Bulletin*, those items which he did *not* see reproduced in any of the leading British newspapers, at any rate not in the London Press. Here are a few samples:

Every Nazi in Lodz is free to engage any Jew he meets in the street to do his own private work without pay. No branch of trade and no profession is any longer open to the Jews in Lodz. Even Jewish cab-drivers and porters have now been forbidden to carry on with their work.

Ten Jews were executed by the Nazis in the township of Nove Miasto, in the Warsaw district. The Jews were chosen at random and shot dead without any reason being given.

In the township of Grojec, in the Warsaw district, the Jews were forced to set fire to their chief synagogue last Saturday. A number of Jews of the same township were shot dead by the Nazis while returning home from forced labour.

Hundreds of Jews, including many women and children, were killed in the town of Bendzin, near Katowice, when the Nazis set fire to Zachodnia Street, which is inhabited exclusively by Jews. Any Jew trying to escape was shot dead. Altogether several hundred men, women and children died in the flames, or were shot dead by the Nazis. All the synagogues in Bendzin have also been burnt down.

The catastrophic position of the Jewish population in the Lublin reservation is revealed for the first time in reports which reached here from persons who had recently fled from Lublin.

The Jews are not allowed to engage in any branch of trade or in any profession. Within the three months of the Nazi occupation the Jews have been subjected

to several pogroms. Jewish houses were plundered and hundreds of Jews were assaulted, many of them dying from wounds. Almost the entire Jewish property, both in shops and private houses, has been carried off by the Nazis, and the Jewish population has been reduced to a state of complete beggary.

The majority of the deportees were brought to the town of Lublin. Each of them is permitted to possess 25 marks and 25 kilogrammes of luggage. Many deportees had to leave the trains at night, often amid fields between two small railway stations. They were left to grope their way across fields in the darkness. No arrangements for the reception of the deportees have been made, nor has any relief been organized or any housing accommodation put at their disposal.

Wholesale executions of Jews by Nazis in many towns in the province of Lodz are openly admitted in official reports of Nazi police officers, extracts of which have been published in the *Schlesische Zeitung* of Breslau.

In the township of Lask, the *Schlesische Zeitung* states in quoting one of these official reports, "one hundred Jews were executed for offering resistance to German soldiers who were searching their homes for concealed arms." The police also learned, the official report further states, that about a thousand Jews had surrounded the synagogue in Lask with the intention of preventing the Germans from entering it. The Jews were therefore fired on and "hundreds were killed on the spot." The synagogue was then set on fire. "The Jewish streets of the township," the report continues, "have been closed and the Jews have been forbidden to have any dealings with the peasants of the neighbourhood, whom they are trying to persuade to sell them milk, potatoes and cabbage."

To conclude, here is a longish item which will remind the reader of Enver Pasha's methods of "liquidating" Armenians as described by Werfel in *The Forty Days of Mussa-Dag*:

*Geneva, January 16th*

On Thursday evening, November 30th, the Nazi authorities in Chelm ordered all Jewish men between the ages of fifteen and sixty to appear the next day, December 1st, at 8.30 a.m. in the market square. About two thousand Jews appeared. They were surrounded by Nazi auxiliary police, Black Guards, and a small detachment of soldiers armed with machine-guns. A Gestapo officer then delivered a short speech to the Jews in which he informed them that, as Jews were responsible for the war and as all Jews were the mortal enemies of Germany, the Chelm Jews had been sentenced by the Nazi authorities to be deprived of their civil rights and to be expelled from the town.

At half-past twelve the Jews, surrounded by Nazi Storm-Troopers and soldiers on lorries and motor-cycles, were marched off from the town along the high road in the direction of Hrubilszow.

A few kilometres from Chelm, near a military hospital situated in a wood, the party was stopped and told by the Nazis that, because one of them had attempted to escape, twenty would be executed, and that for each further attempt of this kind fifty would be executed. Twenty Jews were picked out at random and marched off.

The Nazi authorities in Hrubilszow issued a similar order to the Jews of the town on Friday night. At half-past nine they were joined by the Chelm Jews.

Altogether it is estimated that there were in this

party 1,100 Jews from Chelm and 850 Jews from Hrubiliszow. Before being marched off, they were warned that if any of them returned home they would be treated as spies and executed. The Jews were chased across fields, woods and marshes from Hrubiliszow to Mieniany, Cichoburze and Dolbyczow. Every five minutes the Nazis ordered those who were tired and unable to continue to stand aside. These were shot dead on the spot and their bodies left lying in the fields. The Jews were not given any food or drink during the whole of their dreadful march, and those who tried to help themselves to some water from the ditches were shot dead.

When Dolbyczow was reached, the survivors were divided into two groups: one numbering about 500 and the other 400.

From Dolbyczow the larger party was marched off in the direction of the frontier town of Sokal, and the smaller party of 400 to the frontier town of Belzy. The latter were the luckier ones, because only a few of them were shot dead by the Nazis, while about 250 of the larger party were shot by the Nazis before reaching the bridge on the River Bug which divides the Nazi from the Soviet part of the town of Sokal. Thus a total of over 1,300 Jews from Chelm and Hrubiliszow were massacred by the Nazis during the four days' forced march to the Soviet frontier.

During their four days' march, the Jews were given only one loaf of bread a day, which had to be divided between thirty men. On the average, one Jew was shot dead by the Nazis every five to ten minutes of the march. From time to time the Nazis were heard to exchange notes with each other as to the number of Jews they had accounted for. One was heard to say:—"I myself have already settled seventy-six,"

which brought the reply, "I have killed only sixty-three."

Among the Jews killed there were many fathers and sons of the same family. The bookkeeper of the Hrubiliszow Jewish People's Bank, Isaac Lewenfuss, aged 55, was completely exhausted and unable to carry on with his march when 15 kilometres from Hrubiliszow. When ordered by the Nazis to lie down, which was the signal for his execution, his twenty-year-old son Mendel offered to die in his place, but his offer was refused. Mendel then declared:—"Then shoot me together with my father." The Nazi Storm Troopers merely said: "Oh, you are volunteering to die? Very well." Father and son were then shot together.

In reporting this massacre about the middle of December, the official German news agency stated—"An attempt at a Jewish revolt in the Chelm and Hrubiliszow districts was ruthlessly suppressed."

It is useless to ask how much of all this the reader has seen in the general Press. Yet these incidents are not the consequences of a remote earthquake, or a typhoon in the antipodes; "something which after all is no concern of ours," from the standpoint of our *sacro egoismo*: they are the direct results of the conquest of Poland, the country for which the Allies solemnly assumed responsibility. Under these conditions a conspiracy of silence is unforgivable.

But the worst feature of this conspiracy is the inevitable suggestion that the Allies feel bashful of acknowledging Jews as fellow-sufferers. There is, both in England and France, a moral underworld



which is for ever trying to "get at" the non-defeatist camp by the taunt of a "Jewish war." It is perhaps a much bigger underworld than some people imagine; it may have its colonies in every class of society; it may feel not repelled but rather attracted by the Nazis' treatment of the Jews. ("That's the stuff to give 'em!") All the more urgent, if this be true, is the duty of decent society to submerge and crush that underworld. But polite society also evidently shrinks from such "pornography." The result is that the Jewish fellow-sufferer is denied even the last and most elementary privilege of a sufferer: to have his losses registered in fair and proper perspective, so that he may at least hope, when the day comes for a general redress, restoration and retribution, to present his claims on equal terms with others. The only explanation of the conspiracy—whether instinctive or planned—which the bewildered victim can conceive is that it is not felt to be desirable that the Jewish claim should ever be presented.

\*       \*       \*

Even more disturbing is the silence as regards the Jews in practically all statements of war aims issued (up to the first half of February) by certain British leaders. The writer will be forgiven for not mentioning names: to do so might be unfair. He does not wish to pillory them as callous, for they probably regard themselves as genuine well-wishers

of the unfortunate Jewish race; they would probably repudiate, with sincere indignation, any suspicion of conspiracy, insisting that the demand for the restoration of Jewish rights was omitted in their statements of war aims merely because such things obviously go without saying, etc. (Talleyrand once replied to a diplomat who used the same argument for not mentioning some "minor" item in a treaty: *Si cela va sans le dire, cela ira mieux en le disant*—If that goes without saying, it will go better by being said).

Two prominent men shall, however, be quoted, for they at least have not forgotten to mention the Jews. Both are unimpeachably Liberal, and their intentions are unquestionably of the very best. The more depressing will be the conclusions which any Jew will be compelled to draw from their utterances.

Sir Walter Layton (in *Allied War Aims*) is courageous enough to quote Germany's behaviour in the Jewish question as one of the sins which "have made Germany an international nuisance:"

It has often been argued in the past that it is no concern of ours what system of government or political philosophy another country may choose to adopt. Events have proved that this is only a half truth. In the six years of Nazi rule . . . the persecution of the Jews has created for other countries a refugee problem on a scale hitherto unknown in history.

Hypercritical minds, in weighing this charge, might remark that it is somewhat narrowly con-

ceived : its formulation by Sir Walter Layton suggests that, had the Nazis only followed the example of Pharaoh, and had prevented the victims from escaping to "other countries," there would have been nothing to complain about. But this is not important : the main point is that the whole charge, in the opinion of the Liberal author, entails no consequences worth mentioning. When he comes to stating his war aims he demands the restoration of a free Poland and a free Czechoslovakia, a free plebiscite in Austria, and steps towards a federation of Central European States, with a "common citizenship" which "should ensure certain fundamental rights, such as freedom of speech, the right not to be imprisoned without trial, and freedom to move about and trade within the federation. The guarantee of such rights would go a long way towards remedying the grievances of minorities and removing racial distrust." That is all there is to be said about it.

The other statement was made by Sir Archibald Sinclair, M.P. Speaking in the House of Commons on October 12th, he said :

One of the difficulties with which some people have come to me about our present position I would like to tell the House quite frankly. They say to me, 'One of our war aims is the destruction of Hitlerism ; another is to assert the right of nations to choose their own form of government. Are those two aims consistent? If the Germans want Hitlerism, have we the

right or the power to demand its destruction?" Surely the answer is this, that we recognize the right of a nation to govern itself in its own way, even to choose a dictatorship if it wants it. We may be horrified by the results. We may see the loathsome spectres of racial and religious persecution rearing their ugly heads. We may witness the horror of secret police oppression and of concentration camps. We have the right and the duty to condemn these manifestations of barbarism, but it is not for us to chastise another people for its own misgovernment or to go to war on behalf of Pastor Niemöller or the German Jews. The German people must find means of setting their own house in order and we must recognize their rights of self-government in their own country.

It is only fair to point out that most of the other spokesmen—and precisely the bashful ones who avoid the Jewish theme—seem on the whole to be much more exacting in respect of internal arrangements in Central Europe after the Allies' victory. It is taken for granted that Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia will once again become liberal and democratic States, and that there will be a reinforced League of Nations to look after the treatment of minorities. But in so far as the Jews are concerned, that does not appreciably change the picture. The prospect is extremely arid; it seems to be a case of "as you were." Sir Archibald Sinclair ought to be thanked for having said the only thing of essential significance in a welter of oratory: namely, that the actual and permanent supervision

of internal developments in a sovereign country by outside organs is impracticable; that, in other words, the reality of any statute or treaty clauses as to equal rights will ultimately depend, in Germany, on the good will of the Germans, and in Poland, on that of the Poles. Roumania and Hungary, not being as yet at war, could not be mentioned, but the obvious inference is that in these two countries also the outside supervision of the Jewish position is out of question.

This affects some 5,000,000 Jews who are still living in the zone which, for twenty years, has been the main theatre of acute yet chronic Jewish distress. Apart from political oratory, what they are really promised is the restoration of the *status quo ante*. The general public, and probably many Jews, are very far from realizing all the hopelessness of this prospect. It will be worth their while to examine it more narrowly in the chapters that follow. The reader should not grudge me their length. He may think that the horror of the *status quo* is so obvious that nobody is likely to propose its restoration, even in an amended form. This is a mistake: for after the war, a great effort will be made, both by Gentile Machiavellis and by Jewish dupes, to draw this red herring across the trail of our national demands. The main battle over Jewish war aims will be fought around the lie that the ghetto can be made comfortable.



### CHAPTER III

## THE MONSTER'S FOOD

THE purpose of this book, which was written in January–February 1940, is to press a claim for the inclusion of the Jewish problem in the war-aims of the Allied nations.

Responsible people, it is true, are tending to lose patience with the claim that the “war aims” of the Allies should be extended until they finally include the redress of almost every imaginable grievance. They object that the proper “aim” of a nation at war is—besides winning the war—to remove those factors which have caused the war, and that it should include hardly anything else; while other grievances, however urgent, will have to be settled by some other method.

Such responsible people are perfectly right. Nevertheless, if the causative factors of the war are to be abolished, the solution of the Jewish problem is undeniably entitled to a prominent place among the genuine and urgent aims of the war.

It is very desirable that we should realize that the many problems of reconstruction raised in connection with the war fall into two quite distinct

categories: there are genuine "war aims" and there is what may be described as all-round "Revision." Much confusion would be avoided if these categories were kept rigorously apart. A war aim is something for which a nation actually and obviously fights, and if that nation does not achieve this aim as an outcome of the war, this will mean that it has been defeated. For instance, if a repetition of such acts of violence as the invasion of Poland is not rendered impossible, the Allies will have lost the war; crushing the Nazi régime is, therefore, a war aim. But such a purpose as—for instance—the restoration of free trade between the nations, excellent though it be, cannot be described as a war aim. A peace treaty signed without mentioning such restoration would still be regarded as satisfactory.

But a peace treaty cannot be effective unless it sweeps away the obstacles to any effective reconstruction; unless it excises the malignant ulcers which would prevent any real recovery.

One such ulcer is the Jewish tragedy of East-Central Europe. It is impossible to imagine even a beginning of universal restoration unless that is removed. This operation is a war aim in the fullest sense of the term.

\*       \*       \*

The Jewish tragedy is, of course, not the microbe which has caused this war. It is only the culture-

## THE MONSTER'S FOOD

medium in which the microbe has grown to maturity.

The mysteries of mass psychology, when both the author and the reader are laymen, can best be explained, or at least illuminated, by metaphor and analogy; and no writer who means business need have any scruples as to mixing his metaphors. There are several metaphors which will help to illustrate the organic rôle of Jew-hunting in the growth and progress of the war-disease. It may be likened to the rôle of a spice or sauce which enables the masses to swallow a species of poison which would be too corrosive without it; or to that of a lubricant which speeds down a chute a load which otherwise might get stuck; or to that of the sticks which a housewife lights to induce the heavy log or lumps of coal in her big fireplace to catch fire. We may find it convenient to use all these metaphors and others too, though none of them quite exactly fits the case. After all, food *can* be swallowed even without the spice or sauce; a load *can* be pushed down a chute without a lubricant, etc.; but Nazism would never have grown to its present proportions without the help of antisemitism. "Culture-medium for the microbe" is perhaps the aptest simile of all.

The man in the street may not be conscious of this intimate connection between the acuter forms of antisemitism and the war-peril. He may even think it a monstrous exaggeration to suggest that Jew-

baiting in Nazi Germany, however objectionable, was in any way responsible for, let us say, the failure to heed the Anglo-French warning about Poland, which was the direct cause of the conflict. The man in the street will quite possibly dismiss such a suggestion as a symptom of megalomania: "These Jews imagine that everything, down to the weather, and the climate, and earthquakes, depends on what happens to them. Of course, the Nazi programme and practice, beside the greed for world-domination and the cult of violence, includes the persecution of Jews, but the latter is just a concomitant, an accompanying phenomenon, not the essence of the thing. Nazism would have been just as dangerous if there had been no Jews on earth."

This is absolutely wrong. To destructive movements of the Nazi type, antisemitism is infinitely more than a "concomitant"; and "National Socialism" would probably never have achieved its rapid and sweeping conquests if it had not ridden the anti-Jewish horse.

Everybody knows that in propaganda the appeal of love is slow and lumbering in comparison with the appeal of hatred. Hatred is the piquant sauce which accelerates both the swallowing and the digestion of ideas and policies. And the "sauce" can be fully effective only if the object of hatred is close at hand, familiar to all, and easily and safely attacked. Had the Nazi propaganda been confined from the beginning to preaching rebellion against the Ver-

sailles peace terms and the wickedness of the English or the French or the Americans, its theoretical appeal might have been still powerful, but its actual progress among the masses would have been so gradual that it is doubtful whether it would ever have gathered enough energy for an explosion. A Versailles Treaty is not a tangible object of real and palpable hatred; the emotions of the masses cannot be stirred by an object which can only be seen at the public library. On the other hand, hating the English or the Americans or the French is either a torture to the hater himself, so long as he dare not express his hatred by deeds, or a very dangerous enterprise, if he tries prematurely to translate his hatred into action. There is only one ideal object for mass training in collective hate, and that is the Jew. He is everywhere within reach; he can be pointed out at any street corner; and he can be insulted or assaulted with only the minimum of risk, or with none at all. To foster a movement of the Nazi type without the daily use of Jewish targets would be like staging a pageant without rehearsals.

The world outside Germany does not realize to what an extent the Nazi movement has depended, through all the twenty years of its existence, on the hatred of the Jew for its vitality and driving power. Theoretically, a complete gospel of German National Socialism could have been composed without any reference whatsoever to the Jews: rearmament, the militarisation of the Rhine district, the restoration



of the colonies, the *Anschluss* of Austria, and the annexation of the Sudetenland (to say nothing of that childish scheme of social reform devised in 1923 by Feder, incorporated into the "immutable" programme of the party, and a little later abandoned). All these aims could have been preached every whit as forcibly had their authors never thought of Israel and Judah. But they evidently felt, from the very beginning, that none of these aims would "go down" properly with the masses unless they were duly seasoned. So not a single spoonful of this witches' brew was offered without the spice of antisemitism.

Only the foolish would seek to explain this infatuation by using the term "mania." With a few exceptions, the Nazi chiefs are as sane as any other government or party leaders in any other country. Nor is it to be explained by "sadism"; nor by any other abnormal urge rooted in the morbid subconscious of men, almost every one of whom, if cleansed of his war-paint and examined in the ordinary light of everyday reality, would probably appear as just an average human being. Some of these chiefs have been quite credibly reported as confessing how utterly "fed-up" they were with the necessity of always talking of Jews, Jews, Jews. One does not do such things for pleasure: one does them only because of necessity. They knew that their propaganda would not be accepted quickly enough and widely enough without the piquant sauce. It is

only thanks to the sauce that it has won such wide and rapid acceptance. The word *only* is deliberately italicized in order to emphasize the fact that Jew-baiting is no essential ingredient of the Nazi propaganda, it is simply the lubricant without which the indigestible meal could never have slid down so smoothly.

All this is nothing new; at least, not to the Jews. As early as the eighteen-eighties, after a pogrom in the Ukraine, a Russian Socialist party published a manifesto which should have comforted all the friends of liberty by arguing that an anti-Jewish pogrom was, after all, not such a bad thing, being rather in the nature of a rehearsal; the moujiks (it was explained) had only begun by attacking the Jews; they would continue by massacring the police, and would end by smashing autocracy. Years later, again in Russia, it was a Jewish revolutionary who uttered the often-quoted formula: "Jewish blood is the best for oiling the wheels of progress."

The success of the Nazi experiment has proved instructive. Now, in the light of the present conflagration, the whole story of the last decade looks very much like a vast shunting operation, in which the several nations have gradually moved into the one or the other of the two great camps about to clash. And it is a curious and significant fact that whenever any one of these nations has thought of joining the enemies of the Western block (even in a hesitating attempt, soon to be abandoned),

it has invariably begun by qualifying for admission in the same way—by administering to its people a dose of the “Jewish spice.” This was the meaning of the Goga intermezzo in Roumania: for a moment, at the end of 1937, the ruling circles of that country were on the verge of adopting the anti-Western orientation—and the first visible symptom of this was the application of the usual lubricant, through a violently antisemitic cabinet and a broadside of anti-Jewish legislation. A few weeks later the anti-Western orientation was thought to be undesirable; M. Goga was dismissed, and his legislation was quashed. If we recall this short-lived incident, it is only to point its moral, which is obvious, and which should not be forgotten.

As for the analogous behaviour of Italy, this was even more striking than the Roumanian episode. In Roumania there had always been antisemitic tendencies in all classes of the population, high, middle and low; so there was at least something for the gamblers to stake upon. But in Italy? It is not enough to say that its people, for half a century at least, had genuinely forgotten the alleged necessity of discriminating against the Jew: they had actually lost all interest in the question of who was a Jew and who was not. Yet, when the time came for swinging the country into a certain orientation, it was immediately felt in some mysterious way that the new course could not be followed without a dose of the usual lubricant. But in this case the lubricant

was applied in half-hearted fashion, with evident reluctance, and many apologies—as something a man does admittedly *contre coeur*, and only because he must: because, for this kind of job, the magical lubricant is indispensable.

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The author is neither a historian nor a sociologist; he does not profess to explain precisely why this lubricant of antisemitism should be indispensable. Like others, he has often asked himself this question: Innumerable wars have been fought in the past, yet it was not thought necessary to prepare for these wars by especial emphasis on the Jewish question. Why does it appear so necessary now?

One explanation is perhaps almost comforting: It is because the world is, after all, progressing. The world *has* been moving on, despite all our scepticism. The masses can no longer be sent to their death simply by order: nowadays they need some kind of “religion” to die for. Those observers of the Spanish civil war may have spoken truly who affirmed that the programmatic difference, or the clash of real interests, between Burgos and Madrid was infinitesimally small: it was not so much a fight over tangible issues as a pure and simple *guerre de religion*.

But a “religion” to fit Germany’s claim to world-domination must be a formidable faith. Populations speaking German dialects and occupying contiguous territories in Europe count close upon ninety millions,

as against 40 to 45 millions each of Britons, Frenchmen, or Italians. There is an inherent suggestion of supremacy in these very figures: a suggestion not of ascendancy or predominance or influence merely, but of actual subjugation, of power such as a slave-owner could wield over his negroes. The temptation to succumb to such suggestion can be curbed only by some powerful spiritual self-discipline: by that combination of complex traditions—ethical, philosophical, religious, cultural, democratic—which we call civilization, and whose end is progress. All these had to be swept away before a nation with such a literature as the German could be made to put the clock back a thousand years—could be induced to accept a creed as primitive and cynical as this: “We Germans are the salt of the earth; our neighbours’ land is our living-space; their human value can be acknowledged only in so far as it is useful to us; we may impose forced labour on their able-bodied men and women; we may drive them away from their towns and villages to make room for Germans. Such action will be just and proper, and any opposition to it will be criminal, and the means to be used in suppressing such opposition need not be weighed in any balance of ethics, but only in the balance of efficiency.”

We cannot, of course, deny that a similar mentality was displayed in primitive conquests—such as those described in the Old Testament; and also thousands of years later—in Europe’s colonial policy, since the



days of Columbus, and even down to a couple of generations ago. It is idle to defend our ancestors, to apologize for the sins of Gideon or justify the barbarities of Cortés. Such bygone instances have no bearing on our theme, for in those ancient times the mass-mind of humanity was still so liable to relapses of bestiality that there was no need to preface the relapse by any profound moral revolution. But the last century has brought such conceptions as humanity and equality home to the minds of countless millions: and to make a clean sweep of these conceptions, to clear the ground for the return of the beast, a formidable effort is required.

And not only a formidable effort, but a formidable amount of training by rehearsal, by cheap and easy experimentation *in corpore vili*. The dormant brute in the German soul seems to have been hibernating very near the surface, but even so it had to be trained in beastliness and cruelty by a gradual drill. Like Voltaire's deity, if the Jews had not existed they would have had to be invented.

Our Western statesmen would be guilty of culpable blindness were they to disregard the historical truth of this statement. When the Nazis across the frontiers, or their hirelings in Britain and France, yell or whisper that this is a "Jewish War," they are perfectly right: the microbe of war would have died had it not been allowed to batten on the Jewish tragedy.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE "ANTISEMITISM OF MEN"

THERE are two distinct forces at work within the general phenomenon called Antisemitism: the one is a subjective repulsion, strong enough and permanent enough to become anything from a hobby to a religion; the other is an objective state of things which tends to ostracize the Jew almost independently of whether his neighbours like or dislike him. We shall call the first category "the Antisemitism of Men," and the second "the Antisemitism of Things." For a study of the former, the best field of observation is Germany; of the latter, Poland. In the present chapter we shall deal with Germany.

At the moment of writing, there are supposed to be some 200,000 Jews in Germany of the Versailles frontiers, 100,000 in Austria, 100,000 in Bohemia and Moravia, 130,000 in Slovakia and 2,000,000 in the parts of Poland occupied by the Nazis. These figures are largely guesswork rather than reliable estimates; moreover, they are bound to be considerably affected by the transfers of population effected by the Nazi government—some already carried out, and others planned for the near future.

Finally, some may "hope" that a considerable proportion of all these Jews will die out before the war is over, so that the problem facing the managers of the future reconstruction will be appreciably facilitated. Nevertheless, it is sure even so to present a formidable problem.

The author assumes as an axiom that the war cannot end without the liquidation of the Nazi régime. Its collapse will probably be followed by the restoration of the sovereignty of all or most of the annexed territories, and by the establishment everywhere of constitutions as liberal and democratic as possible in accordance with the best Allied or American advice. And finally, the creation of something like a new and very much improved edition of the League may be expected. It would be futile now to attempt any guess at the details, even at the broader and more essential details, of that future; but the final political outlook may be described as essentially bright, and the writer very firmly believes in its reality.

Furthermore, he believes that all these oppressed peoples, restored to security and sanity, will honestly try to devote themselves to sober reconstruction. He believes that they will cherish a detestation of war; he hopes that they will, for at least a generation, discard all thought of armed *revanche*; he expects them to give much more active support to the new League of Nations, or the European Federation, or whatever else it may be called, than was ever enjoyed by the

old Geneva League. True, one point is not quite clear yet, even to a trustful believer, and that is, how the nations will settle all those prickly questions of ethnically mixed provinces in such a way as to satisfy all and to stamp out irredentism; but so fervent is his desire to believe that he prefers not to think of the prickles. Everything, in short, will somehow get adjusted in time, with a great deal of labour, but without any further disasters. Some people may find this optimism absurd: but this the author denies; his most sanguine expectations are soberly and moderately realistic. *Credo, quia NON absurdum.*

There is, however, one aspect of such optimism which even the most sanguine should discard utterly and ruthlessly: namely, the belief that the cancer of antisemitism can be cured by such means as liberal constitutions and League supervision. No doubt, all the suitable provisions will be duly included in these constitutions, and in the League's new Covenant, ensuring the inviolability of equal rights for all. But the enforcement of these constitutions will have to be left, in every country, in the hands of national governments; and democratic electoral methods will ensure that those governments will be as representative of the true attitude of the masses as possible. It is therefore on the attitude of the masses that the actual operation of any clauses relating to equal rights will depend, so far as the Jews' rights are concerned. It is otherwise

in the case of other minorities: they live for the most part in close territorial clusters, in districts or even cantons, and they can to some extent look after themselves. The Jews live scattered throughout predominantly Gentile towns and villages: at every step, in the street or in public or private life, they are exposed to the impact of the good or ill will of the local majority. To pretend that under these conditions any essential results can be ensured by law is childish. *Non credo quia absurdum.*

This aspect of the matter will be the better appreciated if the reader recalls that the principle of equal rights for Jews, even in East-Central Europe, is nothing new. On the contrary, in almost every one of these States the legal recognition of this principle is just as old as the State itself. Only Austria-Hungary was older than its Jewish equality law, which was inscribed on her statute book in 1867. When the German Empire was created in 1871 its imperial constitution established equality for all, irrespective of creed or origin. When the Treaty of Berlin (1878) definitely delimited the frontiers of Roumania, Serbia and Bulgaria, it was guaranteed by the same treaty that in all these countries all citizens would enjoy equal rights. When the peace treaties of 1919 created Poland, Czechoslovakia, and the Baltic States, special minority clauses were solemnly inserted to ensure equality, and the League of Nations was to supervise and guarantee their execution. To tell once again how all these



provisions proved ineffective would be tedious; the only fact that may not be widely known is that pre-war Roumania, which never took the equality clause seriously, and openly treated her Jews as "foreigners," never had any trouble on that account with any of the signatories of the Treaty of Berlin—one of whom was Great Britain and another France.

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Strangely enough, the formidable past history of German antisemitism seems to be rapidly sinking into oblivion. In the democratic countries a myth is being created to the effect that the evil has originated with the advent of a person called Adolf Hitler, who was born in 1888, so that if he can be removed it will disappear. But the truth is that Hitler has just as much to do with the origin of this evil as Napoleon had with the invention of gunpowder. Napoleon did not invent gunpowder; he only made magnificent use of it; and when he was gone, others arose who surpassed him.

Germany—and in this respect Austria was one with her long before the *Anschluss*—has ever been the paramount workshop of modern antisemitism. There and not elsewhere was the discovery made, and the principle proclaimed, that the objection to the Jew is not religious but racial, and he must therefore be persecuted even if baptised. There and not elsewhere was antisemitism sublimated to the rank of a scientific philosophy. In no other nation was Jew-

hatred as a mode of thought openly adopted by so many really prominent men, some of them even of the first eminence in the various walks of spiritual leadership: Schopenhauer, Feuerbach, Dühring, Treitschke. Houston Stewart Chamberlain, to achieve success in antisemitism, had to settle in Germany. In Germany, too, not elsewhere, was the practical aspect of antisemitism modernized and perfected: what had been a mere tendency to desultory street-rioting was by German initiative promoted to a political system. Stoecker and Ahlward founded the movement in Berlin, bringing into the Reichstag, about 1893, the first bunch of deputies to be solemnly (and quite democratically) elected as the *Antisemitische Partei*; and in Vienna, two years later, Lueger triumphantly conquered the Vienna Town Hall on a platform whose main, or rather only "plank" was hatred of the Jew, was elected burgomaster amidst scenes of the wildest mass-enthusiasm, and kept his seat for decades. Such things had been happening for three-quarters of a century before the Nazi Party was ever thought of.

It is nonsense to pretend that the Germans are manifesting antisemitism only by order, so that when the order is annulled by the liquidation of Nazism they will forget all about it. Germans abroad, who run no risk if they choose to disobey orders from Berlin, have amply and repeatedly shown that Nazism can win them by its own powers of fascina-

tion, and not through their fear of the Gestapo. The clearest proof of this was the Saar plebiscite of 1935, held under ideally democratic conditions, with British police ensuring the fullest freedom of propaganda, of conscience and of franchise: out of 525,000 valid votes, 477,000 were cast for incorporation in Nazi Germany. Perhaps even more significant are the impressive proportions of the Germans in Italy, Latvia and Estonia who have accepted the call to return to Germany: all but autochthonous, the descendants of conquerors and settlers of centuries ago, they left their often comfortable homes and respectable social positions for the pleasure of breathing the Nazi atmosphere. To top it all, there is the record of the frank and vociferous delight displayed by all classes of the Vienna mob, in the first weeks after the *Anschluss*, when "Jewish ladies in fur coats" were ordered to scrub pavements and *ganz Wien* flocked to watch and yell with joy, and mothers lifted their babies over their neighbours' heads so that they should not miss the lovely sight. "By order?" Of course there must be an order to unleash the innermost brute: but the main point is the presence of the brute underneath; and what a multitudinous brute!

Antisemitism is traditionally and organically endemic in Germany; not in Germany alone by any means, but in no other country more than in Germany. Here again, being neither a sociologist nor a student of psychology, the author will not

attempt to explain the phenomenon: but only a fool or a liar would deny it.

The collapse of Nazism can bring no essential remedy to this endemic disease. One must, of course, be realist enough to allow for the so-called swing of the pendulum: when Hitler goes, there may be some kind of popular scurry to atone for the antisemitic orgy, partly for opportunist reasons, but partly also, no doubt, out of genuine disgust at the sub-human, beastly forms which the persecution has assumed. Moreover, there will be those equality-clauses in the peace treaty and the new constitution. And further: there is not the slightest doubt that many Jews who were forced to leave Germany after 1933 will then be most eager to return, and ready to forgive and forget: some because of discouraging experiences while in exile, some out of genuine attachment to the German land and civilization. That much we all admit. But all superficial optimists should be warned that the result of this backwash will be—almost immediately, perhaps within a few weeks only of the new *édit de Nantes* which will have opened the new era—a venomous recrudescence of the incurable evil.

One shudders to think how venomous it would be. Apart from racial idiosyncrasies, sheer material interest will constitute a formidable charge of high explosive. The value of Jewish property in Germany which, in one form or another, has passed into German hands, is in the vicinity of 25 billion marks.

At a conservative estimate, since 1933 in Germany and since 1938 in Austria, over 300,000 Jewish breadwinners of all kinds have been affected by the Nazi régime; most of them (and the proportion is constantly increasing) have been altogether deprived of their employment or profession, while a dwindling minority are still clinging to some sort of job. All that they have lost has been grabbed by the "Aryans." That "all" includes myriads of commercial and industrial positions, from director to typist or shop-assistant, thousands of professional jobs from panel doctor to journalist, while a comparatively important percentage of civil servants, from school teacher up to judge and chief constable, were Jews. These were posts filled by the middle class, the intelligentsia, the *haute bourgeoisie*—that is, by the most conspicuous, most vocal and most sensitive strata of modern society. To the members of these classes the return of the Jews would mean a vast influx of extremely dangerous competitors, in many cases far better qualified than the usurpers, and they would be faced, as a rule, with the alternative: "reconquer or starve." In all cases they would be morally entitled to the redress of an admitted grievance, an intolerable injustice.

The kind of welcome which would await them may be imagined. I do not presume to foretell how soon it would rise to the pitch of direct persecution, or how the inevitable *de facto* denial of "equal rights" would be disguised to suit the constitution



and the peace treaty: but it should be remembered that under a democratic constitution parliaments and governments are bound to be powerfully influenced, firstly, by the endemic idiosyncrasy of which I have spoken, and secondly, by the menace of competition, more desperate than ever before. Nor should any be misled by the pleasant recollection that in the good old days of Bismarck and of Wilhelm the Last, the principles of antisemitism were put into practice without any ugly and disorderly brutality, but with due restraint and moderation; so that the new after-war régime, under which all brutality will be strictly prohibited by protocol, may in the end prove "not so bad," or at all events, not so bad for the Jews, who, after all, must not forget that they cannot be the choosers. . . . The recollection is irrelevant: in the interval the brute has been unleashed and has tasted blood.

To make the outlook yet clearer, one may ask the reader—supposing him to be a Gentile—to forget that beggars cannot be choosers, and to imagine that a similar prospect is offered not to us, but to him and to other Englishmen: the prospect of living at the mercy of a ninety-nine to one majority trained for generations to abhor the English, under the sole protection of paper paragraphs and the supervision of Geneva, or the substitute for Geneva;—and to work for the Allied victory with unfaltering zeal, though all it promises him is—just this prospect.



PART II

THE "ANTISEMITISM OF THINGS"



## CHAPTER V

### THE HUNTING-GROUND

GERMANY was the war-monster's favoured pasture, rich in the spicy fodder which it loves. Poland was its coveted hunting-ground, ever more defenceless and more tempting to the monster as the same pungent weed grew more rankly on its soil.

Poland's part in the "Jewish" pre-history of the war is a drama by itself, which will be dealt with in later chapters; here the writer wishes only to point to the strange and tragic duality of her historical rôle during these twenty years of her renewed existence. This was a period during which the new world-war was hatching; during which her government strove in many ways to prevent the war; and yet, after Germany herself, Poland was, objectively, considered the main soil on which the war-microbe bred.

A story is told of the late Marshal Pilsudski's interview with an important French envoy, soon after the Nazis had taken power in Berlin. The Frenchman was trying to persuade him to join France and England (plus, of course, Soviet Russia)



against Germany. Pilsudski took his guest to a big wall map, where Poland was shown squeezed in between the U.S.S.R. and Germany. "If these two clash some day," he said, "all their battles will be fought on our soil. Now you just imagine that this soil is not Poland, but France, and tell me what would be your policy then!"

From the moment of Pilsudski's accession to power in 1926, and perhaps even earlier, the policy of the Polish Republic was dictated by this paramount aim: no war on Polish soil. And this—or so it seemed then—was tantamount to "no war at all." Of all intensely and inherently peaceable nations Poland was probably the most genuinely anxious for world peace: not because of what is generally understood as pacifism, but because of something much more effective than pacifism—namely, obvious and unmistakable self-interest.

At the same time the whole of the East-Central belt of Europe, extending from Riga on the Baltic down to Constanza on the Black Sea, was in the throes of the most pernicious kind of social fever: and the main focus of the infection, from which it spread to North and South, was Poland. It was, of course, the same old evil: the fever of antisemitism.

Its origin was the statistical fact that the Jews constituted 10 % of Poland's total population, and about one third of her urban population. This inescapable fact vitiated and perverted every civic value. "Democracy" in this atmosphere meant that

in the town halls of Warsaw, Cracow, Lodz and every other important city, the Poles would have to share mastery almost evenly with the Jews: that was what it meant, or so people thought. "Equality of rights" in this atmosphere meant that in every branch of economy which requires a little learning the long-urbanized Jew would overtake and beat his Polish competitor, the son or grandson of slow-witted peasants: or so people thought. It is useless to speak of the moral beauty of fair play: the bare fact is that in Poland the Poles' jealousy and fear of the Jews were poisoning the very atmosphere of her public life. We shall see in other chapters how true it is that in some countries the decisive factor is not the antisemitism of men but the antisemitism of *things*. And here we have a first glimpse of this factual antisemitism.

The result of this statistical fact was that for twenty years Poland was always on the brink of inner convulsion. I do not mean to suggest that the Jewish question was her only painful spot; she had other and perhaps more serious troubles; for example, the Ukrainian problem. But neither this nor any other internal difficulty of "Gentile" origin possesses the one special and accursed peculiarity of antisemitism—its unremitting vitality, its power of accumulating social toxins. It was something like a bad chronic cold in the head, not a serious disease in itself but a constant invitation to all other kinds of disease. Party strife in that

“pathological climate” became murderous hate; criticism degenerated into calumny; the temperature and temper of all public life was that of the proverbial bear with a sore head.

Yet this was Poland, by her size and numbers and prestige the central rock of East-Central Europe. Had she been given, by God or fate, a chance of developing calmly and steadily, her influence would have stabilized the whole of that zone, and would have made of it a real “Third Europe,” a cohesive force capable of sobering its German neighbours, despite their numerical strength (for East-Central Europe has a total population not far short of 100 millions). As it was, Poland’s unrelaxing feverishness acted as a constant provocation to her predatory neighbours.

The conclusion is clear : no restoration, in Central- or East-Central Europe, will ever make for a durable peace unless the ulcer of antisemitism is excised. Among the factors whose interaction has produced this war, the Jewish bane was omnipresent. The war will have been fought in vain, the victory will be worse than a lie if that seed is left in the ground to poison the future.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE ANTISEMITISM OF "MEN" AND "THINGS"

SOME Jewish readers may find these chapters too lenient with regard to the several Polish governments which succeeded one another from 1920 to 1939, and, which, between them, should be held responsible for the progressive economic degradation of Poland's Jewry, for the systematic stultification of its legal equality, guaranteed under both the Versailles treaty and the Polish constitution, and for the many recurrent and unchecked outbursts of brutal violence. The charge will be justified; but it is here the considered intention of the author to pass over the guilt of human beings in order to examine what is much more important—the objective reality, whose trend, in the central zone of Europe, is inherently and organically hostile to a scattered minority. The policy of governments can affect this trend only to a certain extent; or it will perhaps be more exact to say that any government has it in its power to *increase* the hardship inflicted by this trend up to the limit of human endurance, or beyond it, but it can do very little to

soften or diminish the inevitable pressure, and nothing at all to remove it.

It is unfortunately true that some of these Polish governments, especially in the period preceding Pilsudski's *coup d'état*, did much to aggravate the pressure; and none of them, not even the best, can claim to have done its duty, or the smallest fraction of its duty, in respect of alleviating the situation. Nothing would be easier than to denounce them with the bitterness they deserve, now that they are all defeated and swept away. A chapter of such denunciation might give a good deal of belated satisfaction to long repressed and outraged indignation. But the author confesses that to him it would give no satisfaction whatever. He prefers to adhere to his chosen line of enquiry, which considers not the sins of men, but the tendencies of an elemental social process.

Those men, ministers and officials, writers and priests, were often unforgivably guilty; and a long trail of Jewish tears, often tinged with something more salty than tears, lead up to their doors. If there is justice beyond this life, they will pay for their sins; if history be written by honest pens, they will stand condemned. But the purpose of this book is to force Jew and Gentile alike to realize that the fundamental curse of Jewish existence in the central zone of distress is due to something infinitely deeper than policies or ideologies or propagandas, whether anti or pro: and he would not have the attention of his



readers diverted in the direction of easy and cheap emotion, from the necessary stern concentration on the essential and irremediable tragedy.

The ghetto of East-Central Europe was doomed from of old. No government, no régime, no angel or devil could have transformed it into anything even remotely approaching a normal homeland. It is now utterly impossible to restore it as such, unless the numerical and ethnical proportions undergo a drastic change.

Some people are so sensitive on the subject that they regard it as disloyalty to the cause of Jewish emancipation if facts are adduced to prove that legal equality alone is utterly insufficient to ensure the Jews of even a minimum normal existence, least of all in East-Central Europe. One is reminded that the same sort of political prudery existed in Tsarist Russia: the Russian Liberals were so enamoured of "constitution" and "parliament" that they resented as political treason any hint that life in a country that was strictly constitutional and parliamentary was by no means immune from injustice, oppression, bribery, antisemitism and other troubles. But theirs at least was a justifiable ignorance; they had never lived under a constitutional régime. The excuse is not valid in the case of the Jews of East-Central Europe: they have all had experience of what legal equality is really worth; the Jews of Germany, Austria, the western half of Poland, and the Balkans, for three genera-

tions; and those of eastern Poland and the Baltic countries for twenty years. All these Jews, without a single exception, are fully and absolutely convinced that legal equality alone is no cure for the disease which has poisoned their existence, and will poison it again. It is unforgivably shortsighted now to withhold this experience from the notice of Allied statesmen, some of whom, if not all, may be genuinely forgetful of it, and sincerely deluded into imagining that to restore the "equal rights" clauses in peace treaties, constitutions and covenants would be an efficient and adequate solution of the problem. On the contrary: the most urgent need of the day is to drive it home to all concerned that in East-Central Europe the equality principle *alone* means no equality, but the same old chaos over again.

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To make this clear to outside observers, some bitter truths will have to be admitted and stated, however painful they may be to persons of exaggerated sensibility. These awkward admissions centre on the one essential and dominating feature of East-European reality: there are certain inevitable aspects in the normal social evolution of Eastern Europe (the words "inevitable" and "normal" should be emphasized) which are inherently, objectively, and organically fatal to the Jews' existence.

The fact will be abundantly illustrated in the course of the following chapters: and here, as

introduction to the subject, let us consider what is held to be the classical example of this incompatibility between the normal evolution of East-Central economy and the Jews' foothold within that economy. It is the co-operative movement among the Gentile population, especially in the rural districts. In Poland there were some 750,000 Jews living in the villages, where they constituted, on an average, 3.2 % of the total rural population. These three quarters of a million souls, with a few exceptions, lived by shopkeeping and peddling goods to the farmers. The co-operative movement began long before the Great War, but its maximum development was reached during the last decade. In 1938 there were in rural Poland 3,207 consumers' co-operatives (membership: 350,000), 1,475 for the marketing of dairy produce (membership 626,000), and 453 for general marketing (76,000 members). This development was killing the Jewish traders *en masse*. The effect, remarkably enough, was most deadly in precisely the Ukrainian districts, where direct antisemitic propaganda was much weaker than among the Poles, and where the government had much less reason for desiring to weaken the Jewish influence than in the purely Polish provinces: a proof that the phenomenon has little to do with any conscious will to harm the Jews *qua* Jews, but is rather inherent in the very nature of the development. It would oust the rural shopkeeper just as surely if he were an Armenian or a China-

man; but he happens to be a Jew, who has nowhere to go.

There may have been a few Christian shopkeepers in these Ukrainian districts, and they too had to surrender before the onslaught of the co-operatives. But the "broken" Christian trader, as often as not, is absorbed into the administrative machinery of the movement: being a valuable specialist among simple peasants, he will be employed by the co-operative. The Jew will not be so employed; it is so obvious to all that there could be no question of absorbing the displaced Jewish trader into the executive staff of a farmers' co-operative that no Jew would ever dream of asking for such an "absurdity." Is *this*, too, to be described as anti-semitism? The managers of the co-operative movement, most of whom are men of enlightened views, would indignantly deny such a charge. It is "simply"—they would say—that one has to look after one's own people first.

The same phenomenon, but in a much more serious form, can be observed in one of the Baltic States (or perhaps in all). Violent antisemitism is not tolerated. What actually goes on is a social process rather commendable in itself: the State, in one form or another, is gradually taking over the more or less direct administration of all the valuable industrial or commercial concerns. The owners are paid fair value; or shall we say, more or less fair value. If the owners are Gentiles, they generally

remain in charge. If they are Jews the case is different: they are gradually replaced by non-Jews. This, as a rule, is done without any harsh abruptness, but nevertheless effectively. As one of the victims put it to the author: "In Poland, when the government takes over a Jewish-owned factory, all the Jews on the staff have to go. Here there is no such indecent haste. Ninety per cent of my former staff were left in employment when it happened; that was three years ago. A year later only 70 % were left; last year 50 %, and now the end is in sight."

A remarkable dictum is often quoted in that country; it is said to have been uttered by quite exalted lips: "Never trouble to kill the flies: but leave no crumbs for them." This aphorism is interpreted as a formula of deliberate if "polite" anti-semitism; but there is no proof that it was ever really spoken, and it matters little whether it was or not. The crux of the matter is whether in the atmosphere of East-Central Europe a government engaged upon such an unquestionably progressive adventure as the nationalization of pivotal industries would be allowed to act otherwise. The total population of the country is that of a London borough; but there is a university and a school for higher engineering, with several thousand pupils. Every year more and more of "one's own people," fully qualified, line up for jobs—mostly excellent types of young manhood, keen, gifted, honest and efficient.



How long would any government be tolerated if it kept them waiting while Jews continued to staff and manage what would now be State concerns—though created by Jewish enterprise with Jewish capital?

A gross injustice! Of course; but mere disapproval is useless. The root of the trouble is not hatred of the Jews—that could be combated, if not eradicated—but something much more elemental and primordial: sympathy with "one's own people," an instinct which cannot be criticized, because, after all, it is as natural as preferring one's own children to one's neighbour's offspring.

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The Antisemitism of Things, of course, is due in the last resort to a certain subjective attitude of human beings. The line here drawn between the two kinds of Judeophobia—that of Men and that of Things—is, however, not an artificial distinction. Human antisemitism is an active enmity, a constant urge to harm the hated race, to humiliate them, to see them squirming and writhing beneath one's feet. Obviously, such an aggressive and sadistic mentality cannot be kept for ever on the boil in every average member of the community: it must have its ups and downs, its periods of eruption and of hibernation, and even at its strongest only a leading minority manifest it in its greedily acute stage; the majority



just follow suit and mildly enjoy the fun. Being thus of a somewhat elastic nature, the "Antisemitism of Men" can sometimes be fought with a measure of success; the Germans, for instance, a nation endowed with a remarkable genius for collective obedience, might be expected to tone it down to order, if not exasperated by too great an influx of *revenants*.

There seems to be something pathological in such a volcanic heat of hatred. However strong the genuine racial repulsion, however appalling the sins of Israel, the subject obviously does not justify even a fraction of such a turmoil. The suspicion inevitably arises that this attitude is subconsciously based not only on repulsion but also on attraction: as is the case with sadism. A remarkable political feature of such volcanic antisemitism is its inability to appreciate the Zionist or other similar aspirations. Logically, the Nazis ought to be inclined to encourage any movements tending towards the evacuation of the Jews from Germany: in practice, they have done more than any other government to stir up anti-Jewish trouble in Palestine, though it could only hamper the exodus. Should Uganda or Angola or Mindanao be declared a national home for the Jews instead of Palestine, the Nazi attitude would evidently be the same. Sadism does not wish to lose its victim; the Biblical story of the Exodus was the first recorded instance of this curious interplay of two opposite passions: one

longing to exterminate the hated breed and one determined to prevent their departure.

Other curious hypotheses have been suggested by observers of this morbid phenomenon. The most popular one of these was revived, some years ago, by Henri Bernstein, in a play entitled *Israel*: it told the story of a young French aristocrat, a virulent enemy of the Jews, who lived to learn that his real father was not *son cher papa*, but a fashionable Jewish banker. The obvious suggestion is that all volcanic antisemitism is an abnormal infatuation, which must have some physiological basis, probably racial. Baron Etövs (pronounced approximately, "Etvesh"), a great Hungarian statesman, wrote almost a century ago: "An antisemite is a man who dislikes the Jews more than he should." Why more? Why so excited? The simplest explanation is that he "has Jews on the brain," and that this mania is due to the presence of a drop of Jewish blood, which produces some mysterious and atavistic reaction in the hybrid psyche. According to this theory, any "volcanic" Jew-hater—that is, a man who does not just dislike them "as much as he should" but who makes a fuss about it—very probably has Jewish ancestors; they may be very remote, or hidden by bar sinister, so that no written record can reveal the fact; they may have left no trace on the shape of his nose, or even the form of his eyes, but that is not essential: the "Jew-complex" itself is held to be a sufficient proof of racial atavism.

This may be true or it may be mere guesswork. A specialist in collective psychopathology might well investigate the theory. The Jews will remain unmoved: they are not likely to be flattered by the revelation of Dr. Goebbels' Rabbinical descent, nor would the discovery in any way diminish or increase their troubles. The author's purpose in this digression is to emphasize the morbid, hectic, fluctuating character of what he calls the "Antisemitism of Men"—as distinct from "Antisemitism of Things," which is steady, constant and immutable, and therefore much more formidable.

It derives from the instinctive discrimination which every normal person makes between his or her "own kind" and all outsiders. It need not be hatred; it need have nothing to do with actual repulsion. It may be dormant under normal conditions, and may remain dormant for generations, to awaken only when there is keen competition for some essential boon, when the choice is between one's own kin and the outsider, and the instinct of self-defence emerges. Even then it need not (though it may) flare up in an angry blaze: it may remain correctly polite, while inwardly merciless—as in the Baltic example; or it may run amok, as it sometimes does in Poland. It is not the form that matters, but the spirit. That spirit is the inextinguishable awareness of every Gentile that his Jewish neighbour is not "his own kind," and of every Jew that his Aryan friends are not "his own kind." There is

no intrinsic harm in this awareness; it is no obstacle to decent neighbourly intercourse, to mutual help, even to friendship, so long as the social "climate" is favourable. In the "climate" of East-Central Europe it becomes the Jew's death-sentence.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE POLISH GHETTO

THERE is no evidence that "Antisemitism of Men" has ever been an actual fixation in the collective Polish mind. The author has no intention of quoting any of the familiar and sympathetic references to the Jews in the works of the Polish poets and novelists, for they mean nothing; what he has in mind is the complete absence of any record—so far as he is aware—of any conscious anti-Jewish movement, either in literature or in society, since the partition of Poland and approximately down to the year 1909.

By this it is not suggested that there was no racial estrangement, no occasional cursing or baiting or beating of Jews; but in this peculiar position the Jew learns to distinguish between the ordinary little failures of national hospitality and such a special and deliberate phenomenon as a "movement."

Since 1909, however, and throughout the Great War, and after, Poland has been the theatre of unremitting attacks on every Jewish position; attacks delivered by every imaginable means—by

words, fists, economic anathemata, and various kinds of Governmental action, falling short only of frankly discriminative legislation. Inflicted upon a multitude of 3,300,000 Jewish souls, most of whom had been paupers for generations, these attacks resulted in indescribable economic misery, and an almost general stampede for emigration—a “frozen stampede,” of course, for most of the outlets were closed.

Poland has thus finally established, throughout the Dispersion, her title as the most tragic of all the ghettos; and the Polish ghetto shows, in this most complete and typical form, all the morbid and painful phenomena which result from existence in the ghetto; and above all, that process which is the natural culmination of such an existence: the automatic, economic eviction of a scattered minority by local majorities. We call it “automatic” because this eviction is bound to occur independently of any conscious “movement” against the Jews, or any anti-Jewish legislation. In the case of a movement the process advances more rapidly, in the case of legislation perhaps a little more gradually; but in either case it proceeds with the obstinacy of a moving dune.

All Polish Jews (consciously or subconsciously, admittedly or despite their denials) are aware of this automatism, this lack of any real causative connection between the doom that weighs upon their economic horizon and the mood of masses or



ministers. The author has never found any trace of permanent resentment against the Polish people among Jewish emigrants from Poland, nor even of resentment against the Polish State; whereas it cannot be denied that German-Jewish refugees are imbued with a profound and comminatory bitterness, not only towards Nazism, but towards the whole national environment which tolerates Nazism. These exiles from Germany feel that it was some evil in the very nature of men, an evil ruling the men and women in the street, which wilfully transformed a decent country into a jungle. What the Polish Jew, sedentary or émigré, feels about the part played by human ill-will in producing the miseries of the ghetto, was once revealed to the writer in the wistful complaint of a Galician rabbi: "I wonder, if I were king, just how much I should be able to do to improve the lot of the Jews in this blessed country. It does not depend so entirely on what orders you give, nor on how many hooligans you put in jail. It is more like the falling of rain and snow."

✕ This attitude of indulgence toward governmental system under which Polish Jewry has suffered so cruelly is of great significance. The writer must confess that it gives him pleasure to dwell upon it, as proof of the instinctive fairness and decency of his fellow-Jews; a twofold pleasure, since it has recently become the fashion in a section of the Western Press to speak disparagingly of the defeated

allies of yesterday—of the Pilsudski school of statesmen, and even of Pilsudski himself. Colonel Beck in particular, the late Foreign Secretary, is sometimes depicted as a species of reactionary, a pro-Nazi, a pupil of the Biblical Haman. Such references are not only in the worst of taste: they are also evidence of defective memory. And here, without seeking to write their apology, the author may without irrelevance say something of that unfortunate, long-foredoomed little company of pupils whom Pilsudski left in charge of his Poland.

*"His Poland."* The writer never saw nor heard Pilsudski, but he believes that the impression which he gathered of the Marshal's brand of patriotic philosophy is essentially just. For Pilsudski patriotism was a stern, austere and ascetic religion, scornful of all emotionalism. There was a universally current myth that Pilsudski "hated the Russians as fervently as he adored the Poles": it was probably nonsense, for the man was organically impervious to such girlish sentimentalities as worship of A and detestation of B. One wonders what he would have answered if he had been questioned on the subject. "Absurd," he might have said. "My attitude to all peoples is merely polite indifference, except as regards my own people; I may not be polite to them, because their shortcomings always get on my nerves." This is the only real criterion of authentic and unalloyed patriotism, which is a permanent state of dry, pragmatic concern without

any "banjo stuff." Pilsudski was eminently pragmatic; he was always frowning upon some Polish shortcoming which got on his nerves, always building or repairing or tidying up. Strictly speaking he never had a "programme," in the usual sense of a string of paragraphs dealing with this and that; though for all we know he may have signed one or several in the earlier stages of his career. But his life's work is proof that he always possessed and followed a clear plan of action, a plan so direct and simple that one feels that it should be possible to express it in a few lapidary words. He probably never troubled about "hating" Russia (which is not to say that he was not concerned to guard against Russia's greed of encroachment): but he certainly feared the contagion of that semi-Asiatic untidiness, sloppiness and lack of thoroughness which have always constituted Russia's charm and often her undoing. For Poland, Pilsudski would have none of the familiar *âme slave* nonsense; none of the mingling of golden dreams and prosperous lice; none of that profound mystical rumbling which sounds like thunder and is actually only a snore. *His* Poland was to be tidy, clean, punctual, efficient, decent; "Western," in short. Perhaps one might say that his policy was to push Poland westward across the map—nearer, say, to Switzerland. This does not imply that he was an unreserved admirer of all Western ways, but they were at all events preferable to certain peculiarities of the East as

represented by Soviet Russia. "I remember Russia," Pilsudski once told a visitor; "interesting, but somewhat unwashed." He wanted Poland to wash properly, to be clean in every sense, material and moral. Among the stains that he wanted her to wash away was the degrading habit of Jew-baiting.

Pilsudski was neither a friend of the Jews nor their enemy: he was politely indifferent—"politely" at all events in public. One cannot help suspecting (though he never said so) that he would not have thought it regrettable had Poland had only 1 % of Jews instead of 10 %; and as there were never enough jobs to go round, one may imagine (though he never mentioned it) that he wanted them to go to the Poles and not to the Jews. But pogroms and ghetto laws and such things were to him like a boil on the tip of the beloved's nose: Pilsudski would not have them in his Poland.

How far he succeeded in cleansing the face of Poland of this particular blemish is another question. His efforts were not very effective, and one feels that he might have tried harder.

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One is certainly justified in bringing this charge against his successors: they assuredly could have tried harder. Some of them the author has met personally—Colonel Beck, Marshal Smigly-Rydz, General Slawoj-Skladkowski, and a number of

younger men, whose rôle might be compared with that of the famous "Lloyd George Secretariat" in 1917; and he has had other opportunities of gauging the general trend of their wishes and their efforts. None of them pretended to be a lover of the Jews—though we should seek in vain, amongst our sincerest well-wishers in Western Europe, for any such intimate intuition as theirs, derived from centuries of close proximity, of the Jew's *Weltanschauung*, the atmosphere of the Jewish home, and the Jewish soul. But it would be hardly exact to class them as political antisemites. As acutely as their teacher, Pilsudski, they felt and feared the degrading, besmirching vulgarity of pogroms in the street and pogrom-like pages on the statute book. But they had to face a host of elemental forces within the country, pressing for anti-Jewish legislation and breaking out into murderous rioting. There were moments after Pilsudski's death when the only barrier left between the Jews and the crusade of all against the Jews was the Government and the small controlling group which supported it—the Pilsudski clique, commonly known as "the Colonels"; a group small in number and isolated, with no proper roots in any social stratum of importance. The "Colonels" tried to stem the general clamour for brutal Nazi methods by offering a more dignified alternative: they sponsored efforts toward preparing an orderly scheme of voluntary mass-evacuation; in Geneva they intervened for



more extensive emigration to Palestine; and they encouraged various projects for Jewish settlements in Australia and Madagascar. Many Jews who knew them would vouch for the sincerity of these attempts, though they could wish that they had been ten times as wholehearted and forcible. But the relevant fact is that the onslaught which they sought to ward off was an offensive of formidable intensity, backed by members of all classes, and resisted by few of any class; it was truly "elemental," truly "a crusade of all against the Jews."

As we have seen, in Poland (as distinct from Germany) the onslaught was not a movement based upon sentiment or conviction. Apart from the hooligan element, there was little actual hatred of the Jews in Polish society. Often enough, those who were ready to sign a petition for anti-Jewish legislation would swear that they were honestly sorry for the harm which their action was bound to cause the Jews—but there was no other way out: "it's either my son or the Jew's son, for there is only one loaf." This explains the lukewarmness of even the Polish Socialists in combating antisemitism: they too had to consider the inveterate attitude of organized labour. The Polish worker openly disliked the "intrusion" of the Jewish proletariat into the higher reaches of mechanized industry, and asked: "If they all come in, where shall I be?"

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It will take generations of research to discover exactly what was at the bottom of this elemental phenomenon. The reader has already been warned that the author of this study is only a layman. He can offer no solution; but of the various explanations which he has heard one strikes him as credible. It is based on the sociological peculiarities of the ghetto on one hand and of Poland's industrial development on the other.

The same general conditions which, since the industrial revolution, have caused the great migration of villagers toward the towns in the Western countries, have been operative also in Poland, though they developed much later and were less intense in their effects. About 1863, after the collapse of the second Polish rebellion in Russia, the national energy was concentrated on what was called "Organic Work"—meaning mostly economic enterprise, commercialism and industrialization. The rise of Polish manufactures began from that date; and the Jews, constituting about one-third of the country's urban population, took their full share in this development. At the same time, the Polish village began to pour its human surplus, in ever-increasing proportions, into the towns. But the arrival of that surplus, during the first four decades, did not necessarily produce any clash with the Jews, for the growing industries demanded ever-increasing numbers of operatives, and readily absorbed the village youths, leaving the Jews more

or less undisturbed in the exercise of their old callings; those of wholesale or petty trader, general go-between, organiser, physician, lawyer, and so on, with the great class of unemployables, always a very conspicuous element of an Eastern Jewish community, clustering around the aristocracy of breadwinners.

So matters continued peacefully until the decade before the war of 1914, when a new phase of industrial evolution began to ripen, though it arrived at full maturity only after that war. This new phase was the rise of the Robot, the advent of rationalization, and increasing horse-power, which was beginning to encroach upon the interests of the human motor. Perhaps one should hardly call it a "new" phase, for the workers in the West had foreseen it since the first riots against the earliest experiments in steam weaving; but for more than a century, even in those countries which led the world in respect of technical progress, the workers' fear had proved premature. During that century, it is true, the productive power of steam-machinery had advanced in a steady arithmetical progression, but at the same time, thanks to the steamship and the locomotive, the markets for all products increased in what was more like a geometrical progression. Industry was still capable of absorbing the human surplus and of asking for more: especially, of course, in the backward East of Europe, where the progress of the Robot was naturally slow.

But towards the dawn of the twentieth century the proportions were gradually reversed: it was now the power of machinery, driven by motors more efficient than the old steam engine, that began to advance in geometrical progression, while the growth of the markets naturally slackened. The result, which did not become fully apparent until the nineteen-twenties, was the promotion of the unemployed from what used to be—under normal conditions—a comparatively moderate fluctuating reserve, to the rank of a permanent social class; and a class—even under *normal* conditions—of very great numerical importance. It now looks as though modern industry needs no more labour; and soon, perhaps, the question will arise, for how long is the “proletariat,” in the classical Marxian sense of the term, likely to retain its *raison d’être* as one of the main factors of industrial production? It seems as though this tendency of social evolution can be checked only under *abnormal* conditions: in countries technically advanced, including Germany, by a race of armaments; in a backwood waste like Soviet Russia, where a worker of average Western efficiency is called a Stakhanovist, in comparison with whom the average local worker is a slacker, by a hectic attempt to overtake “in a Five Years’ Plan” what the West achieved in fifty: both stimuli being obviously ephemeral. Apart from these exceptional cases, the rule is that an influx of manpower is of no profit to the factory—even in Poland.

This, it may be suggested, is the main reason why in Poland, since 1905, and especially since 1920, economic positions which used to be regarded as "permitted to Jews" began to be violently disputed. The village boy on coming to town no longer found employment at the loom, and had to try for other jobs—engaging at first in retail trading and hawking, in which illiteracy was no obstacle; only to find that these jobs were filled by the half-starved Jew. This, of course, was only one aspect of the automatic interaction that began to develop out of the situation: as one sector of the field encroached upon another, in the end a general and concerted claim of all the Gentiles to all the jobs held by Jews was bound to arise. This had nothing to do with theories or national idiosyncrasies. Had there been no Jews in Poland, the "crusade" would probably have been as violent; only in the absence of a clearly recognisable objective it would have assumed a less concentrated form, a struggle of "all against all" instead of "all against the Jews." The basic fact is this, that the Polish community has not enough jobs to go round, and the Jews, for a thousand and one reasons, are an ideally handy target for the old game which the French call *ôte-toi de là que je m'y mette*. Among these many reasons, one is particularly effective: there are over three million of Jews, constituting 10% of the general population, and fully one-third of the population of the principal cities.

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This "mechanized" interpretation of the elemental character of Poland's Jewish tragedy may be completely or partly correct, partly or completely erroneous. The essential fact remains: a situation in which the "Antisemitism of Men" is a mere trifle compared with the inexorable anti-Jewish pressure of Things. Men may hate the Jews, or they may hate the necessity of ousting the Jews, as many of them probably do; it does not matter. Governments may prevent or punish hooliganism: they cannot change the "climate" of the social structure. That Galician Rabbi who doubted whether he himself, even if equipped with the widest powers of autocracy, could stop the ousting of the Jew, was right; certainly no Polish government can do it, or is likely to attempt it.

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Some Jewish Socialists, however (though not all), suggest that there is a remedy; Socialism throughout Poland would mean work and welfare for all, and no ousting of Jews or Gentiles. They would do well, before propounding this solution, to discuss it privately with their Gentile comrades. The latter may not be antisemites, but this does not mean that their ideal of a Socialist Poland is a country with 30 % of Jews among the urban population. Every sober and honest Polish Socialist will admit, if asked for his frank opinion, that Socialism or no Socialism, an extensive emigration of Jews could



only improve the situation, and the more extensive the better.

But this question is outside our present inquiry, which deals only with the Allied war aims. In the writer's judgment the fate of a scattered ethnical minority in a Socialist State is just as painful as in a non-Socialist State. Some will think differently; but what does it matter to-day. A Socialist revolution, in Poland or elsewhere, is *not* among the Allied war aims. On the contrary, what the Allies want is a restored Poland, "democratic" in much the same sense as England or France or the United States. This is the only prospect which we need discuss realistically. The conclusion, from the Jewish point of view, is clear.

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At the close of this war there will evidently be an additional complication in Poland's Jewish problem: the question of the Lublin reservation. It is apparently the intention of the Nazi government to carve out a district around the city of Lublin in the south-eastern corner of German-occupied Poland and to use it for the compulsory settlement of Jews. There is some method in this choice: the Lublin province had the highest percentage of Jews among all provinces of Poland—42.9 % in the towns, 6 % in villages, 13 % in all. A beginning has already been made in respect of the transportation of Jews to this district, but the scope of the project is



uncertain. It is not yet known whether the reservation is intended for all the Jews under the control of Germany or only for certain sections or categories. It is impossible, at the time of writing, to ascertain what is actually happening there. It has already been rumoured that the plan has been abandoned; and again, that 90,000 Jews from Bohemia and Moravia, 100,000 from Vienna, and so on, would soon be transferred to Lublin. The area of the reservation was alleged to be two hundred square miles, or two thousand, or five thousand, or more (the Polish province had an area of about 10,000 square miles). All this may mean that the German government has not yet condescended to reveal all the details of its plan, and we have no other choice but to rely on gossip and guesswork; and it also may mean that the German government has nothing to reveal—that the plan is no plan, but a vague improvisation. There is, by the way, a universal but foolish tendency to overestimate Germany's "planning" abilities, which overlooks the very obvious fact that quite often, at crucial moments, both before and during the war, the Nazi government has gone to work without any definite design, political or strategic, has changed its schemes every day, and generally lives from hand to mouth. It is, therefore, quite possible that the Lublin reservation scheme may be abandoned, or that it may develop into something big, or may stop in the middle of this development.

What the maximum of this development (if

attainable) would be may be gauged from the following computation recently made by the *Manchester Guardian*. "The Nazis," that newspaper says, "have not indeed revealed how big the reserve is going to be. If one generously assumes that it covers the whole of the Lublin vojvodship it will have an area of 13,000 (?) square miles. Its present population is 2,464,600, of whom 259,500 are Jews. The Jews will stay, but the other inhabitants will have to leave for the Remainder State, for Germany, or for Russia, according to their nationality. In their place it is planned to send 1,500,000 Jews from the Remainder State, 500,000 from the Polish territories annexed by Germany, 180,000 from Germany and the Sudetenland, 65,000 from Austria, and 75,000 from the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. In all, this province, already one of the poorest in Poland, would have to support over 3,000,000 people."

One thing is clear: in making any forecasts of the future of Poland's Jewish problem, the contingency must be very seriously taken into account that there may be found to exist, at the moment of restoration, an area of some importance to which hundreds of thousands of Jews have been transported from other parts of Poland. Two problems will immediately arise: first, the re-incorporation of that district into the general body of the republic, its administrative, economic, and—above all—*ethnical* assimilation with the remainder of the country; secondly—what to do

with that agglomeration of Jews. If by then they have all starved to death, the problem will be solved ; but one must allow also for the other eventuality—that by some miracle, perhaps by some magnificent effort of international charity, that easy way out will have been prevented, so that the problem will still exist: what to do with these Jews?

Logically, the re-incorporation of the Lublin district into a democratic Poland where all enjoy equal rights can only mean that those hundreds of thousands of Jews would be free to disperse from the congested area and return to their former towns, or to towns in other parts of Poland. The correct application of this logical course would, however, threaten at once to upset the balance of economic interests. (a precarious equilibrium at best, during the first stages of a reconstruction), to envenom the social atmosphere, and to force into the forefront a controversy which everyone would prefer, at least, to postpone.

This will be only one of the many similar facets of the situation: not only the Lublin Jews but all the Jews will, in a sense, be “coming back” to recover jobs from which they have been turned out, even if their exile did not take them any farther than round the corner. But the Lublin reservation is likely to prove a concentrated and magnified—and extremely suggestive—illustration of the general tragedy.

## CHAPTER VIII

### FREEDOM FOR BOTH

THERE is, at the moment of writing, a Polish government in exile, with its seat at Angers, France.) The writer is one of its genuine well-wishers; he has read with satisfaction its formal promises to the effect that in the restored Polish republic there will be equality of rights and no racial oppression, and has no doubt as to the subjective sincerity of such pronouncements. But it would be only hypocrisy on his part, or anybody's part, to overrate the practical effectiveness of such statements so far as future realities are concerned. A future democracy will eventually choose its leaders, and determine, by popular vote, its lines of inner policy. Those lines will be "popular" in the profounder sense of the word—automatically true to the basic interests and fundamental idiosyncrasies of the nation. War-time undertakings, if they fit that nation's mentality, will be confirmed; if not, they will be disregarded.

No doubt a most excellent Polish treaty, probably linked with a whole chain of other excellent treaties, will be signed after the Allied victory, guaranteeing

all the desirable things that have to be guaranteed. There is no need to insist on what the world knows so well: that it may perhaps be possible to ensure by outside supervision the inviolability of regulations of an international character; but no outside supervision can permanently prevent a sovereign nation from doing exactly what it likes inside its own frontiers. What Sir Archibald Sinclair so thoughtfully said of future Germany applies equally to future Poland. Paper safeguards, if incompatible with realities, will be swept away or "interpreted" down to zero, possibly with the reluctant consent of the Supervising Outsider himself, under the pretext that "it can't be helped." Restored Poland will deal with Jews left within her gates exactly as she pleases.

There is every reason to fear that it may soon become politically awkward to insist on promises of real equality for the Jews in a Poland restored by an Allied victory. Nazi propaganda in the German-occupied section of the republic is sure to seize upon such undertakings as a useful means of making the Polish government in exile unpopular with Poles in Poland. One can almost anticipate the very wording of the broadcasts and articles which Dr. Goebbels' headquarters will devote to the subject: "They promise you restoration, but their first step is to be the reinstatement of the two million Jews in those economic positions from which the German victory has driven them, so that two million Poles

will have to make room for these Jews and starve . . .” No matter how cynical, this line of argument cannot but impress the overwhelming majority of Poles in their present misery. This aspect of the situation should not be lost sight of, especially by the well-wishers of the Angers government, of Poland, and of the Allied cause.

There was a time, long ago, years even before the Great War, when the author believed that Poland as a whole was responsible for the popular success of Roman Dmowski's early experiments in antisemitism. But time and closer observation taught him how negligible is the guilt of the journalists or the ringleaders or the masses, whether of omission or of positive action, in the face of the dead pressure of objective reality;—and he said as much publicly, thereby disappointing and paining many a short-sighted but honest and patriotic Jew, and the movement to which he belongs paid a heavy price for that attempt to be fair to the Polish nation even when dealing with a Jewish tragedy. We did not grudge the price because we realized that the relationship between the Jews as a nation and the land harbouring the largest of our East European communities was too important historically to both to be allowed to degenerate into mere bitterness and resentment.

The same feeling guides the author now. It is useless to urge the Polish Government in exile to declare that a restored Poland can really enact, not



on paper but in facts of social life, a régime of equal opportunity for a Polish Jewry "restored" in its former millions; it is useless for Allied ministers or ambassadors or Members of Parliament to pretend that they believe in such a possibility. Probably the Polish people is essentially as decent as the English, but it was also a very decent Polish gentleman who wrote, many years ago: "I should like the Jews in Poland to be as happy as the Jews in England, provided the percentage of Jews in Poland be the same as in England." It is 10 % in Poland, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  % in Great Britain. Such a radical reduction is hardly possible and hardly necessary; but the two aspects of the problem are closely interrelated. Racial peace in Poland—and not in Poland only—will be possible only as a corollary to a very extensive, and very greatly accelerated repatriation of Jewish masses to whatever spot on earth they may consider their national homeland. There will be no equal rights, and no healthy social life generally, in the whole of East-Central Europe so long as these Jewish masses are not given a full and honourable opportunity to abandon all those positions which they have irretrievably lost; and if that means the overwhelming majority of their former positions, the fact cannot be helped.

Let this be clearly understood. It is the duty of a Polish government fighting on the side of the Allies to guarantee equal rights for all in future Poland.

But it is equally its moral duty to warn those Allies that the burden of solving such a world-problem as the Jewish problem in Poland cannot be borne by Poland alone—it will have to be shared by other Powers, by the colonial empires especially, and above all, by Great Britain, the mandatory Power for Palestine. To sound this warning, the Polish Government in exile may have to risk the impatient frown of those who want the Jewish problem to be safely hushed up; but the gain in respect and dignity before the opinion of the world will be incalculable. This departure would also be in keeping with a noble tradition, for in 1863 the motto of the Polish rebellion was an appeal not to one oppressed nation, but to two. “For our freedom—and yours!” Enslaved Russia was indicated, but she did not respond or help. The Jews will do both.

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The following is the translation of a letter from a Catholic Aryan Pole :

The day must inevitably come, and the sooner the better, when those who speak in Poland's name will address the following message to the world, the Allies and the Jews:—

“With all her heart, Poland wishes to ensure, in her public life of the future, real and full equality among all her citizens of whatever creed, race or language. Above all, she wants this rule to apply in the fullest measure to her Jewish citizens. But she earnestly warns all concerned that, in the case of the

Jews, the achievement of real equality is threatened by an obstacle which, unless an exceptional effort is made to remove it, is bound to defy the best endeavours of statesmanship. This obstacle, a result of the historical injustice called the Jewish Dispersion, is the unique degree in which Poland's social life, and her urban life in particular, is complicated by the omnipresence of ethnical polarities. There is no real parallel to this state of things in any other country. Poland's civilization, proud as she is of it, cannot spiritually assimilate a minority so strong and so ubiquitous; nor would the Jews' own national conscience, which Poland respects, agree to such assimilation. As long as this situation exists, Poland can only promise to strive for, not to achieve, real equality; and the result, whatever our efforts, will be hardship and injustice to all.

It is therefore Poland's duty to remind her Allies, and the world at large, that the Jewish problem in Poland is only a fraction of the Jewish world problem as a whole, and that the former can be solved only by a parallel endeavour and a parallel sacrifice on the part of Poland, her Allies, and all the other peoples claiming the Allies' friendship. While Poland will do her utmost to enforce equality within her borders, a concerted effort of the most exceptional magnitude will be necessary to make possible the accelerated mass emigration from Poland of all the Jews who desire to emigrate.

This plan, however, cannot even be contemplated unless it is conceived in a spirit of respect, not of humiliation, for the Jewish nation. To press for a mass-exodus to a new Dispersion would be a crime against a people whose suffering is rooted in dispersion. The migration which Poland foresees can only

be a voluntary and dignified mass-repatriation to a Jewish State.

The greater its scope, the more effective will become Poland's power to translate the principle of equal rights into a reality, and to ensure a normal civic atmosphere for all those Jews whom the Polish national organism shall prove capable, to their mutual benefit, of absorbing.

Poland's complete renaissance to freedom, both external and inner, implies, therefore, two separate things: first, the restoration of Poland, and second, the creation of a Jewish State.

## CHAPTER IX

### RUSSIAN INTERMEZZO

THIS chapter, dealing with the Soviet portion of Europe's East-Central ghetto, will be short and deliberately inconclusive. The author dislikes Communism and does not believe in its value as a solution of the social problem, nor in its efficiency, nor in its durability; but on the other hand, like other people outside the U.S.S.R., he has no detailed information as to what is happening there. Dislike plus lack of information are not sufficient equipment for proposing conclusions. It would be best to omit this chapter altogether, but for the fact that there is unfortunately one aspect of the Russian war situation which has a direct bearing, and may yet have a decisive influence, on the Jews' final orientation with regard to the theatre of war.

There is a tacit agreement among all those who are interested in the outcome of this war: not to speak of what will have to be taken back from Russia, or to refer to it as little as possible. Some probably are silent because they do not believe that the Russian giant can be forced to restore what he has snatched; others may think that he possesses a

better title to much of his booty than the former owners; others again may harbour the hope that the loot may be recovered in due course provided we diplomatically forbear for the moment to discuss its recovery. However this may be, the tacit agreement seems to cover those Jews of Eastern Poland, about 1,500,000 in number, who have now become Soviet citizens. Their "geographical" future is very seldom discussed, as though it were taken for granted that for them there can be no way out of the Soviet fatherland; some even assume that they have no need of any way out, being quite happy where they are.

Such a thickness of fog surrounds the U.S.S.R. that no details of its inner life are clearly discerned; rumours there are, but it is safe to discount them, whether favourable to the Soviet régime or otherwise. What cannot and must not be discounted is the absence even of rumours. For the last ten years we have heard no report of any symptoms of anti-semitism in any Soviet territory, and we assume this to mean that no such symptoms exist. Ten years is too short a period for any final conclusions to be formed; the cancer may only be dormant. But no Jew can underestimate the fact that it *is* dormant in Russia, while everywhere else, during these same ten years, the evil has been conspicuous in varying degrees.

The absence of antisemitism is by far not enough for satisfaction. There is a widespread and easy



assumption among our well-wishers that the Jews, being only Jews, ought to ask, and probably do ask, for nothing more than freedom from persecution—that in the absence of persecution they feel perfectly contented, whatever the other conditions of their existence; but the assumption is false. A totalitarian régime must be more unbearable to the Jews than to any other human people, for no other race has so far disputed the Jews' title to priority in the matter of individuality and rebelliousness. Of all totalitarian systems, Communism, to them, must be the most hateful, because it fetters not only intellectual or political initiative but also, and especially, economic initiative. There must be some reason why Jewish names are so conspicuous among the victims of all recent "purges": at Kamenev's trial (1936), out of the sixteen accused ten or eleven were Jews; at Radek's trial seven or eight out of seventeen; surely these numbers are greatly in excess of the proportion of Jews among the Upper Ten Thousand of Bolshevism. The author has been told on good authority that in the ordinary, non-political population of the Soviet prisons the percentage of Jews is five times higher than what would be a fair "proportional representation"; as one might indeed expect, for as in Russia men are often jailed for a crime which the Russians call "speculation," and all other peoples "trade." As these symptoms of a kind of permanent conflict between the Jews and the Soviet régime cannot be

explained by the antisemitism of the OGPU or the courts—of “men,” in short—there is evidently something of an incompatibility between the nature of “things” in Soviet Russia and the nature of the Jews in Soviet Russia.

Where the conflict is open and undisguised is in the Soviet régime's treatment of Zionism and the Hebrew language. In the early twenties there were numerous mass trials, ending in exile to Siberia, of young Jews who were accused of Zionist affiliations, which were considered a crime both on account of the intrinsic demerits of Zionism as a creed and on account of the pro-British orientation which it implied. What was wrong with the Hebrew tongue is not quite clear, but the fact is that while the study of Yiddish was encouraged, the teaching of children in Hebrew was forbidden. Lately nothing more has been heard of this curious form of ethnical oppression (for that is what it certainly was), and the easing of the situation is officially explained as a consequence of the fact that the Soviet Jews have lost all interest in both the land and the tongue of their obsolete Bible.

One wonders whether the same inner transformation will so easily be effected in the case of the new Soviet Jews, annexed since October 1939. These have had twenty-two years of intensive Zionist training under the Balfour Declaration, and have given Palestine at least a hundred thousand Halutzim, while as many or even more of their children

have had all their school curriculum taught them in Hebrew. This generation will be a much harder nut to crack than the generation of 1918; so that we may soon hear of a new and a heavier offensive against Jewish "imperialism."

Yet all this is only a surmise, made *en passant*, and the reader was warned at the beginning of this chapter that the author does not claim to speak of Russian conditions with any sort of competence. What is certain is that so far the Soviet régime has proved a very efficient preservative against all the conscious forms of antisemitism. The Jews under Soviet rule fear neither a general "ousting" nor pogroms, and the principle of equal rights and equal opportunity seems to be applied without any trace of racial discrimination. At the same time, west of the Soviet frontier antisemitism rules supreme, and just now, and for God knows how long to come, in forms of exquisite bestiality.

This confronts every Jew on earth—every Jew without exception, Polish or British or Chilean—with a difficult moral problem: and the problem has a most unpleasantly direct bearing on his orientation with regard to this war. To put it bluntly: Russian conquest means the actual end of concrete antisemitism; where the Soviet rule is established pogroms are impossible and all forms of Jew-baiting disappear. This is an undeniable and empirical fact.

In such cases of divided loyalty it is best to experi-

ment with oneself; as I had to do during the weeks when it was still a question how far Russia would advance into conquered Poland. My basic attitude to Soviet Russia is both rationally and emotionally negative; exalting one class over another is to me anathema, a crime against that equality which is the base and the crown of all social decency; a régime without freedom of the Press, to me who am by God's grace a scribe and nothing else, means starvation; I like the State to have as little to say as possible; I admit compulsion only as one admits quinine—when absolutely inevitable; I detest obedience and think friendly anarchy the ideal régime for all nations in the enlightened future. A land where everything is organized just the way I hate is to me a nightmare. Moreover, the Soviets are enemies of Zionism, whereas to me the restoration of a Jewish Palestine is the only possible theodicy and cosmodycy there is; they want to stifle the renaissance of Hebrew, whereas I, who know half Pushkin by heart, am willing any day to trade the whole of Russia's modern poetry for any seven letters of the square alphabet; a narrow-minded but impenitent attitude. Above all, the Soviets' action in making friends with Nazism and stabbing Poland in the back has placed them, in my judgment, beyond the pale of biped zoology. I could add another page of invective, all genuinely felt and meant. With such feelings in my heart, during those critical weeks I opened my paper with eager hands,

*hoping* to read that the Soviets had annexed more and more and more territory; for in each one of those border towns I have friends to whom the Red Fiend's advance meant escape from torture.

The implications of this story of one puzzled anti-Communist go much farther than the choice between Russia and Germany; a rather obvious choice not likely to wound anyone's susceptibilities. The dilemma still stands; I have yet to choose, not between Red Russia and Germany, but between sooty-faced Russia and their immaculate Holinesses, the Western democracies. On a broad, sweeping issue, the present conflict looks almost as much a contest between the latter and the Soviets as between them and the Nazis. Should Russia profit by the war, should her world-power increase, the influence of the Western Allies will be eclipsed; while a triumph of the Allies will mean a tremendous set-back for Russia. What should I pray for? An Allied victory, for the Jews of Eastern and Central Europe, means what we have seen in a preceding chapter—the *status quo*, with a supervision which Sir Archibald Sinclair honestly advises us not to overrate. But a new province snatched by the Soviets means, at least, no pogroms. Whom should I pray for, *rebus sic stantibus*?

The author has spoken of his own feelings, but only as an illustration. Sixteen million Jews are watching events, two-thirds of them not as victims but as members of the Allied and neutral universe.

Most of them, one or two generations ago, came from the Zone: all have cousins in the Eastern ghetto between the devil and the deep sea.

Threatening Europe that unless this or that is done at once, A or B will turn pro-Soviet is an old device of political pressure: it is especially popular when A and B are Jews. It has been used so often that it no longer frightens anyone. Yet there is a core of bitter and dangerous truth in it none the less; and wise men know that many a menace, even though it never materialize, turns to venom and miasma. It is foolish to allow it to fester in war time.



PART III

THE STATE EXODUS



## CHAPTER X

### THE PHILOSOPHY OF EQUAL RIGHTS

WE must not forget Roumania (1,000,000 Jews) and Hungary (550,000). At the moment of writing neither country is at war, so that the Allies cannot really be saddled with any responsibility for what may happen to the Jews in the Danubian valley. In this book, which deals chiefly with the Allies' war aims, a closer enquiry into this sector of the Dispersion would be irrelevant. But no one can deny, no one should forget, that both Roumania and Hungary belong to the zone where the Jewish problem has long reached the stage of acute and painful incompatibility between the "equal rights" principle and the real situation. In both countries, with the Jews forming about 6 % of the total population, that situation is somewhat like that obtaining in Poland; but only "somewhat" like, for both countries are incomparably richer than Poland in respect of their agricultural possibilities, so that the scramble for urban jobs is not nearly so acute. In Roumania, however, what we call "Antisemitism of Men" has been conspicuously endemic since at least the middle of last century. In Hungary its

acute form is of recent growth, but it is now very intense. In both, the rôle of the governments in fostering the anti-Jewish trend of economic life seems to be of secondary importance: the main driving force in the process tending to oust the Jew from all such positions as he still retains is rather the unanimous pressure of all those social classes with whom the Jew happens to have any economic or social contacts. Whether or not these two countries, in the end, will be invited to reconfirm their adherence to the principle of equal rights for all (which has never been absent from their constitutions) is really immaterial. "Things" will decide, and only fools or hypocrites can doubt what the nature of the decision will be.

The writer was born in Russia, in a generation that knew what Jewish inequality tasted like, and his youth was spent in the atmosphere of constant struggle for equal rights. In 1906, at Helsinki, in a conference of Jewish nationalists who came from all corners of the Russian empire, he was co-editor of what is known as The Helsingfors Programme—a demand for perfect and absolute equality of civic rights: every Jew to be a citizen of Russia equal to all others, Russian Jewry as a whole to be recognized as a nationality equal to all others within the empire, its language equal to all languages, its religion equal to all other churches. Today he would be prepared to sign that programme again. But he would not be prepared to

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condone policies which are bound to make of that programme, or even of a much less ambitious conception of equal rights for the Jew, a doomed list of cant and impossible claims.

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There are two possible ways of envisaging a non-exodus solution of the Jewish problem, *i.e.* a solution founded on the assumption that equality can "work": the one calls for "assimilation," the other for "minority nationalism."

The first is an elastic idea, whose adherents have been known to give it different interpretations. Some favour assimilation in language and manners, but no religious apostasy and no mixed marriages: which, after all, and despite all rhetoric to the contrary, means the perpetuation of some kind of separate racial community held together by a collective ideology. Others, more radical, foresee or even desire mixed marriages, so that both the race and the religion might gradually disappear; the comforting feature of this creed is the "proud" assurance that both race and religion will prove an excellent manure for enriching the physical and spiritual soil of humanity.

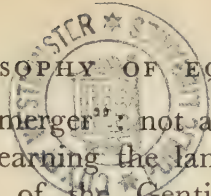
"Minority nationalism" is based on the theory that the essence of nationality is to be found in language, literature, music, philosophy, religion, and so forth, and that these can be preserved and cultivated without any territorial segregation.

"Nationalities," according to this doctrine, are very much like churches, in that they can perfectly well carry on their separate forms of worship although their respective adherents are intermingled not only in the same district but in the same street. What is needed to save them from the drabness of mutual assimilation is not separate homelands but a law called "national-personal autonomy." All Jews who so desire will be registered in Dispersion as members of their own national community, will have their own schools, use their own language in public life, and feel equal to anyone else.

This is not the place to debate the practical worth of either of these two solutions; for argument's sake let us assume that both are excellent. Let us go a step farther, and agree in advance that should a third or a fourth non-exodus solution of the Jewish problem be invented tomorrow, they too may be excellent. But their efficiency will always depend on one condition: the equality of individual civic rights (which they all presuppose as the fundamental condition of normal existence) must be real and continue to be real. Yet we have just seen that in East-Central Europe it cannot be made a reality without a great exodus.

Assimilation especially is conditioned by exodus. Only when the bulk of the Jews have gone may the diminishing remainder hope to find a favourable atmosphere for trying to solve its problem by





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the great final "merger": not an illusory merging as in the past, learning the language yet not the spiritual accent of the Gentile,—but *this time*, perhaps, an effective union.

For in the past the assimilation of the Jews has proved illusory throughout the whole of East-Central Europe. Real assimilation is not a solo performance: it is a duet. It is not enough for the Jew to feel convinced that he has become absolutely like his Gentile neighbour: what is more decisive is whether his Gentile neighbour has the same impression. Joining a new community or nation or class or set is not only a question of genuine endeavour, but above all of reception. Jewish assimilation in East-Central Europe has obviously failed in this respect; by bringing Jew and Gentile nearer to each other, by making them rub shoulders in many walks of life where they never met before, it merely extended the area of possible friction. If assimilation as an escape from Jewish distress is really worth trying again, the attempt will have to be made afresh from the very beginning. But even its enthusiasts, if any such still exist, must have realized by now that they stand no chance of success unless racial percentages in East-Central Europe undergo a staggering change.

A "successful" assimilation may or may not be worth while, may or may not be objectively possible: but in any case the preliminary condition is the exodus of the bulk of the Jews.

*Mutatis mutandis* the same judgment applies to minority nationalism: whether practicable or not, the preliminary condition for its success is the exodus of the bulk of the Jews.

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It is by no means the author's intention to suggest that we should abandon all hope of ever securing a decent and normal existence for the Jews in this sector of Dispersion. On the contrary, he still believes that this can be done. But the preliminary condition for any such hope is the exodus of the bulk of the Jews.

The question touches some intimate susceptibilities so closely that the author may advisedly make a few comments in the first person.

I warn my fellow-Jews (if they still need the warning, which I doubt) that equal rights are, at best, a very perishable kind of goods, infinitely prickly, to be handled and used with caution, moderation and tact. In Paris, for some ten years or more, I enjoyed the acquaintance of a Jewish gentleman whose French ancestry went back into the seventeenth century, and whose heart's Ten Commandments consisted of the word "France" ten times repeated. He never said "Juif," but only "Israelite": he firmly believed in what was known, two "Israelite" generations ago, as "the mission" theory—that it is the Jews' sacred "mission" to live scattered among the Gentiles and to help them

to reach ever loftier ethical summits. Yet I never met any other Jew who so genuinely disliked any manifestation of Jewish prominence. When there were "too many" Jewish names at the head of what they call *les Palmarès* (the list of successful candidates to one of the *Grandes Ecoles*), he frowned. Somebody mentioned in his presence the remarkable fact that the three most original thinkers of the period were Jews—Bergson, Einstein, and Freud—"I regret," he said, "that I must add one more name—the late Hermann Cohen, and the coincidence is extremely unfortunate." On another occasion, years before the Nazis' triumph, he called my attention to the pleiad of Germany's foremost novelists, pre-war and post-war: "But for the two brothers Mann, all that count are *Israelites*—Schnitzler, Wassermann, Zweig, Werfel . . . *mais ça finira mal*." He was hurt and shocked when Léon Blum became Premier. I asked him: is it fear? He denied it. "It is, my friend, a question of tact. This is too conspicuous for good taste. I should equally disapprove of it on the part of Protestants.'

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But of course, it was fear; and of course it was by no means unfounded. The German economist Werner Sombart, who after all was neither a fool nor a sworn enemy of the Jews, gave them this advice at the beginning of the century: "Our German laws and our ethical outlook admit Jewish

equality—but if you Jews want to preserve it, do not take it too seriously. Always stick to the second place.” It would be childish to deny that 99 % of Jews (and particularly the non-Zionist, “assimilationist” Jews to whom equality is alpha and omega) consider this a very wise maxim, regret that they did not follow it themselves, and would be very glad to see their children do so.

But their children will not comply with this wise maxim, for such obedience is humanly impossible. Life is competition; equality of rights has only one concrete meaning—an equal chance in every aspect of life’s competition; the right to win if you are better equipped. Twenty centuries of lopsided urbanism have made the Jew, on the average if not on the summits where genius dwells, better equipped for most of the ordinary competitions of modern life; there is no pride in stating this, for the advantage has long been a curse to us, a curse and a nuisance. Nor can the Jew help his success: as well advise a red-haired fellow not to be “conspicuous,” or a tall man, or a fat man. It is beyond human nature that any man should compel himself, for the good of the community, to withhold the best that is in him, to write or speak worse than he could if he let himself go, to plead, build, diagnose, or act on the stage worse than he really can. True, I know of cases where Jewish statesmen, though they were legitimately as ambitious as their Christian colleagues, have offered to

decline high office so as to avoid stirring up anti-semitic feeling, but often enough their Christian party-comrades told them that it was their patriotic duty to accept; and only a Simeon the Stylite type could withstand this kind of pressure. So it is in every branch of civic, cultural, economic and social life: ordinary human beings are psychologically unable to reject chances of success and advancement when these are unimpeachably fair and legitimate. The result is, inevitably, "conspicuousness," jealousy, resentment, and the rise or increase of what we have termed the "Antisemitism of Men": this is true even of wealthy countries, where conditions are not sufficiently strained to produce the other kind of antisemitism, the one inherent in the objective power of Things.

This is the fateful inner contradiction of civic equality for Jews: it can be durable only if it is not enjoyed to the full; yet it is impossible to bring about a voluntary renunciation of such a privilege.

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There are, of course, outside remedies which may be applied in order to keep the Jewish advance within "moderate" limits: and such attempts usually take the form of the policy of the *numerus clausus*. This policy consists in limiting the number of Jews who may be admitted to a certain profession (or school, or enterprise, or institute) to a fixed percentage of the total personnel. In Tsarist



Russia, from 1888, it was the rule with regard to all the universities and secondary schools: Jewish pupils were not to exceed 10 % of the total in the Western part of the empire (the "Pale of Settlement"), and 5 % or 3 % in other provinces. The most modern experiment on the same lines is the Hungarian law limiting the number of Jews in certain professions to 6 %—which is exactly the proportion of Jews in the total population of Hungary.

Eloquent attempts have been made to justify the *numerus clausus* scheme as something not only consistent with the equal rights principle but actually based upon it. Why call it *numerus clausus*? Call it Proportional Representation of Races in all departments of the State's economy. If a given race constitutes 6 % of the total population, the soundest and the fairest arrangement (so it is argued) would be for the members of that race to form 6 % of the peasantry, 6 % of the industrial proletariat, 6 % of the doctors and lawyers and journalists. It is argued that this would be the surest antidote to antisemitism; and also the only way to straighten out and normalize the social structure of the Jewish people itself. The German Zionists, by the way, have been advocating for a generation the "reshuffling of classes" ("*Umschichtung der Schichten*") as the main ideal of Zionism, meaning under that formula the formation of a Jewish social organism subdivided in a manner parallel to



that of the Aryan environment. In Germany, for instance, it would mean that 20 % of the Jews would be engaged in agriculture, 35 % in industry and mining, less than 10 % in trade, and still fewer in the professions. Aryan defenders of the *numerus clausus* argue that this is absolutely the same thing as proportional representation in the national economy: that is, the *numerus clausus*.

We are here not concerned with deciding whether this argument is right or wrong: what matters is that it is bound to prove irresistible in societies where Jewish competition is "conspicuous," and yet the open negation of the equality principle is felt to be undesirable. Well-chosen phrases are a great help in the smuggling of offensive ideas. In an enlightened Western country the author has heard the *numerus clausus* device defended from the standpoint of "social congeniality," a term much more diplomatic than "racial purity." The harm of such phraseological disguises is in their insidious plausibility: they lend themselves so gracefully to inclusion in a system in full accordance with liberal treaties and democratic constitutions. And yet, at all events in the case of the Jewish minorities, the actual introduction of "proportional representation in the national economy" is entirely impossible, even though the Jews should beg for it and the governments decree it. To be real, such a redistribution would have to begin at the base of the national economy, which is agriculture. In Hun-

gary, where half the population works in cornfields and pastures, 6 % of all the available land would have to be cleared of the present occupiers (about 250,000 souls) to make room for the Jewish settlers; or some other way of squeezing them out would have to be devised, so that half the Jewish population could be duly normalized as ploughboys and shepherds. A similar operation would be needed in mining and industry in order to absorb the 125,000 Jewish factory-hands required by the scheme. Only then could the *numerus clausus* in the professions and in commerce be justified as a step towards social normality. All this is so obviously and preposterously impossible that nobody really thinks of proposing it. Yet all talk of eliminating the Jewish tragedy by "re-instating" civic equality in East-Central Europe can only imply this: unless it implies nothing but lip-service and twaddle.

And this, the author ventures to affirm, is precisely what it does imply. Any assertion that the cancer of antisemitism can be cured in its principal breeding-zone, East-Central Europe, by the ointment of "equal rights" without a preliminary exodus of the bulk of the Jews, is empty, thoughtless and harmful twaddle.

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Every man must be a king among kings, or life is not worth living. Equality is not only a state of things; it is also a principle. As a principle it has

a tremendous value, no matter if translatable into everyday life or not. The Jews, if they are worth their salt, must fight to the last ditch to ensure that the equality principle, however unreal, shall be solemnly proclaimed in the statutes of every nation: this is a question of human dignity, something without which life would be morally despicable, and the refusal of which would justify any form of retaliation against the offending State. But it is one thing to fight for your dignity, and quite another to pretend that this dignity alone will feed you. It is utterly dishonest to pretend that legal equality, re-proclaimed under the impact of Allied victories, can stop or retard, in that immense distressed area, the progress of the objective realities that are tending to oust the Jew from every economic foothold. To say that *all* that the Allies are aiming to win for us is a reaffirmation of civic equality, would mean that for us an Allied victory would have no value except as revenge on the Nazis. We do the Allies a disservice by accepting such a restricted purpose.

## CHAPTER XI

### EVACUATING A RUIN

IN 1936 the writer, assisted by two friends, published in a Warsaw daily a pronouncement to the effect that the only reasonable thing for the Polish Jews to do would be to evacuate all those economic positions which evidently could not be maintained. As it was even then a matter of common conviction that no less than one-third of Poland's 3,300,000 Jews had already lost their "positions" beyond any hope of recovery (while another million, hereditary paupers, had never possessed any positions), the solution was mass exodus.

The term "evacuation" wounded many susceptibilities; it seemed offensive and humiliating. It is difficult to see what is wrong with it. In September and October 1939, both in England and France, children were "evacuated" from the areas of danger; but apart from war, whenever a dam threatens to burst or a house to fall in, the inhabitants are invited to "evacuate" the spot; the same thing happens if the plague breaks out in a block of buildings. And what was the Jewish situation in

East-Central Europe in 1936? Not a hand was raised. Crumbling walls, bursting dams, all forms of antisemitic plague at every corner, not a single hand to defend the victims, and no plan for adequate self-defence, even among the victims themselves. At a conservative estimate, at least two-thirds of them ought to have been, if not evacuated, at all events earmarked for evacuation, even before any sensible scheme of salvaging the balance had been devised. But that was in 1936; they were halcyon days compared with the present.

The great advantage of the word "evacuation" is its implied suggestion of organized orderliness. No other term conveys that important quality: "emigration" has always meant a haphazard scramble (except when stopped); "exodus" inevitably recalls the pursuing enemy host, and it is always a risky proceeding, since but for a miracle not only the evil but also some of the righteous people may be drowned. "Evacuation," in modern times and under decent governments, has always been associated with forethought, careful planning, and decent accommodation at the end of the journey. The author does not renounce either of the other terms, but he prefers "evacuation."

Mass evacuation is the only remedy for the cancer of Jewish distress. It may be superhumanly difficult, it may be atrociously costly, but as it is the only way to save Europe from being hustled into another catastrophe, the difficulties and the

expense will have to be faced: when it will, of course, be discovered that the operation, at its maximum, is infinitely easier and cheaper than a modern war, besides being a profitable investment, which a war can never claim to be.

How many will have to be evacuated? The question is important, but it cannot be answered. To begin with, heaven alone knows how many Jews in the Zone of Distress will survive; and how far southwards, northwards, eastwards and perhaps even westwards the Zone may expand before the crisis ends. Secondly: there probably exists, even in countries which are the home of acute anti-semitism (objective or subjective, or both), a certain level at which peaceful symbiosis becomes normally possible between the Gentile majority and a Jewish minority reduced to a proportion small enough to be tolerable. To foretell exactly how deep on the scale that happy level lies is impossible. It will depend upon a whole complex of conditions: the character of the majority people, the natural resources of the soil, the upward or downward trend of its trade are only the most obvious factors, but not necessarily the most essential. The truth will become apparent only during the process of the migration, and it will probably conform to a kind of osmotic principle: in other words, the area to be evacuated and the reception area will behave like two vessels separated by a diaphragm, each one with its own degree of



pressure. The outflow will depend not only on the anti-Jewish factors in Europe but also on the attractiveness of the new home. Theoretically, the outflow will stop when a state of equilibrium has been reached, e.g. when the Polish or the Hungarian or the Roumanian state and society begin to feel that the Jewish exodus has reached its "useful" limit, and that its continuation would be a total loss; whereupon they might conceivably begin to offer the not yet evacuated Jews some kind of enticement or premium for remaining (history records even more incredible cases—when Jews were offered premiums for entering the country). On the other hand, it is also theoretically possible that in spite of such a commendable change of heart the evacuation would still continue on account of the greater appeal, material or ideological, of the reception area.

The only thing that can be said with certainty is that calculations, to be sober, should incline to the maximum. Some approximate figures will be given in the chapter on the "Max Nordau Plan" (Ch. xvii); here it will be enough to say that a solid evacuation policy should reckon with an eventual "ceiling" of some five million Jewish migrants within the ten to fifteen years following the war: and that the first million, taken from all the countries of the Zone, will have to be evacuated at once, at what the Germans would call "lightning" speed, by the same methods and at the same tempo

which a modern army would apply to the transport of fifty divisions to a remote theatre of war.

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Some critics of evacuation fear that it would have to be "compulsory." This is hardly likely: it will, on the contrary, prove extremely difficult to keep proper order among the multitude of volunteers lining up for places on the waiting list. Other critics merely demand that the mass-emigration of Jews should be treated as something concerning the Jews alone, and no business of any government, Polish or Roumanian or Hungarian. Not only should there be no hint of compulsory evacuation; there should be no application of pressure in any form; and if a national government should openly apply itself to organizing the emigration, that would be practically tantamount to pressure. The correct attitude for such a government would therefore be, to pretend to ignore the fact that Jewish emigration existed, and especially, that it was necessary, etc.

All this is foolish. There is no reason why government and parliament, or citizens, in a State which finds emigration a necessity, should feel bashful about it. On the contrary, it is the State's duty to help the emigrant by every means in its power. Italy before the Great War was an excellent example of such sound, sober and perfectly patriotic treatment of the emigration problem.

Italy had no ethnical minorities to get rid of; all her emigrants were of pure Italian breed: but her government was always busy devising shipping facilities, credit facilities, training facilities for the emigrants, and negotiating with the Argentine and other overseas countries for their admission. Whenever it was felt that an Italian cabinet was not properly exerting itself in these directions the Radical and Socialist opposition criticized it most severely for such dereliction of its true democratic duty. They were quite right: it is a decent government's duty to look after all the needs of all its citizens, and if among such needs there is that of migrating *en masse* in search of conditions which cannot be provided at home, a decent government must give its help, no matter whether these migrants be Gentile or Jewish. As a matter of fact, many Gentiles also will probably have to migrate from East-Central Europe after the war, though it is of course to be expected that the paramount phenomenon in the field of mass migration will be the Jewish exodus. But the touchy inferiority-complex of the non-Zionist Jew should not lead him to take offence at his government's solicitude in acknowledging the existence of a social problem just because the problem happens to be predominantly Jewish.

Neither success nor order can be ensured in the exodus unless it is an international enterprise assisted by every government concerned. The above-mentioned bashful or touchy Jewish poli-

ticians probably know it themselves, for they can hardly imagine that arrangements for the transfer of capital or the liquidation of property can be made privately while ministers look the other way. The exodus will have to be a solemn and official performance, undertaken with banners flying; it will require not only administrative measures, but also special legislation, and above all, great international treaties. This cannot be helped and there is no need to shrink from it.

One understands, however, the reasons of this bashful shrinking. Tom and Dick have been room-mates for years; there have been quarrels; now it is finally agreed that peace is to be restored, but Dick has decided to move to other quarters; the decision is absolutely voluntary, but there is nevertheless something in the very fact that it is Dick and not Tom who has decided to move away. Under these conditions Dick may prefer that Tom should leave him alone to do his house-hunting and packing; should Tom prove too solicitous to help, his solicitude might look like eagerness to get rid of him. . . .

The prickly nature of the drama is obvious; yet the significant thing about the awkwardness of being too anxiously assisted to pack is that it is felt only if Dick is moving to another set of hired lodgings. Imagine for a moment that Dick has inherited a house, and a real freehold property, a thing he has long dreamed of: the whole psycho-

logical atmosphere would change, and all the awkwardness would disappear.

This is no idle parable, but a cogent argument. When people who admit the inevitable necessity of "evacuating lost positions" still feel it necessary to insist with so much heat that the process must be absolutely voluntary, that no pressure must be applied, etc., they are simply beating about the bush. The most absolutely voluntary emigration may contain some aspects of compulsion: it depends on what the emigrant expects to find overseas. Imagine the Italian emigrant of fifty years ago leaving Genoa for Buenos Ayres: was he migrating of his free will or under pressure? If he felt that he was going into a dismal exile he *was* an exile; if he felt he was going to meet friends and make his fortune, he was a free adventurer. An exodus of Jews towards a new Dispersion would be equivalent to forcible mass expulsion, no matter how scrupulously the "voluntary" principle was respected and safeguarded. Exodus to a Jewish State will, under all conditions, be spontaneous in the purest sense of the word, and the eagerness of the migrants will be hardly at all diminished by the fact that the new constitutions in the old countries promise civic equality.

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On the contrary, the prospect of civic equality may be affected by the fact of evacuation—perhaps



very notably and favourably affected. The man in the street, on the average, is never altogether beastly. The importance attributed to this book in the objective "Antisemitism of Things" should help us to avoid over-estimating the malignancy of men: men may vote for anti-Jewish measures, men may boycott Jewish shops, and may still be decent kind-hearted fellows in other respects. It would do some Jewish leaders an enormous amount of good if they realized this truth once for all, and drew some conclusions from it. The average human biped in the antisemitic Zone does not enjoy downing and harming the Jew; but he is quite willing to do so again and again if he fears that the Jew may crowd him out, economically, socially, or politically. Give the average man a concrete and tangible proof that an earnest endeavour is actually being made to thin out the ranks of his Jewish competitors, and he will probably relax his belligerency. This is not optimism, just as the refusal to believe in the efficiency of equal rights under the climate of the Zone is not pessimism: it is just impartial realism, scornful but benevolent, taking Jew and Gentile at their true value, *terre à terre*.

Is Man essentially good or essentially bad? Here is another parable, which answers this foolish and idle question. There was once a town of five hundred houses, and one day the Sultan sent to it fifty orphans and appealed to the citizens' mercy to give each of these unfortunates a home. So the



## EVACUATING A RUIN

town carefully selected fifty of the most affluent and virtuous families, and placed one orphan in each. A month later the whole town was in a frenzy of irritation; fifty mothers complained that the orphans were lousy, bad-mannered, and generally horrid. Then the town councillors got together again and decided to raise a public subscription to build an orphanage; and the people subscribed the required amount twice over, built a wonderful home for the orphans, and lived happily ever after.

Mass evacuation applied to the Jewish problem is not an alternative to civic equality: it is a corollary to equality, the indispensable condition of equality, and the only thing which can possibly make the latter a lasting reality for those—be they few or many—who remain.

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But this is a side-issue. The essential rôle and value of evacuation is that it is the only cure for an evil which, if not removed, will continue to pervert humanity to commit further outrages: a thorough, clean and final cure. Also—provided the reception area is a Jewish State—it is a popular cure, a remedy which the overwhelming majority of men of all creeds regard with approval and respect; an ideal sanctified by the Bible and ennobled by the tradition of Zionism, whose consummation would be universally welcomed by all countries inside the Zone of distress, and most

nations outside it, and by all Jews—both those who want to go and those who want to remain.

What was said of the equality principle in Poland can be said of the equality principle in general—that complex of claims and dreams which our ancestors called “the Jewish emancipation” can become a reality only under two conditions: the enjoyment of equal rights in every Gentile country, and the existence, somewhere, of a Jewish State.

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At this stage of our enquiry a question will probably arise in the minds of readers: How far can *this* aspect of the solution here proposed be regarded as a “war aim of the Allies?” The war is against Germany. Wherever the area for a Jewish State may be reserved, in Palestine or elsewhere, it certainly will not be on any soil now held by Germany. How can this matter be the concern of a peace conference at which demands can be presented only to Germany?

But the forecast contained in this last sentence is an error. The Versailles treaty (and incidentally, the author refuses to join in the great chorus of that document’s detractors: it was, with all its defects, quite a fine piece of statesmanship for its time)—the Versailles treaty in its 225 pages did much more than merely settle accounts with the beaten foe. For instance, it established the League of Nations: what had that to do with the war? Well,

it had everything to do with it, for at the time it was universally realized that some kind of permanent association between sovereign peoples might help to prevent further wars. The remedy has failed : and today the whole world is even more acutely aware that the only justification of the present conflict is the eventual provision of better safeguards against eruptions of the spirit of violence. *Everything* which is of value as such a safeguard is a proper war aim. Hardly anybody will deny that the uprooting of antisemitism, at least of its acute form, in East-Central Europe would be an essential safeguard against any further eruptions of brute aggression.

## CHAPTER XII

### EVIAN

THE official Allied attitude to the Jewish evacuation problem (in so far as the official Allied view admits the existence of such a thing, under the euphemistic name of the "refugee" problem) is in contradiction to all our essential and vital interests.

The essential and vital interests of the Jewish masses in the Zone of Distress, even if considered apart from their spiritual aspects, such as the appeal of religion or of Zionism, demand the recognition of two principles:

(a) That there is no probability whatever that the need for Jewish mass emigration will cease after an Allied victory: that, on the contrary, the balance of probability points to an increased urge towards evacuation after the war; and that all international plans with regard to the future of the "Jewish refugee" problem must therefore discard the cheap optimism which justifies neglect and adopts the forecast of the "greater need" as their basis of action.

(b) The second principle is this: The territorial concentration of Jewish emigrants, and, above all,

no encouragement of their further dispersion as minorities among other peoples.

No person of average intelligence will ask for an explanation with regard to this second principle. It is by now clear to all that the formation of new Jewish minorities in countries or districts or towns where there are as yet no Jewish communities is bound to spread the germs of the antisemite cancer where they will proliferate in the future, perhaps the very near future. Any sane observer, whether friendly or indifferent or even unsympathetic to the Jews, will realize that the only sound policy is to look for some way of allowing these emigrants to create a homeland of their own. Theoretically speaking, there might be one homeland for all, or several homelands: though the author does not believe in the latter alternative. But the problem need not be analysed here: the main point is the principle of the homeland. A homeland for the Jews means a land where they would dwell only among Jews, or would at least constitute a majority sufficiently overwhelming in numbers to eliminate the possibility of pogroms, or economic ousting, or even the uneasy distress of the unwanted lodger. Perhaps this does not necessarily imply full political independence; but it certainly implies a very considerable degree of internal sovereignty; above all, it implies the reservation for this purpose of a sufficiently extensive area (or, in theory, several extensive areas). That the task of finding such areas is not an

easy one is obvious; but to look for "easy" ways out of a problem of such magnitude would be childish. When the plain man hears that inter-governmental conferences are being called and committees set up to devise schemes for settling "refugees" who are mainly if not wholly Jews, he expects the statesmen thus engaged to apply their efforts in the direction not of scattered but of concentrated settlement.

The official Allied attitude, so far as can be ascertained, favours the scattering of the "refugees," it being assumed that after the Allied victory there will be no need even for that.

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The Evian Conference (July 1938), convened to deal with the question of "refugees from Germany and Austria" and attended by delegates of some thirty governments, was due to President Roosevelt's initiative. His original intention was comprehensive: he wanted the civilized governments to provide an adequate solution not only for the plight of the actual refugees, but for the whole phenomenon which, by then, already promised to become a fixed feature of the European situation. The scope of his intentions embraced "all" refugees, present and future, those from Germany and Austria and those who were being daily squeezed out of other parts of East-Central Europe. There are some indications that Mr. Roosevelt's initial plan went even farther:



relief was to be provided not only for those who were actually expelled or had fled, but also for those left behind in their agony; in other words, there was to be not only refugee relief but also preventive evacuation. It is of course unlikely that Mr. Roosevelt should have expected an initial conference to solve these problems in their formidable entirety; what he probably intended was a full-scale beginning of the offensive, plus a complete and courageous outline of the tasks ahead.

When his envoy, Mr. Myron Taylor, began to go round the European capitals, sounding their attitude to the President's initiative, it became evident at once that he was encountering serious obstacles—that powerful interests were alarmed and displeased by the scope of Roosevelt's plan, and were bent upon restricting it to the narrowest proportions. The chief centre of this obstruction was official London.

The spring of 1938, when Mr. Taylor was travelling on his exploratory mission, was the time when Foreign Office and Colonial Office circles were busily looking for some way of reducing Great Britain's Zionist obligations. It was the same tendency which a year later found expression in Mr. MacDonald's White Paper on Palestine. This tendency could not possibly have attained to complete precision so early in 1938, but its trend was perfectly clear: England's pledge to the Jews must be so interpreted as to leave her free to buy Arab good-

will by stopping immigration to Palestine. Mr. Roosevelt's project was a most inopportune check to that tendency. An international body summoned to provide a really adequate solution of the refugee problem in its entirety would inevitably end in a quest for a suitable territory or territories, and the first object of its investigation would naturally be Palestine. This danger was to be averted at all costs. How? It would never do to offend Mr. Roosevelt by anything like an abrupt refusal to hold such a conference. Mr. Roosevelt was to be let down gently and cautiously. First, the scope of the problem was to be drastically reduced: it would not include all the refugees from all countries who had already escaped or were likely to escape in the future, but only those actual fugitives from Germany and Austria who had already escaped and were already such a burden to Germany's hospitable neighbours. In other words, it was a question of thousands, not of God knows how many eventual myriads or millions. Secondly, the problem thus limited would have to be treated as a question of international charity, not of international politics; no Jewish State proposals or the like were to be put on the agenda; and to drag in Palestine in this connection would mean embarrassing Great Britain and even making it impossible for her to attend the conference.

So far as is known, the same tactics were adopted at the second "refugee" conference—at Washington in October 1939. Here again Mr. Roosevelt was the

initiator, and he is reported to have expressed the apprehension that after the war there would be many more refugees than before; indeed, according to some of the reports the American delegation went so far as to forecast a human flood amounting perhaps to twenty million homeless people of all races. Yet here again "some European delegates" firmly disagreed, and assured the gathering that, on the contrary, no refugee problem to speak of would be left in Europe after the Allied victory. Another report states, moreover, that it was decided to open a systematic enquiry into the absorbent possibilities of a number of countries, but that Palestine (at the demand of "some European delegates") was excluded from the scope of such enquiry.

All this is no small matter. This is a deliberate policy of scuttling the chances of Jewish salvation; of discouraging our well-wishers and paralysing their attempts to help us; a policy more than just unfriendly—a policy of wrecking. Moreover, even a wrecker does not always act so wantonly as to rob a neighbour of a pound in order to save himself a penny. Half a century of Jewish endeavour, since Theodore Herzl's day and before, had been devoted to the one supreme purpose: to make the civilized governments realize that the Jewish hunger for migration is a world-problem, and agree on an international effort to solve it in all its magnitude. At long last a powerful initiative had begun to move

in this direction, at a period when the sympathy of all nations with the Jews' agony of homelessness might (so we thought) be assumed to be unanimous. The entire future of the race depends on the success of this step; and it is not only the Jews' one chance of salvation—it is also Europe's chance. Here is a prospect of profound and lasting—perhaps of permanent—international and humanitarian value. As against this, there is the petty apprehension that if the Palestine question is reopened, a British Cabinet may be put in an awkward position and its Palestine policy jammed: a policy which most British leaders dislike, and which nine-tenths of their reluctant supporters accept only as provisional. There is something mean in this disproportion between the enormity of the harm and the puny cheapness of the advantage; a story of the Middle Ages, read in early boyhood, recurs to one's memory: "Yes, the village is burning, but do not sound the alarm lest you wake his Lordship . . ."

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The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, set up by the Evian Conference, has so far (February 1940) published no results of its investigation. This is not a reproach: a geo-political enquiry extending over half the globe must be slow work under the best of conditions, and this particular work has lately been handicapped by the war. The result is that no proper review can be offered of the settle-

ment possibilities discovered by the Committee for the refugees generally and the Jewish refugees in particular.

A great many countries have been mentioned in the press as willing to accept a number of refugees, and various figures have been quoted, denied, confirmed, enlarged, or reduced. No reliance can be placed on any of this information until the official reports begin to appear. But even then, or rather especially then, the whole melancholy business of scattering fugitives among reluctant hosts will remain what it is now—arid and hopeless, pregnant of nothing but sorrow.

This is not said in any spirit of disparagement either of the workers of the Intergovernmental Committee or of the countries that still agree to practise hospitality. They are deserving of nothing but respectful gratitude. But the results of such hospitality would be as melancholy as the present position. However great may be the ultimate total of Jewish refugees allowed to infiltrate here and there and everywhere, that total, in comparison with the millions who must be evacuated from the Zone of Distress, will be as a pebble to an avalanche.

But the harm done will be great. Has anyone any illusion as to the universal atmosphere in which those kind-hearted people of the "Evian" Committee are trying to charm the governments into once more opening their gates to the Jewish tramp?



The following string of news items has been gleaned at leisure from the London *Jewish Chronicle* files of 1938 and 1939:

According to a statement issued by the Government of Northern Rhodesia the elected members of the Legislative Council have unanimously opposed any immigration of Jewish refugees. The acting Governor, therefore, felt unable to advise the Secretary of State that the matter would be proceeded with further at the present time. (August 19, 1938.)

It is stated that mass immigration into the Portuguese colonies is strictly forbidden. (August 19, 1938.)

President Vargas of Brazil has issued a decree prohibiting the establishment of communities of one nationality, fixing the annual quota of immigration at two per cent of the total number of immigrants of the same nationality during the last fifty years and establishing an immigration council. (September 2, 1938.)

A memorandum urging the prohibition of foreign immigrants into Cyprus has been submitted to the Municipal Council by local professional corporations. (September 16, 1938.)

Refugees from European countries will not be encouraged to emigrate to New Zealand, according to a statement made last week by Mr. Nash, the Minister of Finance. (September 16, 1938.)

It is understood that the Government of South Africa is unwilling to contemplate any modification in the stringent provisions of the Aliens Act, which makes Jewish immigration virtually impossible. (December 2, 1938.)

It is reported that the Uruguay Government has instructed its consuls to refuse visas to Jews who are



emigrating for racial or political reasons. (December 23, 1938.)

The Foreign Office of Ecuador advised consuls and agents in foreign countries not to issue permanent visas to aliens. (July 14, 1939.)

The names of twenty more countries could be added to this list. The Jewish tramp is not wanted. When he is admitted, his acceptance is due to pity, cajolery, or friendly pressure: precarious visas all of them. Time, effort and opportunity are wasted, and the seeds of future trouble are sown—trouble for the refugees, the hospitable countries and the world at large. The only redeeming feature of the plan is its narrow range, which must remain restricted, as the peoples are becoming ever more unwilling to grant hospitality which cannot be decently maintained.

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Two distinct lines of policy are traceable in this chaos: the policy of individual infiltration and the policy of group settlement. (Sometimes instead of "group settlement" the term "colonization" is used.) The difference is twofold. Infiltration (to begin with) has characterized our overseas migration (except in Palestine) throughout the last fifty years: "immigrants" have no ambition to create a new social organism; they find one ready-made, and look for some unoccupied spots within it where they can find or build a foothold for themselves.

“Colonizers,” on the other hand, are people who migrate in groups to large empty areas in order to erect a new body social where there was none before. The second difference, more to the point in our case, is this: infiltration means the creation of new ghettos, while colonization or group settlement is a conception more or less related to the “territorialist” idea of a Jewish State, or a Jewish province, or several Jewish provinces.

The only proper task for the Intergovernmental Committee so far as the Jewish “refugee” phenomenon is concerned is to discard the policy of infiltration (delegating it, if desired, to private institutions), and concentrate upon inquiry into the possibilities of the territorial solution. There are so far no indications to show that the Committee is working in this direction. At Evian, where it was first assembled, it certainly received no such commission; it may have obtained it from the Washington Conference, whose resolutions, it seems, have not been published; or it may have set out along this only practicable path on its own initiative and responsibility. It is to be hoped that it has done so. If it has not, it will have to; or some other body will have to be appointed for the purpose.

Nothing can be more deplorable than the strange passivity of Jewish public opinion in this regard. Since Leo Pinsker wrote “Auto-Emancipation” sixty years ago, since Theodor Herzl founded political Zionism, it has been the hope of all Jews that some

day the civilized world would realize the international character of the problem of Jewish migration, and that an intergovernmental organ would be established to study and to solve it. And now here is that very organ apparently wasting time, when all delay is disastrous, on stop-gap futilities. It is no secret that its most influential members are themselves convinced of the damnable uselessness of patchwork: their legitimate ambition is to produce something really adequate; it is only the ungenerous short-sightedness of one bureaucracy that appears to hinder them. A few months of concerted counter-attack by public opinion, overwhelmingly supported by the facts of the tragedy now being enacted in Eastern Europe, would sweep away this obstruction, and force the Intergovernmental Committee, to the Committee's own relief, to concentrate on the problem of the Jewish State.

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To avoid misunderstandings, it should here be explained that the Intergovernmental Committee as at present constituted is not adequately staffed for the great purpose. It includes excellent brains, but has no real contact with the main forces of organized Jewish democracy. The defect is largely due to a weakness of the Jews which is partly their misfortune and partly their own fault: there is no united organ to claim the title of an Exilarchate, a "government" of the Jewish people in dispersion.

This lack will be discussed in one of our concluding chapters: here it is mentioned only to explain that a committee of eminent Gentile well-wishers alone is not the competent authority for solving problems of Jewish history. When Pinsker and Herzl spoke of "international" efforts to solve these problems, what they meant was the efforts of the Gentile nations together with the Jewish nation. This co-operation, however, is bound to come. For if the present Evian Committee breaks its bounds and enters upon the only true path, it will of itself realize the inadequacy of its composition and demand to be enlarged. Perhaps even then it will be only a forerunner, and not the definitive assembly which will pronounce the final decision; nor does the author forget that the really "final" decision as to a people's fate can be pronounced only in deeds and not in formulas, and only by the people itself. But, all these reservations notwithstanding, the Evian Committee of today is an important factor, a lever that can remove many obstacles: and it is deplorable that Jewish public opinion should neglect this lever.

## CHAPTER XIII

### TWO STATE PROJECTS OUTSIDE PALESTINE

**A**PART from Palestine, two or three schemes of a "territorialist" nature—schemes for creating a Jewish State or province—have emerged into prominence recently. One of these is the British Guiana project. Mr. Neville Chamberlain said in the House of Commons on November 21, 1938: "I turn now to British Guiana. It is not possible at this stage to give exact figures of the total area which could be made available to be leased for this purpose, but it would certainly not be less than 10,000 square miles, and probably more." Sir Samuel Hoare, on the same day, "admitted that the territory envisaged included that which had proved unsuitable for the settlement of 5,000 Assyrians a few years ago." (Sir John Hope Simpson, in his monumental "Refugee Problem" report to the Royal Institute of International Affairs, in a chapter dealing with the Assyrian tragedy, devotes only two lines to that little disappointment: "Search was made in many quarters of the globe, among others in Brazil and in British Guiana, but no suitable site for settlement could be found.")

The Advisory Committee on Political Refugees appointed by President Roosevelt dispatched a commission of experts to investigate British Guiana. They spent a few weeks in touring various sections of the country and produced a report. The British Colonial Office hastened to published it as a White Paper in May 1939, obviously to offset or soften the blow to the Jews dealt by the other (Palestine) White Paper which appeared in the same month. One homeland is closed, but here is another on the horizon.

The Commission's conclusions are moderately optimistic but cautious. The territory "is not an ideal place for refugees from middle European countries" and "could not be considered for *immediate* large scale settlement," but it is worth "a trial settlement." The trial should involve 5,000 pioneers; it would cost three million dollars and would take two years. (Both the cost and the time would probably be exceeded.) The points to be ascertained during the trial are: whether the actual area of fertile soil is as extensive as assumed; whether forests and savannahs (which undoubtedly *are* extensive) can be utilized; whether there is any opening for industries, heavy and light; whether any sort of road could be built at a reasonable cost in order to make the settlement accessible; and whether Europeans can work in such a climate, despite the fact that other Europeans have tried and failed. The query as to the possibility of a road can perhaps be



illustrated by the information offered in respect of another South American country: "You can reach our interior from our sea coast either by plane or on mule-back: the former method is of course more expensive, but quicker." A reply to the final question seems to be indirectly suggested by the Commission in another connection—in explaining why the fact that the same colony was found unsuitable for Assyrians need not imply its unsuitability for Central European refugees. The reason is that the Jewish refugee problem presents "a number of special features," of which the first is "the extreme urgency and necessity with which the refugees are being forced to find new homes." In short: needs must where the devil drives. A useful line of inquiry, overlooked by the worthy commissioners, would be to ask whether the devil can be persuaded to wait until all the other questions have been answered by experiment in a tropical country of hills and primeval forests, with no roads to speak of. To obtain the factual replies to these queries would take, one may suspect, not two years but a generation.

This should not be regarded as a criticism of British Guiana's fitness for close settlement. The Colonial Secretary told us last September that some "voluntary organizations in Great Britain had been on the point of establishing a corporation to carry out the [British Guiana] scheme, but owing to the outbreak of the war action had been suspended for the time being." "Action," we assume, implies both

the small experimental settlement to begin with and the investigation of vaster possibilities for the future. Some day "action" in this sense may be resumed, and may quite possibly result in the acquisition of useful knowledge, even though it may be that Gentile and not Jewish colonists will ultimately profit by it. Speaking generally and theoretically, it is unlikely that any spot on God's earth is destined to remain unused to all eternity. With the progress of technique, in a hundred years or less perhaps even the Sahara will be colonized, with the help of water brought from the Niger in pipe-lines five hundred miles long, or from underground sources five thousand feet underground. Countries like the Guianas, where the obstacle is rather the superabundance of natural vitality than the opposite, will probably be inhabited long before that. Humanity is too crowded, space too valuable: they will not be allowed to lie waste indefinitely. Aeroplanes will annihilate distance, radio and television will permit a dweller of Central Africa to attend first nights of the New York Metropolitan Opera, and electricity will reduce the burden of labour. All our present reasons for herding people together will disappear; townsmen by heredity will long for the luxury enjoyed by the Boer *voortrekker*, who felt crowded when he could see his neighbour's smoke; people will migrate overseas not because of hunger and persecution, but just for the adventure of space, which is perhaps as fascinating for most of us as the

adventure of speed. Then all the waste places around the globe will have their settlers, including the Guianas, including even Biro-Bidjan.

All this is said to prove that the author does not wish to disparage either British Guiana or any other place which sensible people may suggest for mass-settlement by Jews. Some day all these places may be successfully settled by some people or another. But mass-settlement by Jews is not a vision of the radiant future when water, soil and climate will obey man's will. The Jewish exodus is a need of tomorrow, a literal tomorrow; it has its inherent conditions and limitations, due partly to the nature of the Jew as he is today, partly to the nature of other peoples as they are today, and partly on the technique of mass-settlement as it is today; it is still an extremely difficult and uphill undertaking. It is very questionable whether British Guiana is of today.

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The most interesting of all the "territorial" projects is the proposal to settle not British Guiana but Western Australia. One of the most remarkable features of this scheme is that its advancement is due to the sole effort of one single man, and this man is neither young nor wealthy. Nor is he skilled in the kind of nuisance known as propaganda. His only secret seems to be just that calm obstinacy which still wants today what it wanted yesterday.

His name is Dr. I. Steinberg. In Russia, long ago, he was a prominent member of a party with a formidable name—the Socialist-Revolutionary Party; S.R. for short. It was the non-Marxist wing of Russian Socialism. The Bolsheviks wiped it out. Before that happened Dr. Steinberg managed to hold a ministerial post in one of the transitional governments. Now he lives in London. At some time in the course of the last decade he formed, or perhaps only joined, a group called the “Freeland League for Jewish Territorial Colonization.” Last year he went to Australia and actually converted a State of the Commonwealth to his views. The story is a striking one, for it shows that very important political results can be accomplished single-handed by one quite unofficial person, with little popular backing and no particular credentials, without any use of the witchcraft known as personal magnetism: simply by talking timely common sense.

That Dr. Steinberg has converted practically the whole of West Australia is undeniable. There is a vast waste territory lying along the northern half of the continent’s north-western sea coast known as “the Kimberleys.” The districts which the Freeland League has under consideration are Ivanhoe and Argyle in the Ord River region, which belongs to West Australia, and Newry and Auvergne in the North Australian territory, but these are probably not the final limits of the scheme. The whole area which could be claimed for colonization is probably

larger than England and Wales. It is practically uninhabited. The *West Australian*, Perth's leading daily, voiced what seems to be the general opinion, admitting, in a lengthy editorial, that neither Australians nor British immigrants—judging by all the experience of the last few decades—could be expected to make a success of opening up that part of the continent; and as Australia, for various reasons, including that of safety, ought not to tolerate any longer an unpopulated North, the Jews were greatly to be preferred to any other non-British stock. This view was supported by representative men and women of all classes; it even appears that a resolution was passed in the State's Legislative Assembly endorsing the scheme, and asking the Commonwealth authorities to consider it favourably.

The full scope of the scheme has not been defined in precise figures, whether of the number of square miles which would be needed ultimately, or of the number of immigrants ultimately to be brought in. Before the Perth Chamber of Commerce Dr. Steinberg said that "if six to seven million acres could be obtained on Ord River, it would be possible there to establish a Jewish settlement backed with pastoral and agricultural activities." As to the numbers of the immigrants, he was always careful to insist that at first only some 500 to 600 young pioneers, men and women, would be sent out to test possibilities and methods. Later on he envisaged a settlement of about ten thousand. In another



address he mentioned 75,000 and 100,000 as a more remote aim, but he did not say that this was the final limit. In an interview "he visualized a new British province well established in ten to fifteen years." The ultimate goal of the Freeland League is of a course a Jewish State roomy enough to absorb a real exodus. The Australian sympathisers, intelligent people and themselves descendants of immigrant colonists, obviously understand this; moreover, as one of the reasons for their sympathy is their fear of a Japanese invasion, it is clear that in considering colonization schemes they think not in terms of thousands, but rather of hundreds of thousands, at the very least.

What is not so clear as the fact of Australian sympathy is the question as to whether the area is suitable for European pioneers. The *West Australian's* favourable editorial, in enumerating the causes of previous failures, referred to "isolation, transport difficulties, stock pests and diseases, and an unfriendly climate." But in the same article this half of the Kimberley division of the State was described as a "well-watered area of large rivers and fertile valleys, almost unknown and completely unpopulated except by natives." On the other hand, Dr. Steinberg himself admitted in a speech to the Perth Labour Women's Organization that "the site picked was not exactly a pleasant place, and he was sure that Australians would never go there in effective numbers to work . . ." As to whether the new



settlers could stand the climate, it was explained that "there are five winter months which are quite pleasant; two months are extremely hot and dry, and five months are hot and humid." (The area is situated, roughly, between 12° and 20° South.) In an interview with the *Melbourne Age*, Dr. Steinberg, referring to the water supply, qualified the optimism of the *West Australian* by stating that "in the wet season there were good streams and lakes in evidence, and water conservation would not be a difficult project." Mr. A. C. Angelo, of Carnarvon, an enthusiastic supporter of the scheme, also spoke guardedly of this aspect of the site: "there are miles of good water in the Ord River above the tidal limit, and thousands of acres fertile and easy to irrigate."

All this, of course, would be taken into account if the scheme ever came to be finally entertained as practicable and officially accepted. No doubt it would be found to be bristling with difficulties, and would require as astronomical an outlay as any other similar project; but such difficulties cannot be avoided so long as the suitable territory is outside Palestine; and all such obstacles to colonization will surely be overcome in the more or less remote future.

The real obstacle to the Freeland League's Australian scheme lies elsewhere. That obstacle was mentioned, without exception, in all favourable comments printed or spoken throughout Dr. Steinberg's campaign: not as an unsurmountable hin-

drance, but simply as a difficulty of secondary importance; and as such the Freeland League's delegate treated it in his replies as an apprehension which can easily be removed. In this respect, we fear, both sides were mistaken. The obstacle may prove not of secondary but of primary and overwhelming importance; and of the only two means by which it can be removed, the Jews are not likely to accept the first nor the Australian Commonwealth the second.

The nature of that obstacle had better be illustrated by a few quotations:

The *West Australian's* editorial asks "whether the Jewish colonists, once admitted, will be content to stay in the settlement; whether there would be a serious risk of their migrating south in large numbers and attacking Australian industrial standards from the sheer necessity of earning a livelihood."

Mr. A. Thompson, member of the Legislative Council, an expert on the Kimberleys and a sympathiser with the scheme: "It may be argued that the Jews might tend to drift southwards after experiencing the hard work of development. I think that could be regulated easily by agreement and the issue of permits from the State or Commonwealth authorities."

Mr. Latham, also a sympathiser, the leader of the opposition in the State's Legislative Assembly, uttered a warning during the Address-in-Reply debate: "The Government must be careful, how-

ever, that these people did not come South and provide additional labour for a market which did not want them. Some agreement should be entered into with these people, by which—if they left the settlement—they would have to go overseas.”

And so on, without one single exception.

Dr. Steinberg seems to have fully realized the paramount importance of this apprehension, and the necessity of allaying it. Whether the solution he proposed was a satisfactory one remains to be seen. In addressing the Labour women at Perth he “spoke of the suggested possibility that these new settlers might compete in the Southern areas for work. . . . He said that, first of all, this settlement would not be a separate section but would be incorporated in the Australian Commonwealth; and guarantees would be given to the Government that they would remain there for at least five years.”

The solution is anything but a happy one. The promise that the settlement area will be “incorporated in the Commonwealth” can only intensify the fear: for it would only make it easier for disappointed settlers to move to Perth or Melbourne or Sydney. Dr. Steinberg’s remedy is simply to prohibit these settlers from travelling outside their reservation, at least during the first five years. They would have to be issued with special passports before they could leave; the reservation’s boundary would have to be watched; and the police in the southern cities would have the right to track offen-

ders and send them back to the reservation, or—as Mr. Latham suggested—make them “go overseas.” There is nothing new in such an arrangement: essentially it is the system applied in the case of natives in the Union of South Africa, or—*mutatis mutandis*—of Jews in Tsarist Russia, where they had to remain in the Pale of Settlement and were forbidden to enter the central provinces of the empire.

Doubtless Dr. Steinberg and his colleagues on the Freeland League’s executive, when they realize all the implications of such a “guarantee,” will themselves reject such a solution. Nor is any Australian Government, in view of the country’s fine Liberal traditions, likely to agree to so dubious an experiment.

The only other solution would be to promote the settlement area from the start to the dignity of an independent State, divided from the Commonwealth by an international frontier with a proper visa control on both sides. The settlers would then bear no stigma of civic inferiority; but the other drawbacks would be so serious that no one is likely to propose this solution to an Australian Government.

This is no doubt the main reason why last January an official answer to an M.P.’s question was given in the Commonwealth Parliament to the effect that the Government rejected the Kimberley scheme.

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Readers should not be surprised that so much space is given to this particular project. It deserves

## TWO STATE PROJECTS OUTSIDE PALESTINE

attention, not only because of the honesty and devotion of its promoters, but also and more especially because the same sort of objections apply not only to Australia but to all "territorialist" schemes outside Palestine.

## CHAPTER XIV

### THE FATA MORGANA LAND

THIS title is intended to cover all projects present and future, to find a "suitable territory"—outside Palestine—where a Jewish State or province could be established. On the termination of the war the Jewish State must be established by international action: the State itself, not a commission for geographical research. Research must precede the end of the war; and one may add, with grim satisfaction, that it seems likely that there will be plenty of time for such research. The Evian Committee is quite competent to carry out the preliminary geographical quest, and it could not do better to justify its existence than by preparing the solution of the only refugee problem of historical significance.

The author does not believe in the reality of any "territorialist" projects for Jewish settlement outside Palestine; in his opinion, any search for other suitable areas will be hopeless. But the quest should nevertheless be treated with the fullest respect, even by the most zealous and uncompromising Zionists. Logically, it is in their interest to en-



courage the closest scrutiny of all non-Palestinian schemes.

There is a well-known Anglo-Saxon prejudice against the application of logic in politics; a mistaken prejudice. Life is always infallibly logical. Logic, however, is a complicated concept, as tortuous as the concept "arithmetic." There is a story of the Russian peasant who once propounded this mathematical theory: "Four and four make eight, with this I can agree; some say that five and three also make eight—but that's a Jewish trick." He would be astounded to learn that  $629 \text{ minus } 1,000 \text{ plus the square root of } 625 \text{ plus } 64 \text{ plus } 30 \text{ times nine plus } 20$  also makes eight.

Still more involved are the methods of political logic. In this problem of a "suitable territory," in particular, one should be warned against lapses into simplified bucolic arithmetic. The chain of ideas with which life's logic in this case will have to operate is composed of three main links:

- (a) Inevitability of the exodus.
- (b) No exodus possible except to a Jewish State.
- (c) No suitable site for the Jewish State but one.

In this chain every link is of equal importance; should one of them break, it is the end of the chain. This is why it would not be wise to imagine that point "c" can be suppressed. Even Herzl and Nordau, the founders of modern Zionism, had to pass through the phase of looking for the *Fata*

*Morgana* Land before they realized the objective inevitability of the one and only "site." Today many Christian minds are going through the same process, and it would be a great mistake to betray irritation or impatience because they have not yet reached the final stage.

As to the outcome of the search, provided it be conducted in good faith, there is no need for anxiety: the outcome is pre-ordained.

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The first consideration which might make one sceptical as to the chances of such a quest is this: Seeing that so many territories are now being mentioned as suitable for the Jews, why is it that no government ever thought of proposing one of them through all the years that have elapsed since the Great War?

Jews as nation-builders were most prominently "in the market" throughout this period; and not a bad "proposition" either. All governments, and all readers of the Press, were infallibly aware of at least two facts about Palestine: first—that for years Jewish colonization had been bringing to that country an unprecedented influx of gold; second—that all this time the Palestinian Jews were having trouble with the Arabs and friction with the British administration. In homely parlance, here was a case of a bride with quite an appetizing dowry, who, judging by all that one heard, might

safely be assumed to feel displeased with her fiancé. This is a situation which invariably attracts attention in the matrimonial market and elicits other tentative offers. Why has nothing of the kind occurred in our case?

The first fact—the influx of gold—was known throughout the world, especially to the governments. Between 1922 and 1936, above all since 1925, consuls, bankers, reporters and travellers had emphasized the fact in every language. The second fact—the persistence of trouble—was even better known, having been lavishly advertised, with sensational embellishments, in 1920, 1921 and 1929, and almost daily after April 1936. Why was there never a competing offer: Here is another territory, every bit as good as yours, or better (certainly not worse);—why not change over, and bring your gold, and have no trouble?

The only explanation, purely deductive but difficult to evade, is that there are no such “suitable” territories in the market: there is no territory combining in itself all those characteristics which are necessary to make it “suitable.” This brings us to the question: what are those characteristics?

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A territory (outside Palestine) suitable for the establishment of the Jewish State must satisfy, at least from the Gentile's point of view, three essential requirements. From the standpoint of the Jew there

may be other requirements; but here, in this chapter, the problem is examined pragmatically, with the strictest elimination of sentimental idiosyncrasies. Briefly, the three requirements are these:

- (a) the territory must be empty;
- (b) it must be good;
- (c) it must be of no value to its present owners.

The first condition must not be taken literally—no land is absolutely “empty”: but the population on the spot must be insignificant. Where there is a considerable settled population the same trouble would be bound to arise as with the Arabs in Palestine. It would not matter who these natives might be: even if they were Haussas or Hereros, there would still be trouble. If they themselves were unable to write to the newspapers they would find white-skinned protectors (English, most probably) who would take up the cudgels on their behalf, and—quite justly—confront the government with a difficult ethical problem: “If it is unfair to give the Jews a country underpopulated by Arabs, why is it right to give them a country underpopulated by negroes?”

The second requisite—the territory must be “good”—means that it must be suitable for colonization by average Europeans. Greenland is empty, but so far, thank God, it has not been offered. An honest Christian woman, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, recently said: “If a land is to be found for the Jews,

it must be a land fit for white men to live in." Where other white pioneers have failed completely (and this generations ago when man was much less of a tenderfoot than now), Jewish colonists would obviously stand little chance, apart from all sentimental considerations. There may be quite a spate of preliminary nonsense about equatorial valleys and arctic ridges, but after serious scrutiny no government or commission will sponsor such an offer, simply because serious people hate making fools of themselves. Their belief in the Jews' genius for *really* rough pioneering is probably not excessive, and one may be sure that neither in Labrador nor in the forests between the Orinoco and the Amazon will they look for the suitable territory. They will look for something really "good."

As for the third condition—that it must be a territory of no value to its present owners—this can be taken literally. The Australian example is conclusive. The same apprehension is bound to arise wherever there is a common frontier between the owners' country and the Jewish province. This is probably why the Guiana proposal is so popular with its British sponsors: the colony is entirely isolated, so that the danger that the settlers would invade any British territory would be nil. But in every other case the State that offers the Jews a territory must begin by renouncing it completely—must make it an independent country from the start, not just virtually but formally. The Aus-

tralians' fear of "failures coming South" is based on hard experience. In modern agricultural colonization there will inevitably be a large proportion of failures, and these must inevitably gravitate toward the large towns. In Australia this has been experienced over and over again: her cities are full of such deserters from stations in the bush. One of the latest disappointments was the settlement of Theodore on the Dawson River. It was started by the Government in 1927. It had many advantages over the Kimberley project: it was not in the tropics, there was a total rainfall of 28 inches, water from the Dawson provided for nine irrigations a year, and the expenditure was eight thousand pounds per settler, which is a generous figure. Yet before long more than half the settlers had failed: out of 264 in 1927, only 124 of the settlers were still carrying on in 1935 ("many of them in a state of poverty and discontent," says Professor Griffith Taylor in Mr. Isaiah Bowman's report on *Limits of Land Settlement*, published by the American Council on Foreign Relations). Now the quitters are, of course, in Brisbane, Newcastle and Adelaide, or even in Sydney and Melbourne. As long, however, as they were Anglo-Saxons, the Australians did not mind so terribly. But to have their towns flooded with Jews would be quite a different thing (and the Jews would be full of complaints if Tel Aviv were similarly threatened by an Aryan wave).

With the best will in the world, no friendly



government is likely to grant the Jews a territory unless it can be cut off from the national territory—cut off so sharply and completely that the boundary would be actually impenetrable save with a special passport, in special cases, and for a limited period. As the Russian method is evidently out of question, there remains only the other expedient; cession of sovereignty. The Jewish territory must become, formally and legally, a separate independent State from the outset of the experiment. Not an “autonomous” province, not a “canton” in a federated commonwealth: for between the provinces of the same state, between the cantons of the same federation, the free intermigration of citizens cannot be prohibited without establishing a pariah class, introducing internal passports, and poisoning and degrading the whole civic atmosphere. Entry can be forbidden, in a decent modern community, only to “aliens,” to people who come from “abroad.” The Jewish territory must be legally and politically “abroad.”

There is nothing impossible in such a separation—provided the territory has no value in the eyes of the nation that owns it. But that would be very strange in the case of a tract of land fulfilling the first two requirements. “Uninhabited” plus “habitable” is a value, and rather an enviable one. To look for a land combining such three mutually incompatible attributes as “uninhabited,” “habitable,” and “valueless” is not a hopeful quest. In

the author's opinion there is only one such country, the *Fata Morgana* Land.

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"But does Palestine answer any of those three criteria?" is the question one expects at this stage. "Why should Palestine be preferred?"

The "choice" of Palestine has nothing whatever to do with any such criteria. Zionists will joke freely about Palestine's natural drawbacks as a country for pioneers: they will readily confess that it is by no means the best kind of "colonial proposition," that there are countries much more suitable for the purpose—and that all this does not matter in the least, and has no bearing on the question. Still more readily do they admit that the local Arabs' unwillingness to welcome the transformation is a very regrettable fact, and that things would be much easier if it did not exist; but since it does exist it will have to be overcome, however costly this may prove. This is an attitude that has nothing to do with any search or quest or choice. To "find" or "select" a country, one compares values, advantages and obstacles, and one ends without any *parti pris* by preferring that which offers the greatest attractions and the least resistance (and it is perhaps inevitable that the thing that "attracts and does not resist" cannot be anything but a mirage). Palestine does not even pretend to compete with any other country in point of attractions, or

ease of access, or cheapness of colonization. The author fully shares his generation's dislike of totalitarian patriotism, but there are desperate situations where no "choice" is left, and the only attitude for a decent man to take is, Right or Wrong—my country. With much greater justification, a people foundering in chaos is entitled to say: good or bad, easy or hard, cheap or costly—my country.

Incidentally, it will prove not so costly, not so hard, and even not so bad.



PART IV

THE MAX NORDAU PLAN FOR  
PALESTINE





## CHAPTER XV

### THE WHITE PAPER POLICY

WHY discuss Palestine? Is there not a truce? It would be empty hypocrisy to pretend that there is a truce in the debate on the proper interpretation of the Palestine Mandate. There ought to be one until the common danger is over; there ought to be a firm determination to respect the legal *status quo*, bad as it is, with no attempts to steal a march on the opposition; there ought to be, but there is not.

On the outbreak of the war, at one of those moments when even experienced people are liable to be sentimentally trustful and confiding, the writer and his political associates frankly expected an immediate truce between the Zionist movement and the Colonial Office. True, they spoke of Palestine as the Jewish State in that appeal to world Jewry quoted at the beginning of this book: but that was a war-cry: it is in the usual tradition to proclaim one's highest ideal in calling for the utmost effort and sacrifice. We expected that soon the real business of the war, the efforts and the sacrifices, would begin for the Jews as one of the

Allied nations; and above all, that Jewish troops would be raised on the precedent of the Great War. That—so we thought—would make all verbal claims superfluous; a much stronger claim to a place “on the map” would be staked out in the actual firing line. A nation with soldiers at the front can afford to leave argument alone until negotiations for a settlement begin; in the meantime, the less her spokesmen say the more plainly will her soldiers speak for her. In September we were quite ready to plunge into war work and withdraw the political batteries: assuming, of course, that the batteries would be withdrawn by the other side also, and that our war effort was wanted.

In both these assumptions we were mistaken. The Jews’ war effort is not wanted; there is no desire to treat them as an Allied nation, or merely as a nation, or any sort of entity at all; and in Palestine the bombardment of the *status quo* from the opposite side is hotter than ever. For, even if there is quibbling as to what a *status quo* does or does not include in circumstances complicated by three years’ rioting, one thing is beyond a doubt: the legal *status quo ante* in Palestine cannot include active encroachments by a White Paper which has never been ratified, never even discussed by the Council of the League of Nations.

A formal attempt to elucidate this question was made by the writer and his political associates as

early as September 10th, one week after war had been declared, in a document:

Calling the attention of H.M. Government to the fact that since the September session of the League of Nations Council had been postponed *sine die*, no legal validity could even provisionally be attached to last May's White Paper on Palestine.

This view has already been submitted to the Colonial Secretary; but this matter, especially under war time conditions, obviously transcends the competence of one single department and should be brought to the notice of the Government as a whole.

. . . The Permanent Mandates Commission was *unanimous* in recognizing that the [White Paper's] policy was not in accordance with the interpretation of the Palestine Mandate hitherto adopted by the Council of the League of Nations. Even that minority of three, who felt that the Council might perhaps not refuse, at its impending session, to change its former view and adopt the White Paper's interpretation, also agreed that that would mean *a change*.

It is obvious, now that the Council's meeting has been postponed, that the Mandatory Government has no authority whatever to make changes of such a scope in the interpretation of a Mandate whose only authoritative interpreter (and the British Government admits it) is the Council.

. . . The only correct way is to treat the White Paper as in English law one would treat a Bill approved by Ministers but not yet granted assent by King in Parliament; and, in the meantime, it is obviously the former interpretation which should form the basis of legality.

Some ten days later, the authors of this interpellation were informed, on unimpeachable authority, that it was the policy of the White Paper which was deliberately meant to hold the field.

So it does, at least in the Mandatory Government's admitted intention. The restrictions on the sale of land to "non Arabs" in 94·8 per cent of Western Palestine's area announced at the end of February are bad and wicked enough in themselves; but their especial venom is in the fact that they have been officially introduced as implementing the "Statement of Policy of May, 1939."

This business deserves attention quite apart from the Palestine issue: it forms such a strange little dissonance in the solemn oratorio which declares the duty of the mighty to respect the Covenant and the supreme authority of the League, always to await Geneva's verdict, and never, by unilateral action to employ the trick of the *fait accompli*, least of all against the weak. . . . The dissonance might pass unnoticed in the roar of great events, except in the little corner which the weak inhabit: yet it is like one of those tiny squeaks which prove that somewhere something is wrong in the great machine.

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In the field of administrative practice there have for long been many disquieting signs that the Palestine bureaucracy feels inspired, even without waiting for legal sanction, to treat the White Paper

as its only guide-book. This tendency has been especially conspicuous in two directions. The first is that of immigration. In all negotiations as to the numbers to be admitted or refused, the officials in Jerusalem and London openly quote the White Paper as their authority: the White Paper established that 25,000 refugees might be allowed to enter, with certain provisos. The White Paper definitely prohibited the increase of such and such quota. . . . The moral result of this conscious, deliberate, calmly assertive disregard of legality in exalted quarters will be what it always must be at the first opportunity: lawlessness beneath the surface, and in all directions.

Some other practical results are already visible; results which, despite the reticence of the British Press, have become known and have produced a painful impression: but the actual experience has unfortunately been a thousand times more painful. Between October 1939 and February 1940, over 2,000 Jewish refugees were detained on the Danube, marooned on four old barges. None of the four was fit to contain even fifty human passengers: they had to accommodate 500 to 600 each, including many women and children. Before those people boarded the barges, probably at Bratislava, steamers had been chartered to take them on board at the Danube estuary and convey them "illegally" to Palestine; so the barge trip was meant to last only a few days—a trip downstream from Bratislava to

the Black Sea shore, in the mild autumn weather of the Balkan plains. But "official influences," the source of which is only too easy to identify, intervened at Ankara and Athens—and the chartered steamers, owned by Turkish and Hellenic subjects, were forced to denounce their contracts and withdraw. To replace them proved for many months impossible, for—apart from the official pressure from the readily identified source—freights were mounting day by day to fabulous heights, partly on account of the privileged position of the Mediterranean in the war. What especially drives the freight charges upward in the "illegal" immigration business is its own peculiar "war risk": for if such a ship is caught in Palestine's territorial waters, the captain and crew will go to jail and the vessel will be confiscated. So these 2,000 were stuck in the Danube estuary, permitted neither to land, nor to sail on, nor to sail back. In the meantime winter came and the river froze. People who were allowed to bring food to the barges earnestly and soberly report that some features of the refugees' plight were definitely worse than anything experienced in the Nazi concentration camps: for weeks and weeks on end in the horrible cold of this memorable winter, there was no possibility of exercise, of even stretching the limbs, since the authorities on shore prohibited the refugees from landing, as their visas were only for transit via the Danube, which is an international waterway. One at least of the barges was a disused



oil tanker, whose unpanelled iron walls sweated moisture which turned to ice. Two babies were born on that tanker.

A significant feature is the action of some ladies of the Bucharest British colony, headed by Miss Boyd (headmistress of the English high school), Miss Gadge and Mrs. Wallie: they collected donations from among the members of the colony and provided 100 beds for the babies and the old people, beside warm clothing and 75,000 *lei*. A stream of donations came from the Balkanic Jewish communities, and from the Jews of the United States and France and South Africa. At the time of writing this chapter, early in February, the marooned refugees have been enabled to leave: by how many steamers, of what tonnage, in what conditions, and at what cost—all these details, probably as notable in their way as those of the Danubian stage of their adventure, will only be told when their wanderings are over.\*

The "closed door" policy which is the cause of all this misery has no justification either in moral conscience or in law.

From the moral point of view, Palestine should be the last country to reject Jewish war fugitives. So far she has been spared by the war, in comparison not only with the countries from which those refugees fled, but even with many a neutral land. She would

\* These refugees, "illegal immigrants," eventually reached Palestine on February 14, 1940.

only be "doing her bit" if she served as a refugee camp: even apart from all question of a National Home, it would be a great service to the Allies and to Europe. Lithuania, with not one-tenth of the financial resources which Palestine can summon for the purpose from all parts of the world, opens her gates almost daily to fugitives crowding over her so-called "green boundary" near Vilna. Why is Palestine exempted?

As regards the law—if the Mandate is the law—the Mandate prescribes that the immigration of Jews be encouraged "under suitable conditions." What conditions can ever be more "suitable" than those of the present day? Here are people uprooted by disaster; all civilized humanity sympathizes with their agony; half the world's governments are searching for regions in which refugees could be absorbed; half a million Jews in 300 settlements are eagerly offering to look after the newcomers, and the charitable funds of all Jewry are ready to help them. But the Mandate has been superseded—by an illegal document.

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In another direction the governmental policy is even more disturbing: the attempt to paralyse the Jewish self-defence organization. There is unfortunately no other explanation for two recent events: forty-two Jews were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for armed drilling in

November, and thirty-eight more in January. There is no precedent for this action in the history of Palestine under British rule since 1920. In that year, twenty-one Jews were sentenced to penal servitude by a military court on a charge of preparing for armed self-defence; but the proceedings of that court were afterwards ruthlessly quashed by the Army Council. Since then no attempt had been made, either by the civil or the military authorities in Palestine, to hamper the development of the force. Its existence was known to the authorities; during the anti-Jewish riots of 1921 and 1929 the British police and military actually collaborated with what Tommies called "Jewish patrols"; during the 1936-1939 troubles this Jewish militia rendered invaluable service to the Government and the troops, both by providing trained men for the official auxiliary police and by autonomous action. Instances can be quoted when Jewish leaders were cordially thanked by the British military authorities. What has happened since then to cause this attempt to suppress "Jewish illegal drilling"?

The only new thing that has happened since the outbreak of the war ought to have produced quite the opposite result—an increase of mutual confidence between the Government and the Jewish self-defence. One section of the latter, the "Irgun" (its full title is "the National Military Organization"), had been held responsible for active mass

reprisals against the Arab terror in 1937-1939; it was the only section of the Jewish self-defence forces which could really be called "clandestine," and not merely unofficial like the remainder; and it possessed a secret broadcasting station in the country, which was used for warnings, announcements and propaganda. A few days after the outbreak of the war, the "Irgun" broadcast a declaration of loyalty to the Allies, of willingness to co-operate with the Government for the defence of Palestine, and on any other front, and of a resolve to "cease fire" and call a truce with the Arabs. In official circles this change of heart was acknowledged; one might even say that in some respects it was handsomely acknowledged. What has happened since to explain the fact that a few weeks later it was to be rewarded by something that looks like a minor crusade?

The thing is without precedent in Palestine or elsewhere. The only other country in which Jewish self-defence had ever functioned as a permanent institution was Tsarist Russia. In 1905, in Odessa, the author was present when the Oxford-blue uniformed gendarmerie, the Tsar's equivalent of the present OGPU, invaded the flat of a Jewish family at night in search of revolutionary literature. Of that they found none, but they found a parcel of freshly-printed manifestoes bearing the name of a Jewish self-defence organization—a perfectly illegal body—urging the Jews to arm and drill

and resist pogroms. "This is none of my business," said the officer in charge, waving the parcel away; "this has nothing to do with subversive political activity."

So matters continued until the fall of the Romanoffs. I do not recollect a single instance of a serious police attack on Jewish self-defence bodies or their modest arsenals. There was some queer strain of brigands' fairplay in the psychological make-up of that police system: the police never stopped a pogrom, and were often suspected of staging one, but at least they felt that the Jews ought to be given a chance to fight the pogroms.

After the Tsar's downfall, Odessa—the largest Jewish community in the Ukraine—during two years of the civil war (1918–19) was garrisoned by a volunteer body called the Jewish Battle Company. It was uniformed, lived in barracks, and was rather well armed. It was of course entirely illegal; but the thirteen governments that followed one another in occupying the city (the French, the Greeks, the White Russians, the Bolsheviks, the Ukrainians, etc.), all respected the illegal Jewish self-defence organization. Its organizer, S. Y. Jacobi, then a boy of twenty, settled subsequently in England, dreaming, some day, of repeating the experience on a much larger scale, under the British aegis; but he died last November, and anyhow the British aegis does not seem to be available for the purpose.

Neither the author nor anyone else would suggest that the régimes can be compared. But the fact remains that in Palestine the anti-Jewish terror had been allowed to drag on for years; there is no doubt that the Government genuinely *wanted* to stop it, and some may even admit that they "did all they could" to stop it—but apparently what they "could" was not enough. Why, then, should a decent administration fail to observe an unwritten law which even Tsarism, even chaos, respected?

The question was recently put, in formal writing, to the proper authority in London. The explanation elicited was to the effect that the competent authority is unable to admit that any justification exists for the illegal arming and military training of Jews in Palestine.

A curious attitude this, in the winter of 1939, after three years' experience had shown how little official protection can actually be given to Jewish settlements even in peace time; and less than ever is given now, when we are perhaps on the threshold of unpredictable complications. More than ever now, preparedness for self-protection should be openly recognized as justifiable. In this attitude there is no logic, no justice, no elementary care for the safety of an exposed minority: but there is method—it is that of the White Paper policy, resentful of all things in anyway reminiscent of the Jewish dream of Statehood.



## THE WHITE PAPER POLICY

It would be ridiculous Quixotry for the Jew, who would have been the lesser partner in the truce had there been a truce, to play the silly game of *noblesse oblige* when there is so obviously no truce. War or no war, the major partner has decided that the debate on Palestine's future shall continue, and we follow suit.

## CHAPTER XVI

### THE INEFFECTUAL BRIBE

TO accuse the Government of “stealing a march on the Jews” may not be complimentary, but that it is so engaged is the impression shared by all observers in Palestine, who are watching the inroads of the White Paper policy on the deteriorating *status quo*. Perhaps the most alarming aspect of this system of encroachment is its inevitable futility; for it is futile even from the standpoint of its authors and abettors. They produced the 1939 White Paper to placate the Palestinian Arabs; they are now showing the greatest eagerness to “implement” it, without even a show of legitimacy, and for the same reason—in order that the Arab Nationalist party may be satisfied. These authors and abettors of the anti-Mandate policy attempt to silence all complaints by the same argument—that this method can be relied upon to calm the Arabs and to keep them from insisting on further concessions.

This optimistic outlook is illusory. The Jews have been deeply hurt and injured by the White Paper of May 1939, but it is not therefore safe to

conclude that the Arabs have really been "bought" by its promises. Not a single Arab Nationalist in Palestine, no matter whether he be Husseini or Nashashibi, has ever for a moment been deceived into regarding the White Paper as in any way satisfactory except as a blow to the Zionists. He has never considered that it contains one single item of real and positive value in respect of Arab aspirations—never regarded it as anything but a stepping-stone for tomorrow's renewed offensive. And in this negative appreciation, moreover, the Arabs, from their point of view, are perfectly justified: a blow to Jewish hopes, it is at the same time a blow to Arab aspirations.

It may be useful here to reproduce a short analysis of this White Paper as seen through the eyes of a group of intelligent Palestinian Arabs. It was conveyed to the writer immediately after the publication of that document, by reliable friends who are in close touch with Arab Nationalist circles; and its sound logic, which cannot but commend itself to the reader, is inner evidence of its reliability.

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From the Arab point of view, almost the only good thing in the White Paper is that it explicitly rejects the ideal of the Jewish State and promises to stop further immigration (or to make it dependent on the Arabs' consent, which amounts to the

same thing) after 75,000 more Jews have been admitted over a period of five years. However, the decision to prohibit land sales to Jews, outside those districts which are already predominantly Jewish, is in itself a good thing—although in this respect any law can easily be evaded. “No immigration” is a much more desirable boon: it is actually the main point, being even more essential than the rejection of the Jewish State principle. Taking all three items together, this aspect of the White Paper policy is excellent—provided it proves to be permanent.

As to the permanent reliability of British White Papers on Palestine, the Arabs, judging by precedent, have no especial confidence. The official attitude towards the “Jewish State” claim, for instance, has been stated in quite a series of authoritative documents—each differing from the rest. In 1922 the Churchill White Paper formulated the claim in five pages of prose so eloquent and so involved that no one could properly make out whether the government did or did not want to preclude the transformation of Palestine into a Jewish State: but later Mr. Churchill himself confessed to the Royal Commission that there was nothing in that text to preclude such a development. Then the Royal Commission found that the only way to fulfil the Mandate’s obligation to the Jews *was* to give them a Jewish State somewhere in Palestine; and a 1937 White Paper, the Par-

tition paper, was issued accordingly. A year later, the partition plan was discarded; and now, in 1939, there is a White Paper stating that the government is unequivocally opposed to the creation of a Jewish State. Very good; but one cannot help feeling uneasy as to whether this Paper is the last in what seems to be a series of contradictory papers.

For such it actually seems to be. Take the Legislative Council issue. The 1922 White Paper "established" in Palestine a Legislative Council with an Arab majority; but another White Paper, published also in 1922, cancelled it. In 1930 the Passfield White Paper "established" it again, a Legislative Council with an Arab majority: and again it never came into existence. In 1935, the Wauchope White Paper promised it finally and definitely—a Legislative Council with an Arab majority; and again nothing came of it; then the Royal Commission's Report stated that the scheme was impracticable; and now this new White Paper contains no promise of an elective legislature. Three White Papers wasted!

Or take Jewish immigration. The 1922 White Paper promised to tone it down: at that time there were less than 100,000 Jews in Palestine. A few years later the number was doubled. Then, in 1930, the Simpson Report showed that no further immigration was economically permissible, the Passfield White Paper was published, and the Arabs hoped that the "flood" would stop. At that

time there were already 200,000 Jews. A few years later the number was again doubled: there were 400,000 in 1936, and there are nearly half a million now. One really must not be surprised if the Arabs sometimes think that "White Paper" and "waste paper" are synonymous. No doubt a White Paper gives a precise and genuine indication of what a government wanted when it was published; but that is no indication of what the government may want a year later.

So, grateful as the Arabs were for all these good intentions, they would appreciate them much more if a White Paper contained a real guarantee that such intentions would not be abandoned at the next contingency. What constitutes a *real* guarantee? There is only one answer: an Arab government, and immediately, before the wind has time to veer.

This is only one reason why the Arabs wanted "an Arab government immediately"; even if only to "implement" the purely negative aspect of the White Paper—the removal of the Jewish danger—it was, to them, indispensable. But this negative aspect of the matter was, of course, of only secondary importance. They are above all, patriots, and the paramount question to them is their positive ideal of the Arab State. This is what they had fought for during those difficult three years. They were diplomatic enough not to put it so bluntly as to speak of "Arab government"; their official formula sounded more moderate: "a government of Pales-



tinians," in which the Jews would be invited to share, but in which the Arabs, of course, would be in the majority. But the main point was: this must come at once. The life of a White Paper is very short; when one has to deal with such fickle legislators one likes a cash payment.

In this they were disappointed. The White Paper promises to grant Palestine "independence"—what it calls "independence"—only in ten years' time, and that only if the Mandatory government (of 1949) should find it advisable. Listen to this: "If, at the end of ten years, it appears to H.M. Government that, contrary to their hope, circumstances require the postponement of the establishment of the independent State"—they will postpone it "with a view to achieving the desired objective at the earliest possible date." Which means, in practice, that if the Jews about that time begin to cry out that the Arabs are oppressing them, and provoke riots in a couple of towns with a few dozen casualties on both sides, and their friends in the House of Commons make the usual kind of speeches, there will be no "independence." From the Arab point of view, all this is a Jewish victory: the Jews always insisted that Palestine should become independent only when they should agree to it; and this is what the White Paper has promised them, in veiled but transparent terms.

Still worse, from the Arab point of view, is the picture of that independence itself—if they ever live

to see it—as defined in the White Paper. Great Britain “will require to be satisfied that adequate provision has been made” for the following matters :

(a) “The security of, and freedom of access to, the Holy Places, and the protection of the interests and property of the various religious bodies.”—Every Palestinian knows what this means: administration of the Walled City of Jerusalem and parts of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Hebron; control of the railways leading to these places; control of all arrangements regulating the relations between the various churches, including Moslem and Jewish. In particular, the Wailing Wall business will remain outside Arab jurisdiction.

(b) “The protection of the different communities in Palestine in accordance with the obligations of H.M. Government to both Arabs and Jews and for the special position of the Jewish National Home.” This means all the legislative and administrative activity regarding education, representation on municipalities, justice in cases where both peoples are affected, the rights of the two languages in public life, treasury grants to hospitals, and innumerable other items, covering practically the whole field of public life in a country like Palestine.

(c) “Such requirements to meet the strategic situation as may be regarded as necessary . . .” In other words, military garrisons.

(d) “The interests of certain foreign countries . . .” In other words, a finger in Palestine’s “independent” Foreign Office.

For all this, the future constitution of Palestine will have to contain “adequate” safeguards. The

Arabs think they know what this means. The British will say that, just as strategic responsibilities cannot be safeguarded by paragraphs, but only by British soldiers, so all the other responsibilities can be safeguarded only by British officials. They will probably be called "advisers"; and every Arab knows what that means. They know that an adviser is a British official attached to a native minister, and without the adviser's signature no order of that minister is valid; so that the adviser is really the minister, and the minister not even an adviser. Judging by the number of matters which will have to be safeguarded in this way, the Arab view is that, in comparison with this kind of independence, that which any provincial municipality enjoys would seem unfettered autocracy.

The truth about the 1939 White Paper, from the Arab point of view, is this: it is an attempt virtually to annex Palestine to the British Empire for ever and ever, using the Jewish National Home as a justification. As it can always be claimed that the Jews are afraid of the Arabs (the Jews will claim it with pleasure, as long as they are in a minority), Great Britain's supervision would never cease. Whatever glorified name may be given that relationship—alliance, for instance—Palestine is to remain a British colony. This is the sense of the White Paper. Palestine will never be able to join an Arab Federation—unless that Federation too becomes "federated" into the British Empire.

It is obvious, from the Palestine Arabs' point of view, that this situation is entirely unacceptable. There has never been even a question of accepting it. Its only value in the eyes of the Arabs is its formal repudiation of the Jewish State idea. As to the rest of the White Paper, the next step will be a concerted Arab effort to wipe out every line of it.

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The writer's interest is diametrically opposed to that of the Palestinian Arab Nationalists, and it is not his business to make out a case for them; moreover, as against the Jews he considers that they have no case at all, nor against a government firmly set on carrying out the Jewish National Home policy to its conclusion. But as against a policy aiming to bribe the Arabs by harming the Jews, the Arab case just quoted is unanswerable: the bribe is not even illusory—it simply does not exist. The White Paper has not satisfied, and could not have satisfied, the Palestinian Arabs.

Which means, that at the first opportunity they can be expected to push their claims farther. This does not imply that the writer accuses them of disloyalty to the Allies: he prefers to assume that all the peoples in contact with Britain and France are united in one purpose, *delenda est Carthago*. India is so united; but India is pressing her demands at this moment, during the war; and the Moslems of India, being in a minority, are alarmed.

It remains for the Jews, then, to take up their side of the uninterrupted controversy. The future of Palestine is on the agenda of the day, by the will of factors for which we bear no responsibility; and no time should be lost in pressing the claim that Palestine, on both sides of the Jordan, is the only "suitable" site for that Jewish State which, being the only remedy against Europe's cancer, is the world's urgent need.

## CHAPTER XVII

### THE MAX NORDAU PLAN

THE late Max Nordau, Herzl's collaborator in founding political Zionism, was probably the most revolutionary thinker of the *fin de siècle* generation. In 1919 he was old and ailing, his bitterly contested yet world-wide literary fame was half forgotten, but he was still a great intellectual force, with a rare wealth of erudition at his command. That was the honeymoon period of the Balfour Declaration, and Max Nordau came forward with a plan which should make the best use of it once and for all. It was a plan for the immediate and simultaneous transportation to Palestine of the first half million immigrants from the East European ghettos.

The leading Jewish circles of the period did not respond, and the plan was forgotten. Now the time has arrived to revive it as the only practical and reasonable way of coping with a situation incomparably more urgent than that of 1919. Max Nordau's projects were concerned with Palestine only; so, in their true intentions, are the suggestions of the present writer; but for the sake of formal



convenience, the following outline may be expressed in terms applicable to any "suitable area," provided the area is to become the Jewish State and to absorb the great exodus.

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Adapted to present conditions, the Max Nordau Plan can be summarized as follows:

1. The whole exodus to take about ten years.
2. The first million settlers to be transferred within the first year or less.
3. All planning to be done during the war, so that work can start on the morrow of the peace conference.

Expressed in a form less abrupt, it would mean:

1. The transfer to the Settlement Country of all the Jews of East-Central Europe who may voluntarily register for the purpose shall be effected within a period not exceeding ten years.

2. The first million settlers, assembled and summarily trained, shall be transferred simultaneously, at the very outset of the migration, within the minimum time indispensable for the technical operation of transport, which shall not exceed one year.

3. All preliminary planning as to the methods of settlement, financial arrangements, and any other relevant matters, should be accomplished as far as possible during the war, by the Intergovernmental

Committee on Refugees, reinforced through the addition of Jewish representatives, or by another suitable body to be established for the purpose.

The actual transportation of the First Million to the Country of Settlement shall begin within the shortest possible interval after the close of hostilities, as soon as the necessary international loan has been raised and the draft of settlers ready for transporting completed.

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It is not the author's intention here to attempt a systematic presentation of the Max Nordau Plan. A good comprehensive outline, with almost more figures than text, was published by Dr. S. Klinger.\* In the following paragraphs only some of the less specialized aspects of the scheme will be indicated. They are:

- the tempo;
- manufacture, not agriculture, as the basis of mass immigration economy;
- the method of planning;
- the financial scheme.

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Twenty-one years ago, the criticism of Max Nordau's idea was based on the assumption that mass colonization "must" be a very slow process.

\* *The Ten Year Plan for Palestine*, New Zionist Press, London, 1938.

This was then regarded as a "scientific" truth admitting of no exception. It can hardly be so regarded now, after all the experiences of the quick displacement of human masses since the Great War. The Greek exodus of 700,000, so often quoted, is not the only example: between 1919 and 1924, 2,450,000 persons in all changed places between the Balkans and Asia Minor, with results which neutral observers hold to be much more satisfactory than the position that existed before the migration. Those masses were not only moved quickly—they were very quickly absorbed in their new countries' economy.

Yet even if we accepted the alleged "rule" that the economic *absorption* of immigrants is a slow process, their actual *transfer* to the Country of Settlement can obviously be accelerated at will: and this is the essence of the Max Nordau Plan.

Its advantages, quite apart from the Settlement Country, will be many and far-reaching. The tension in East-Central Europe will immediately be reduced. Roughly, 300,000 Jews will be at once assisted to emigrate from Germany and Austria, 500,000 from Poland, and 100,000 each from Hungary and Roumania. Still more effectual will be the assurance, inherent in the very essence of a Jewish State, that the process will continue: an assurance which will go a long way towards paralysing racial strife. Weighed against this, all the hardships of an overcrowded Newland are a trifling

matter, especially to people who, just recently, have known worse hardships.

This effect of the exodus on the inter-racial atmosphere in the Antisemitic Zone must be further strengthened and perpetuated by the rule that the best age for the First Million pioneers is the age of maximum fertility. Among the Jews of Eastern Europe this is, approximately, from twenty-five to forty for men, from twenty-three to thirty-seven for women. The Zionist prejudice in favour of sweet seventeen will have to be discarded: at least two-thirds of the First Million will have to be in their early maturity rather than in their early youth. People of this age are quite adaptable for pioneer tasks in a not too exotic climate; and, as they are chiefly responsible for the nation's birth-rate, it is most important that they should not be left behind to refill the gap, but should do their best in the new country.

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In dealing with mass-migration of this character, one traditional premise of political economy must be disregarded: namely, the axiom that the basis of society is agriculture. That may be so, but it has no bearing on our mission. Here a different axiom dominates: the sinew of mass-migration economy, in our day, is industry. It is obvious that in a colonizing enterprise of such magnitude, especially when speed is imperative, agriculture,

as an absorber of large immigrant masses, is of only secondary value. The economy of mass immigration depends, above all, on manufactures and house-building; in a much less degree, on trade and transport; and least of all, on farming.

This has nothing to do with the future of the colony: even if it is desired that the Settlement Country should in the end become a predominantly bucolic community, yet in the beginning precedence will have to be given to industry, allowing agriculture to come last, and to grow slowly and conquer pride of place if it can.

This rule is of predominant importance to every aspect of our colonization.

It overrides the traditional attitude to soil and water. A flourishing industrial city, feeding thousands of people, can be built on stony soil where no farmer could thrive. Water of the poorest quality, unfit for the irrigation of fields, can be used in boilers to drive steam-engines. In agriculture it may not pay to carry the water in pipelines over long distances or to sink reservoirs for rain-water deep enough to reduce evaporation: but what is too expensive for the slow conservative profits of cereal cultivation might prove worth while if it helps to produce manufactured goods.

Geographical planning—i.e. mapping out the sites on which the future centres of population shall be established—also becomes much easier. It need no longer, in a country with few perennial

rivers, be subordinated to the results of slow and uncertain borings for underground water: the suitable sites can be chosen for reasons immediately visible—because they are near the coast, or because they are convenient as a marketing centre for a number of existing villages, or because there is a cross-roads, or a quarry near by. State-planning, when approached from this angle, becomes almost akin to town-planning: future cities can be rationally marked upon the empty map of the State-area just as future green areas can be indicated on the uncompleted map of a projected town, and highroads be traced with the same logical forethought as main streets.

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Basing our calculations on the supremacy of industry has also another advantage: modern society spends incomparably more on the consumption of manufactured goods than on the consumption of agricultural produce. Immigrants concentrating on industry can supply a much larger proportion of the new Settlement's needs than if they devoted themselves chiefly to agriculture.

The calculation, expressed schematically, is very simple. One million people will need a very large mass of non-agricultural and non-pastoral goods. Certain components of that mass will have to be imported, because the Settlement Country cannot



supply them (e.g. raw materials or the heavier kinds of machinery). But the balance *can* be provided locally, and the largest possible proportion of the whole must be provided by the First Settlement forces themselves. In other words, the scheme will be to let the First Million feed and clothe and house the First Million in the maximum measure of possibility.

This method of computing the First Settlement's economy will always retain very largely the nature of an abstract and schematic framework, and will have to be readjusted to realities. Nevertheless, the framework will prove most useful in helping to solve the fundamental problem of all new communities—"how will the people manage to live by taking in each other's washing?" All humanity lives by "taking in each other's washing," without any outside financial help, as there is no other planet able to supply such help. The Jewish settlement will have the advantage of considerable outside assistance, represented by the International Loan, and subsequently, by the yearly income of national funds raised among the Western communities. But the basis of its initial economy must be an attempt to approach as nearly as possible to a provisional "autarchy."

This indicates the character of the enterprises which should be started immediately: house-building, road-building, transportation, and all kinds of light industry to provide elementary con-

sumers' goods—simple clothing, simple furniture, simple crockery and all other primary needs that can be satisfied “simply” by local effort.

A brief period will in practice elapse between the conclusion of the peace conference and the actual beginning of transportation: probably not less than a year. This period could be utilized to give the First Settlement candidates opportunities for rough training in the rudiments of those branches of labour (mainly industrial and building) in which they are likely to engage after arrival in the country. Their output will be very poor at first, and therefore uneconomical: but this, weighed in the proper balance, is a matter of little moment.

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A very large international loan will have to be raised. The writer will not venture to guess how large it will have to be. In Dr. Klinger's outline, the total sum required for the settlement of the initial million is estimated at £47,500,000, including £18,000,000 of private investment by individual capitalists: but this estimate was made in January 1938, when conditions were very different from those that may be expected to exist at the end of the war. The amount which will be needed to finance all the aspects of the Max Nordau Plan will probably be much in excess of Dr. Klinger's estimate. How large a proportion of it will come from private investments will depend on whatever

may then be left of the resources of the Jewish capitalist class, taken as a whole throughout the non-ruined areas of the Dispersion.

The international loan will have to finance the following operations:

(a) Liquidation and transportation of the emigrants' property. Special organs will have to be established, probably banks, for granting the emigrant advances against any kind of property he may leave in their hands for liquidation.

(b) Transportation. The only reasonable way to cope with the transportation of such masses will be for the Jews to found one or several big shipping companies of their own. The Settlement Country will need a commercial fleet both during and after the rush; and a new field of employment—manning the ships—will be opened to thousands of young Jews.

(c) The actual settlement: house-building for the initial camps and the new town sites; building of highroads, aqueducts, storage tanks and all public works in general.

(d) Establishment of factories (as far as not provided for by private capital); but probably—unless Western Europe and America also are ruined—the bulk of this development will be financed by private capital alone.

(e) Health, schools, public security.

(f) Administrative expenditure.

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The repayment of this international loan, principal and interest, will probably be regarded even by the most hard-boiled of business men as reasonably safe. The charge will, of course, be borne entirely by Jews, mainly by the new Settlement itself. Various collateral securities can be suggested: the one most obviously able to guarantee the regular service of this Public Debt will be the Customs revenue of the Settlement Country.

Another source may be discovered if the enemy countries, under the future peace treaty, are required to pay indemnities. The indemnity clauses of Versailles have left a bad taste, and there is at present a strong prejudice against the usual catch-word "Let the enemy pay." But this attitude must not be pushed too far. Mr. Norman Angell has no doubt most convincingly proved that making the enemy pay for his conquerors' war losses is a transaction ruinous to those conquerors themselves. But damage inflicted by the enemy on private citizens in Poland, as well as in Germany and Austria itself, is quite a different matter. It will hardly be found unfair that the perpetrator of the damage done should at least have to accept a share of the Public Debt incurred to save his victims.

Yet another possible source of income for such payment would be the introduction of a special tax by the Western Jewish communities. The idea need not be regarded as startling. The right of compulsory self-taxation by religious communities

was recognized in Germany and Austria when these countries were still perfectly respectable. West-European and American Jews have always raised considerable funds for relief in Eastern Europe and for Palestine, and will no doubt continue to do so: but when it has to be done by propaganda, a large proportion of the sum collected is unavoidably swallowed up by the expenses of the campaign. It will be to everyone's advantage if all these rather troublesome and not always very elegant methods are replaced by honest, clean taxation. At the same time, if some part of that taxation could be earmarked for the service of the Jewish Settlement Debt, this would increase the impression of its stability, and would very favourably influence the conditions of the loan.

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The technique of building a new country under such conditions is not a matter on which the layman can express an opinion. It will take many months of planning by specialists: but the whole framework of the plan ought to be completed, as far as possible, during the war. Only the finishing touches of the technical plan, the actual launching of the loan, and the appointment of those to be in charge of the work, should be left until after the peace conference.

One thing, however, can be foretold as regards the technical plan: it will probably deal with the



First Million only (subsequent repatriations, being slower, will be more like an ordinary migration, needing perhaps no special planning); and there will be three stages to consider—the initial camping of the newcomers; the construction of the new centres—mostly industrial centres—on the appointed sites; and the first production of goods.

The first stage would present a formidable difficulty in a country where there were no Jewish colonies. In a land where there are already Jewish towns, Jewish quarters in the cities, and some 300 Jewish villages, large and small, scattered over a considerable area, the task is much simpler. Theoretically and schematically speaking, where 500,000 people are domiciled (not uncomfortably) another 500,000 could at once be provisionally accommodated by the rough and ready method of billeting. In our case, however, billeting will probably be an exception: as the influx of newcomers is to be a permanent feature, it will be worth while to build barracks or huts. There will be a shifting population, batch after batch of immigrants, going off to other places; during the influx of the First Million probably over one-third of this number will need some kind of hutment accommodation. This gives us an outline of the first item of the scheme: to construct, in the neighbourhood of the existing Jewish colonies, barrack accommodation for some 300,000 to 400,000 pioneers.

The second step, to begin on the morrow of the



first arrivals, will consist in building all those widely-distributed workshops which will play a twofold part: they will supply as much as possible of the First Million's needs, and employ all the First Million's breadwinners, probably some 600,000 in all. Some will be dispatched to build the high-roads, leading as yet from nowhere to nowhere, but the chief arteries of tomorrow; some will be told off to lay water-pipes, dig cisterns and sink wells, before there is anyone near them to drink the water; some will have to put up corrugated iron sheds where later on machinery will be installed; some, but not so many, will be sent to plough and sow. There will be a section in the technical plan for the production of furniture: a million people will need a million chairs to sit on; that means so much horse-power and so many hands; the total might be so distributed as to form twelve factories in different localities. There will be another section for butchers, another for dentists, another for lorry-drivers, complete with numbers and places as in an army mobilization plan. One of the most fascinating features of human planning is that things never turn out just as they were planned; but if the plan is good its unforeseen modifications will always, in the end, prove to be still better.

The third stage will be the actual beginning of production, the delivery, storage and sale of the goods, and the manifold individual activities which all this entails, and the sum of which constitute a

nation's economy: in other words, the birth of the nation.

All this is how a layman imagines an achievement which the experts can formulate more clearly: but the thing envisaged by both will be the same splendid reality.

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Now the pseudonym can be dropped, and we can return to Palestine as the only "area" in which this achievement is destined to be realized.

Palestine is a country which enjoys a tolerable climate, and presents a by no means exceptional mixture of natural advantages and still greater natural drawbacks. The absorptive capacity of such a country depends less on those natural features than on the kind of men who will inhabit it: on their intelligence, skill, endurance, will-power, resourcefulness, financial means, and international connections, making for financial aid and promoting trade.

One would like to treat the colonial experts with respect, but it is a fact that the many experts who have, in recent years, made pronouncements as to the prospects of settlement of Palestine have all contradicted one another. Their judgments are somehow lacking in reality; they do not sound "scientific"; they have not the appearance of finality. Sir John Hope Simpson, in 1930, found that the only really cultivable land in Western

Palestine was the land actually then under cultivation—8 million dunams out of a total area of 36 millions. The Royal Commission's Report (1937) dismissed this verdict by admitting frankly that there was no reliable information as to whether the waste area was cultivable or not, and that the first requirement was a geophysical and hydrographical survey, which should be extended to Transjordan. As to Transjordan, the 1935 Report of the Mandatory to the Mandates Commission estimated that only about 5 % of its area could be regarded as cultivable.\* Five per cent of Transjordan's area is 1,150,000 acres, or 4,600,000 dunams. But two years later, in August 1937, Mr. Ormsby Gore, the Colonial Secretary—afterwards Lord Harlech—disagreed with his own advisers. In an address to the Mandates Commission in Geneva, he was recklessly optimistic in respect of Transjordan, quoting the opinions of other experts. "One of our most experienced agricultural officers," he stated, "says he is confident 100,000 families could be settled in Transjordan alone" (Minutes of the 32nd Session, p. 22). As he spoke of settling Arabs, not Jews, in the country, and as the Government's idea of an average *lot viable* for an Arab family is 140 dunams,† this expert obviously implied that there are in Transjordan about 14 million cultivable dunams over and above any areas already

\* Schechtmann, *Transjordanien*, Vienna, 1937, p. 171.

† Woodhead (*Report of the Palestine Partition Commission*), 1938, p. 29: "The average for taxable crop land, 140 dunams."

exploited by the inhabitants. But the Woodhead Commission, which studied the question in 1938, did not confirm this expert's finding. . . .

The chief problem (from the standpoint of agriculture, but not from that of mass colonization) is water for irrigation. The Woodhead Commission's Report devotes a careful chapter to this matter, only to show that nothing is really known on the subject, and next to nothing has been done to learn anything about it. The report says that "the Beersheba sub-district has an area nearly equal to that of the whole of Palestine," and quotes Sir John Hope Simpson to the effect that "given the possibility of irrigation, there is practically an inexhaustible supply of cultivable land in the Beersheba area." Yet, in order to investigate so vital a matter, only sixteen borings all told have been made in this area, at a total cost of £60,000. The results have been "mostly disappointing." Perhaps: but that was no exhaustive survey. A government really concerned with constructive issues, especially when its treasury has for years shown a comfortable surplus of revenue over expenditure, ought to spend half a million pounds and make many hundreds of borings in an area so extensive and so important for the purposes of settlement.

The question of Palestine's agricultural possibilities still awaits a really serious survey; so far nothing has been done in that direction which would justify a final conclusion.

But agriculture, as we have seen, must not be regarded as the main basis of immigrant economy. For the past century and longer the growth of a country has no longer been dependent upon its agriculture. Countries with the greatest density of population show the smallest percentage of people living by the plough and the pasture. Germany (density 360 per square mile) has 24 %; Holland (618 per sq. m.) 20 %; Belgium (702 per sq. m.) 16 %; England and Wales (703 per sq. m.) 8 %. Western Palestine's total rural population today is about 650,000; by the standard of Germany this population, without any increase in the number of farmers, would form a sufficient agricultural basis for a total population of over 2,500,000; by the Dutch standard, for a total of 3,250,000; and by the English standard, for a total 8,000,000 souls. These figures, of course, do not claim to be of serious value, but they certainly serve as a reminder that the absorptive capacity of a country as a whole has very little to do with the absorptive capacity of its farmland.

× Far more important than soil and irrigation, from the standpoint of immigration policy, is the other "natural advantage"—the geographical position of a country. Nearly all the main sea routes between West and East traverse the Suez Canal; the main air lines cross it; and so will the main land routes of the future, linking Cape Town to Damascus and Peking. That corner of the Medi-



terranean in which Egypt and Palestine are waiting for their chance is the site of the most important cross-roads of the future. Its real hinterland is not Arabia: it is the whole of that south-eastern corner of Asia where dwells one-half of the human race—nearly one thousand millions of human beings. Their foreign trade, imports and exports together, averages today about £3 per head annually. In Denmark it is £40 per head. Those countries will develop, and their requirements will increase; before long their overseas trade may have doubled itself, and at some remoter period it may even reach the Danish level. The imagination staggers at the thought of the monstrous avalanche of goods which will then be carried to and fro, by sea, air and land, between the two halves of humanity: practically half of it passing over that corner of the world in which Palestine and Egypt await their future. Crossroad districts are populous districts. Palestine will one day be among the most densely populated countries on earth. That day is in the remote future, but every decade brings it nearer.

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Palestine on both sides of the Jordan has an area of about 40,000 square miles. Its total population today, to the west and east of the river, is 1,600,000, Jews and Arabs together. At the density of France it could hold over 8 million inhabitants: and



France's density of population is one of the lowest among the industrialized countries of Europe.

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But even a high density means a large population only if the land is big enough. To absorb the Jewish exodus Palestine must inevitably include Transjordan. Western Palestine contains only 10,000 square miles, Transjordan 30,000. The population west of the Jordan is 1,300,000; but east of the river only 300,000.

We are discussing a matter of business in this book; eminently grave business, the business of the health and sanity of Europe and of all the world; and in this spirit will the question of Palestine be discussed at the peace conference. The area needed to save Europe's stepchildren must be large enough to house them. This is not a question of a spiritual centre, of a slightly enlarged and glorified 'varsity quadrangle where the Jews could parade their cultural excellence: this is a grim matter of numbers, of hunger and need, of square inches to stand upon and cubic feet of air to breathe. A reception area covering 40,000 square miles, with an average density of 40, can be reasonably considered for the quick reception of several millions: but not an area which is only a quarter that size, with 130 inhabitants per square mile already on the spot.

All this is very palpably obvious, and any reticence can only lead to mutual deceit. Nor is there

really any need for reticence. A curious atmosphere of taboo has been created around the name "Transjordan": a sort of myth or superstition to the effect that precisely Transjordan, in Arab eyes, is an especially sacred portion of Palestine's soil, infinitely more valuable and more inaccessible than the Western strip; that if the Arabs begrudge us the acres of Sharon and Galilee so stubbornly, their reaction would be incomparably more violent if we laid hands on Gilead! This is fiction. It is only Western Palestine that contains Moslem shrines, in Jerusalem and Hebron; Transjordan has hardly any place at all on the pages of Islam's classic tradition. What is equally important is the fact that there are 900,000 Arabs (Moslem and Christian) west of Jordan as against only 300,000 on the east; the great feudal families, the intelligentsia, the industrial and commercial bourgeoisie of the Palestinian Arabs, whatever their number and value, dwell almost exclusively west of the river, and regard the handful of Bedouin across the stream as primitives. Should any Arab Nationalist—and this not only in Jerusalem—be ordered by Allah to choose which he would prefer to keep, as the other *must* be given to the Jews, he would certainly rather give the Jews Transjordan.

It is very important to disabuse public opinion, Jewish and Christian, of this delusion as to the comparative degree of our neighbours' and cousins' jealousy with regard to the two parts of Palestine.

This delusion has always affected the energy with which we and our friends have pressed for the opening up of Transjordan, as though we feared to tread on delicate ground. But the ground is much less delicate here than in the first instance. Arab opposition to Jewish claims on Transjordan—once these claims are really pressed—will prove much weaker than that which we have encountered in the long-drawn battle for Western Palestine.

Nor is the legal position under the Mandate so formidable as some people imagine. These are times when hardly anyone is much concerned about the legal aspects of international issues, least of all about a Mandate which the Mandatory Government itself treated as “unworkable” in 1937 and worse than that in 1939. The author, however, is old-fashioned enough to retain some interest in the legality of treaties; and he thinks, moreover, that a moment will soon come when this old fashion of respect for legality will again become the only reliable thing left on earth. It is therefore worth while to remember that in the Palestine Mandate the term “Palestine” embraces also Transjordan, and that this meaning has never been revised. One of the Mandate’s articles (Article 25) merely provided that “in the territories lying between the Jordan and the Eastern boundary of Palestine” the Mandatory “shall be entitled to *postpone or withhold* application of such provisions of this Mandate as he may consider inapplicable to the existing local

conditions." Two months later the Council of the League of Nations passed a resolution stating that the Zionist portions of the Palestine Mandate "are not applicable to the territory known as Transjordan." There is not a word in that resolution to specify whether this means "withholding" the application of the provisions of the Mandate or only "postponing" it; and omissions in such cases always indicate that the legislator foresaw, and prepared for, the contingency that the measure might some day be revoked. The very title "resolution," in comparison with the title "Mandate," clearly emphasizes a lesser degree of durability. In other words, it is perfectly reasonable and lawful to assume that the intention of the resolution was simply to "postpone" the application of the Mandate's Zionist clauses to Transjordan in view of "existing local conditions"; and what has been postponed can now be enacted without any breach of the Mandate.\*

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The real difficulty, of course, is not the "resolution" but the existence of a certain dynastic fact. It might seem rather embarrassing, in the middle of this twentieth century, that we should have to discuss dynastic facts of such an obviously artificial origin as though they were decisive factors in a situation involving the fate of peoples. It is perhaps

\* Schechtmann, *Transjordanien*, Vienna, 1937, p. 259.

more practical to leave it undiscussed; as, for different reasons, we have refrained from discussing how a Max Nordau Plan could be fitted into the framework of an existing Mandate. Where there is goodwill, anything can be fitted into anything. What is perfectly clear to all concerned is that where the serious business of the world is to be done artificial titles cannot stand in the way.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### THE ARAB ANGLE—UNDRAMATIZED

THE transformation of Palestine can be effected to the full without dislodging the Palestinian Arabs. All current affirmations to the contrary are utterly incorrect. A territory of over 100,000 square kilometres settled at the average density of France (87 inhabitants per square kilometre) would hold over 8 million inhabitants; at the density of Switzerland (104) over 10 million; at the density of Germany or Italy (140) about 14 million. It now holds, counting Arabs and Jews and Transjordanians and all, just over one million and a half inhabitants. There is margin enough left for Palestine to absorb the better part of East-Central Europe's ghetto—the better part of 5 million souls—without approaching even the moderate density of France. Unless the Arabs choose to go away of their own accord, there is no need for them to emigrate.

Another fallacy is the assertion that if the Arabs were in the minority in a State predominantly Jewish, they would be persecuted and oppressed. The last people to repeat this fallacy ought to be the authors of the 1939 White Paper. Since they



assure us that the Jews, condemned to remain a one-to-two minority in Palestine, would not only not be oppressed but would even enjoy the delights of a Jewish National Home, what grounds have they for suggesting that it would be disastrous for the Arabs if the position were reversed? It would be much more logical for the authors of the White Paper to offer the Arab minority the same safeguards which they consider to be sufficient to ensure the welfare of a Jewish minority.

It is absurd to assume that an ethnical minority is always and everywhere an oppressed minority. The assumption is untrue. The Scots who have left Scotland and the Welsh who have left Wales live scattered all over England, yet it has not been suggested that their rights are curtailed. Consider the position of the Catholic French-speaking minority in the mixed province of Ontario, Canada; they are anything but oppressed. Soviet Russia has been guilty of many sins, but no one can deny that her ethnical minorities enjoy a very reasonable equality of status—in so far as anything can be “enjoyed” in that political climate. Czechoslovakia was a model state in this respect; as is Finland today, where the Swedish minority enjoys a position even better in some respects than that of the Scots in Great Britain. Nothing, of course, is perfect on this earth, and there is no doubt that it is pleasanter to be in the majority than in the minority, even under the best conditions imaginable; but that does not mean

that the status of a minority is everywhere and always a tragedy. Every great people has its outlying fragments which form minorities in other countries: the English in South Africa, the French in Canada, Belgium and Switzerland, the Germans all over the world. Their position depends on the régime. Under a decent régime a minority can live in reasonable contentment. The world has no right to assume that Jewish statesmanship is unable to create as decent a régime as that created by English, Canadian or Swiss statesmanship. After all, it is from Jewish sources that the world has learned how the "stranger within thy gates" should be treated.

There is only one circumstance in which it is a tragedy to constitute a minority: it is the case of the people which is *only* a minority, everywhere and always a minority, dispersed among alien races, with no corner of the earth to call its own, and no home in which to find refuge. Such is *not* the position of the Arabs, with four Arabian countries on the east of the Suez Canal, and five others west of Suez. Some of these lands are already independent, others are not so as yet; but in each of them there is no question of any but an Arab majority; each of them is already an Arab national homeland.

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It would be an idle pastime, at this present stage, to devise draft constitutions for the Jewish Palestine of the future. But it may be that some people are

genuinely worried as to what would happen to the rights of the Palestinian Arabs if the country became a Jewish State. The author can at least give them some idea of what Jews themselves intend to do in this respect when they are in the majority and when Palestine is a self-governing State. It may reassure such persons to learn how not the moderate but precisely the so-called "extremist" wing of Zionism visualizes the constitution of the Palestine of the future. The following extracts are quoted from a draft worked out by the Revisionist Executive in 1934, so it might be said that this tells us "the worst that can happen" to the Palestinian Arabs. The draft is not an official programme, and the writer is not prepared to defend it in all its aspects. Still, it was the result of much careful labour; a wide range of precedents had been studied, and documents consulted which were regarded with the utmost respect in the days when the intelligentsia of East-Central Europe—which then included Russia—was infatuated with the theories of the Austrian Socialists' *Nationalitaeten-Staat*: Rudolf Springer's books, the minutes of the Bruenn congress of the Austrian Social Democratic Party, the excellent Hungarian law of 1868 on the use of minority languages in civil service communications, and even the truly remarkable old Turkish legislation as to the autonomy of the various ethno-religious communities, whose official title was *Millet* = "nations": *Millet-i-Roum*, *Millet-i-Ermeni*, *Millet-i-Moussévié*

(Greek, Armenian, Mosaic). Only a few sections can be quoted here: those dealing with civic equality, languages, so-called "cultural autonomy," the Holy Places, and the land laws. Only the broad issues will be touched upon. These quotations will bear out the statement made by this writer before the Palestine Royal Commission: that the Jews are ready to guarantee to the Arab minority in a Jewish Palestine the maximum of the rights which they claimed but never obtained for themselves in other countries.

In reading this draft it should be remembered that according to the principle which is the alpha and omega of Zionist Revisionism, Palestine can be promoted to independent Statehood only *after* the constitution of a Jewish majority. On the other hand, the Revisionists' idea of an independent Palestine was then (1934) a Dominion within the British Empire, as it still is to many among them.

## I. CIVIC EQUALITY

1. Provided nothing be done to hinder any foreign Jew from repatriating to Palestine, and, by doing so, automatically becoming a Palestinian citizen, the principle of equal rights for all citizens of any race, creed, language or class shall be enacted without limitation throughout all sectors of the country's public life.

2. In every Cabinet where the Prime Minister is

a Jew the vice-premiership shall be offered to an Arab, and vice-versa.

3. Proportional sharing by Jews and Arabs both in the charges and in the benefits of the State shall be the rule with regard to Parliamentary elections, civil and military service, and budgetary grants.

4. The same rule shall apply to mixed municipalities or county councils.

## 2. LANGUAGES

1. The Hebrew and the Arabic languages shall enjoy equal rights and equal legal validity.

2. No State law, proclamation or ordinance; no coin, banknote or stamp of the State; no publication or inscription produced at the State's expense shall be valid unless executed identically in both Hebrew and Arabic.

3. Both Hebrew and Arabic shall be used with equal legal effect in Parliament, in the Courts, in the schools and in general before any office or organ of the State, as well as in any school of whatever degree.

4. All offices of the State shall answer any applicant, orally and in writing, in the language of his application, whether Hebrew or Arabic.

## 3. CULTURAL AUTONOMY

1. The Jewish and the Arab ethno-communities\*

\* The word used in the original is the Hebrew equivalent of "nationalities." As in English the term denotes State allegiance rather than ethnical allegiance, the word is translated as above.

shall be recognized as autonomous public bodies of equal status before the law.

Should the Christian Arabs, or any other group of citizens reasonably justified in claiming autonomy, also demand a measure of independent recognition, Parliament shall be entitled to grant the request.

2. The following matters shall be delegated by the State to each ethno-community with regard to its members :

- (a) religion and personal status ;
- (b) education in all its branches and grades, especially in the compulsory elementary stages ;
- (c) public relief, including all forms of social assistance ;
- (d) settlement of ordinary law cases arising out of the above-mentioned matters.

3. Each ethno-community shall elect its National Diet with the right to issue ordinances and levy taxes within the limits of its autonomy, and to appoint a national executive responsible before the Diet.

4. A permanent Minister of Cabinet rank, independent of all parties, shall represent each ethno-community in the country's government.

#### 4. THE HOLY PLACES

1. The relevant areas within the Old City of Jerusalem, to be delimited under the authority of



the League of Nations, shall enjoy the same measure of extra-territoriality as that universally recognized in the case of embassies.

2. Each of these areas shall constitute a municipality under a council appointed by agreement between the ecclesiastic authorities concerned.

3. A similar régime shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to other holy sites within the country.

4. Except in war, pilgrim permits of sufficient duration shall be freely granted to nationals of any State: subject only to genuine requirements of hygiene, traffic and public safety, and provided any paupers among the pilgrims shall be maintained, and in due course repatriated, at the expense of the respective ecclesiastic authority.

5. A delegate of the League of Nations, with the status of Ambassador, shall be appointed to represent the interests concerned.

## 5. LAND

1. A Palestine Land Court shall be formed including, among other members, judges and agricultural experts belonging to both ethno-communities.

2. All the waste lands, as well as all lands inadequately cultivated in the opinion of the Court, shall be requisitioned (under fair compensation in the case of the latter) to form the State's Land Reserve.

3. After improvement at the expense of the State,

reclaimed areas of the Land Reserve shall be divided into allotments to be granted, at fair prices and easy terms of credit, to individual applicants and groups.

4. Allotments shall be distributed under the Land Court's supervision to Jewish and Arab applicants and groups indiscriminately.

5. Each applicant shall have to satisfy the Land Court:

- (a) that he owns no other land;
- (b) that he possesses a reasonable minimum of capital or equipment for working that land, no matter whether his own or supplied by supporters;
- (c) that he will work the land personally.

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Whether the Arabs would find all this a sufficient inducement to remain in a Jewish country is another question. Even if they did not, the author would refuse to see a tragedy or a disaster in their willingness to emigrate. The Palestine Royal Commission did not shrink from the suggestion. Courage is infectious. Since we have this great moral authority for calmly envisaging the exodus of 350,000 Arabs from one corner of Palestine, we need not regard the possible departure of 900,000 with dismay. The writer, as he has already said, cannot see any necessity for this exodus: it would even be undesirable from many points of view; but if it should

appear that the Arabs would prefer to migrate, the prospect can be discussed without any pretence of concern.

Since 1923, when within a few months at least 700,000 Greeks were moved to Macedonia, and 350,000 Turks to Thrace and Anatolia, the idea of such migrations has been familiar and almost popular. Herr Hitler, detested as he is, has recently been enhancing its popularity. Of course, his critics very strongly disapprove of his policy in removing Germans from the Trentino and the Balticum and planting them in fields and houses robbed from the Poles: but it is the robbing of the Poles, not the moving of the Germans, which really elicits the censure. One cannot help feeling that if only Germans, on the one hand, and Italians and Balts on the other were concerned, the operation might in the end prove not so bad for their common welfare. When Mr. Roosevelt foresees the existence of 20 million potential refugees after the war, he is doubtless considering that the position of all minorities may have become untenable in many countries, so that some radical solution may have to be found. Nuisantia, which, as we know, is situated between Andivia and Hedulia, and populated by a potpourri of both races, has a majority of the Andivians, so in 1918 it was adjudged to Andivia. The result? Andivia has now a minority of 300,000 Hedulians, who are causing trouble. Perhaps, then, we had better annex the province to Hedulia? But then

Hedulia will have a minority of 500,000 Andivians, with the same result. Majority rule is perhaps not such a perfect panacea, even where political parties are concerned, but in the case of nationalities the medicine simply does not work except as an irritant; and the alternative, minority rule, would be still worse. One really radical remedy would be the Graeco-Turkish precedent of 1923. The writer frankly doubts whether that would be feasible; at all events, other solutions—which cannot be examined here—might be given a trial. But theoretically the idea of redistributing minorities *en masse* is becoming more popular among “the best people,” and there is no longer any taboo on the discussion of the subject.

There is, moreover, one great ethical difference between the case of Palestine and that of all the other poly-ethnic areas with regard to this particular question of allowing the minority to migrate. In all the other areas friction is caused by ambition: one section wishes to dominate, or so at least the weaker section fears. Such an ambition may be, or seem, justifiable or excusable, in the sense that it is an expression of inherited vitality, so strongly dynamic that only the most angelic self-restraint could keep it always on the leash: but even so it is, after all, only an ambition, not a real need; a healthy “appetite,” not a “hunger.” In Palestine any inconvenience to the native population from the influx of immigrants arises from the tragic

necessity that these immigrants must find a home. It has nothing to do with ambition, nothing to do with the will to dominate over anyone; in many individual cases it may have little to do even with a personal desire to immigrate, for in any mass migration there must be hundreds or thousands who would have preferred to remain in the old home if they could. The cause is genuine hunger, the nostalgic passion of people who have nowhere else where they can make a home for themselves. Should the Arabs prefer to migrate, the very fact that they can do so would prove that they, on the contrary, have a "somewhere else" where they can build a new home. This contest between "nowhere else" and "somewhere else" would only be an echo of a universal feature of our modern age, the inevitable settlement between the "have nots" and the "haves." No "have not" need feel guilty because the scales have been levelled as they ought to have been long ago.

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One thing seems certain: any Arab country which should find the courage and the acreage for inviting such an immigration of trekkers would reap enormous material advantages. It would immediately have unlimited sums of capital and the world's best experts at its disposal for the most ambitious schemes of land reclamation and irrigation. The Arab trekkers, moreover, would probably migrate

with donkeyloads of pelf. All the problems connected with the evacuation of the European "zone" would become incomparably easier. Who knows?

But this is an aside; it has nothing to do with war aims. Palestine, astride the Jordan, has room enough for the million of Arabs, room for another million of their eventual progeny, for several million Jews, and for peace; for so much peace that there would then be peace also in Europe.



## CHAPTER XIX

### “SENATUS POPULUSQUE JUDAEORUM”

AS a matter of cold and objective justice, the first of all Jewish war demands ought to be addressed to the Jews themselves: the demand for a united front. This they ought to have formed—or at least, they ought to have set about forming it—long ago; but now, since the war, the eleventh hour has really struck.

A united front means, above all, one single agreed formula of demands to be presented to the future Peace Conference: this is even more essential than one single national authority. In theory it might even be more impressive if a dozen different Jewish delegations, appearing one after another before the Peace Conference, repeated exactly the same demands; or, on the contrary, it might prove to be much less impressive than irritating. But that does not really matter, as the theory is unreal: an agreed programme, if there is any sanity in the people, would mean a united representation before the Peace Conference.

Yet even this—a single Jewish delegation *before* the conference table—falls far short of our needs.

The historical hour demands a Jewish delegation *at* the table of the Peace Conference. In the next chapter, the last of this book, this need will be emphasized as the crucial point of all the Jewish war aims. Our claim is for the full status of an Allied nation, with a recognized national headquarters (if the word “government” be premature) and a seat among those who will have to decide on our demands. But that cannot even be suggested unless there is now, or is formed in time for action, a single organ whose title as headquarters no one could reasonably dispute.

Without that, the Jews can be heard only as petitioners, not consulted as partners; and as the petitioners are many we risk a replica of what happened at Evian. Having learned that there were some eighteen Jewish delegations at Geneva, all waiting to be heard, the Evian Conference instructed one of its committees to invite all the eighteen. Each one of these delegations claimed, some of them probably with justice, a “world-wide” range of influence—and also the main claim to the attention of the Conference, which was based on a point of view quite unlike that of the next delegation. Each one was therefore impartially granted five minutes to state that point of view. This is the dangerous precedent which may have to be repeated at the Peace Conference, unless—and this would surprise no one—that conference simply refused to hear any of the rival delegations.

Another thing may happen, perhaps the worst of all (and there is even some danger that certain important Jewish bodies will themselves try to influence events in this disastrous direction). It would happen if the Peace Conference should elect to hear only a few of the more authoritative or apparently more substantial-looking bodies; in that case the choice would be likely to fall on the American Joint Distribution Committee (the biggest of our relief associations), the Joint Foreign Committee (a London body with a long and not unworthy record of political interventions), the Alliance Israélite Universelle, the Jewish Colonization Association, and perhaps also the Jewish Agency for Palestine. This would be, frankly, the worst thing that could happen to us. The jumbling-up of eighteen points of view is at least comparatively harmless, because ineffectual. But the selection of a few privileged bodies would be in itself a pre-judgment, an indication that the Peace Conference had already, before listening to the Jews, made up its mind as to what it wished to hear.

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The greatest danger of all would then be the threat to Zionism. Even if a Jewish Agency were invited or allowed to present its view in this selected company, this would place it in the position of a competitor—with rather inferior chances. If a Peace Conference after a war like the present

decided to grant a hearing to several Jewish bodies, which would be so selected as to represent several well-defined attitudes (reliance on “equal rights,” relief by charity, relief by scattered infiltration, group settlement outside Palestine, *and* also Zionism, among the rest), this would mean that the *mot d’ordre* would be a patchwork relief, and Palestine would be considered simply as one of the many possible and partial palliatives.

Unfortunately there are clear signs that the present spokesmen of the Jewish Agency not only do not intend to resist such loss of “face,” but will deliberately invite it. Its chief spokesman’s recent statement in New York—obviously an agreed “programme” speech, for its gist is being echoed by other spokesmen elsewhere—is significant. His main point was: “Conservative estimates of the number of Jews that could be absorbed annually would confine themselves to the existing opportunities: they would not take into account larger territories, like the Negeb and other regions, where tens of thousands will no doubt some day live and prosper, or the new horizon that may be opened up by soil research and new discoveries of water. But even within the limits of such a purely pragmatic point of view, Palestine is capable of absorbing approximately 50,000 new immigrants a year for years to come.”

This means bidding for certain failure. 50,000 a year (even to those who believe in the “prag-

matic” reality of this figure) is, under the present circumstances, a candid admission that Zionism raises no claim to solve the tragedy. Arithmetically, at this rate it would take twenty years to save from hell even one single million; actually, there would be hardly any evacuation at all, for under the “selective” system of the Jewish Agency the bulk of the emigrants would be green youths, so that *the age classes of maximum fertility* (approximately, in the “Zone,” twenty-three to thirty-nine) would be left behind to replace the losses. Before a Peace Conference concerned—if at all—*only* with what can be done to evacuate the ruined Zone, this is an attitude calculated to make a Zionist Palestine just one of the partial and inadequate remedies that may be proposed.

One of the most inadequate, in fact. Taken even as “group settlement”—in the sense of a settlement certified as capable of becoming an all-Jewish territory if it is successful—this programme is obviously insufficient. British Guiana and the Kimberleys are a mirage, but there at least the first five thousand settlers, if they managed to remain, would build up a purely Jewish province, with no neighbours to cause trouble. But it would take a long generation to transform even Western Palestine alone into a country with a Jewish majority at the rate of 50,000 immigrants a year; and in the meantime—well, every member of the Peace Conference will know what would have to

be faced in the meantime. Given only such a patchwork remedy, admittedly one of the several on the market, Palestine is really not an attractive business proposition.

Especially as no one at the Peace Conference is likely to accept the figure of “50,000 a year.” The statesmen around the conference table are not likely to forget that there has been prolonged and conspicuous disagreement on this point, to say nothing of a statement of policy by the Mandatory, making 50,000 the final total of all the immigrants whom Palestine will ever accept. In order to transform “50,000 in all” into “50,000 a year,” the British, and especially the Arab opposition, would have to be beaten down; otherwise a “conservative estimate” of all that Palestine can offer is very little immigration, and the ever-present threat of trouble. But British Guiana, San Domingo, the Kimberleys, Mindanao and all the rest, whether promising success or doubtful—whether future “territories” or areas of “infiltration,” whether examples of big patchwork or small patchwork—have at least this one advantage: the good will of the respective governments, no immediate prospect of friction with the people of the country, and in some cases no such people at all. . . .

Palestine *as one of many palliatives* has no chance at all of being preferred, or even of being seriously considered by the future Peace Conference. Of all possible stopgap propositions Palestine is, poli-



tically, the most difficult, hampered by obstacles which can be surmounted only at the cost of considerable daring. Of course, it is not impossible to overcome the Arab obstruction and Great Britain's reluctance, but to do so a decisive effort will be required. Efforts are made only when it is worth while making them: when the prize is great and unique, and not a mere pittance which can more easily be secured elsewhere.

Palestine as a war aims problem has no *locus standi* unless it can be presented as the *full* solution of the Jewish problem, the only practicable theatre for a Max Nordau plan, the only complete remedy for the European cancer. Only as such can the Palestine claim be defended before the councils of such a world as we shall find on the morrow of a great cataclysm, facing the necessity of tremendous solutions, with neither time nor patience for trifles and trimmings: only if it is urged as a scheme unique in its material and humanitarian range, exclusive and intolerant of all rival schemes, and indeed dwarfing all its competitors, and making their promise valueless in comparison.

The Jewish demand at the future Peace Conference should be an amalgam of the two dominating ideas of our people's modern history: the Jewish State for those who want it, and real equality for those whom Eastern Europe will not release. The amalgam is indissoluble, for without the Jewish State the second demand is unreal. It

is, in fact, not an amalgam but a bi-atomic entity. This oneness of the Jewish war demand must be recognized by the entire collective authority of world Jewry, and it must be presented at the world's board of settlement by a single Jewish embassy in the name of a single world-Jewish leadership.

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The writer is not quite sure if the old debate, as to whether the Jews are a nation or just a religious community, is still proceeding, or whether it has been dropped. But even if there still are people who “feel” about it one way or another, that should have no bearing on the question of a headquarters. One may favour a world-organization for the whole of scattered Jewry without committing oneself to the view that Jewry is a nation in dispersion. Churches in dispersion can also unite oecumenically. The late Nathan Birnbaum, a very fertile and penetrating thinker, who—after many ideological peregrinations—finally became converted to the view that the core of Israel's identity was not nationhood but religion, fervently advocated the creation of a “world-Kehillah”—a universal congregation or synagogue, democratically elected throughout the globe, and “governing” in all matters of mutual assistance and mutual defence. This is not the author's conception, but it would be waste of time to argue the matter here. What

is needed is the recognition of a paramount common interest and a single headquarters to defend it: “Senatus Populusque Judaeorum.”

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This is perhaps the hardest of all points of resistance on the road to Jewish redemption. The last few decades have produced in our scattered people a rich growth of organized efforts for self-help, and some of them have attained a really remarkable degree of moral and material power. They are vividly conscious of their excellent records of social service, justifiably proud and jealous of their personality and independence. In addition, they mostly have an ideology of their own, or at least one whose wording is quite different from that in which the same ideas are expressed by their rivals, so that any proposal to accept even one single new phrase may sound to them like an invitation to apostasy. An amalgamated programme, plus a supreme headquarters, which would supersede all these sectional sovereignties, is a plan certain to be resisted tooth and nail. The writer has no illusions on the point. The formula “a united front of all Jewry” is not unpopular in itself; it can even be heard not infrequently in some of these very sovereign quarters; but somehow (and the writer means no offence) it is like the outcry for a pan-Arab Federation, to which all the Arab kings render courteous lip-service, while not one

of them would listen for a moment to a concrete scheme involving a limitation of his prerogatives. The writer frankly doubts if a supreme headquarters of world Jewry can ever be formed by agreement between the existing organizations, the Big Four or the Big Five. It is equally doubtful whether the amalgamation of programme can be accomplished by consent between the parties. Some of them (not all) may agree to the construction of a joint platform by the mechanical process of joining “plank” to “plank” until everybody’s favourite plank has been included: provided none is allowed to claim priority, so that the same weight is attached to—say—lifting the ban on Jewish doctors in Tristan da Cunha, and the colonization of Palestine; and provided, of course, that no such terms are used as “Jewish State” or “mass-exodus,” nor any such heresies proclaimed, or even hinted at, as the alleged connection between the reality of equal rights in the new Poland and the proportion of Jews that can be assisted to migrate from the new Poland. In other words, we should have the old prescription, but no effective remedy for the cancer, no message likely to stir the imagination. But a really united formula of Jewish restoration, short and sharp and clear and single-minded as Chantecler’s morning call, to which sunrise is the answer, seems as unlikely to emerge from the self-sacrifice of the parties as a really united leadership is likely to

result from the voluntary submission of the Central Committees.

This book is not the place for a consideration of the ways and means by which the united front will have to be achieved; but as surely as our people *must* be saved, so surely the united front of world Jewry *must* be achieved. Life presses in this direction: public opinion is slow, but in the end it also will follow in this direction. Then it will also “discover” the ways and means—or rather realize that there is nothing to “discover,” since there are hundreds of instructive precedents, sound, simple and effective. When unity cannot be established by the abdication of sectional majesties and highnesses, democracy—if still alive and resolved to live on—must intervene and set up its own authority, superseding all other powers. A World-Jewish Elected Assembly is years overdue: it should have been called into being when Polish Jewry was still free to act. Just as Canada holds an election in March 1940, there is no reason why a Jewish referendum cannot be organized in most of the countries concerned. This war-time Assembly would, of course, be a truncated body, but it would none the less be an expression of some among the most powerful forces of the race; and its generation by a plebiscite held under universal suffrage might well constitute an impressive manifestation in all the free and civilized countries which still exist on earth.

This short paragraph is quite inadequate for the exposition of so vast a subject. The problem will probably have to be solved by long and heated internal debate; but it is an internal problem and does not properly “belong” in a book which attempts to state the Jewish claim *vis-à-vis* the Gentile world. We shall leave it at that, only remembering that there will be no chance even of voicing such a claim unless a single world-Jewish “government” be elected to voice it.



## CHAPTER XX

### THE JEWISH WAR DEMANDS

THE Jewish war demands are:

- (a) A Jewish army on the Allied fronts.
- (b) Recognition of a world-Jewish civil Authority, with a seat on all international organs dealing with migration or reconstruction problems, and on the future Peace Conference.
- (c) The Jewish State as a war aim of the Allies.
- (d) A Covenant on civic equality as a war aim of the Allies.

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#### (a) THE ARMY

The Jewish Regiment was formed by the War Office in August 1917. It was at first officially known as the 38th to 41st Royal Fusiliers, but was afterwards granted the name of "Judaeans" and a special badge (the seven-branched candlestick, familiarly described under canvas as the toasting-fork). Its full strength on the register at Hounslow was probably over 10,000, but only half that number could be trained in time to reach Palestine.

Of these, about 1,300 came from the United Kingdom, 1,000 from that southern part of Palestine which Allenby had liberated a year before the final conquest, about 2,500 from the United States, and the balance from Canada, the Argentine, and from among the Jewish prisoners of war at Alexandria, Egypt, who volunteered for such service and succeeded after several refusals from the War Office. The commanding officers of battalions in the field were J. H. Patterson, a Protestant Irishman; Eliezer Margolin, an Australian Jew, in his early youth a Palestinian pioneer; F. Samuel, a British Jew; F. Scott, a British Christian. The officers were Jewish and Christian, the N.C.O.'s mostly Jewish, the rank and file all Jews. During the final offensive, in September 1918, Jewish troops in the Jordan Valley formed a "Patterson Column," and had the distinction of capturing the Umm-esh-Shert ford on the Jordan, a few miles north of Jericho—a deed mentioned in Allenby's dispatches. This was the first Jordan ford taken by the Allies; a couple of hours after the capture, Anzac cavalry crossed it and invaded Transjordan. "Patterson's Column" was the first British infantry force in Transjordan; Colonel Margolin, at the head of his battalion, was the first British commander of captured Es-Salt. (Today Jews are prohibited from even entering Transjordan.) After the Armistice, the Judaeans did garrison duty in Western Palestine. In 1919, during the trouble in

Egypt, when the bulk of the British troops left for Cairo, the whole of the railway line from Romani in the Sinai desert up to Haifa was under their guard. At the military cemetery on the Mount of Olives there is a section of Jewish graves. They are not many: the Jewish battalions had not been given a real chance of battle, perhaps simply because there happened to be no serious engagement where they happened to be stationed. What they were told to do they did well. There was no reason why the precedent should not have been followed when the present war broke out, and there still is no reason.

But this time the precedent will have to be extended both in scope and in character. It must be, formally, a Jewish army, not a regiment within the British army; it must be given a chance to attain a strength of at least 100,000; and it must fight on all the Allied fronts to prove just what some people would prefer to forget—that this is the Jews' war as much as Britain's, France's and Poland's.

There is no need to remind the writer of the thousand and one excellent reasons why it is both unusual and "impossible" to have a Jewish army so long as there is no Jewish State, nor a Jewish treasury to maintain it. All the reasons are valueless. Unusual, yes; "impossible?"—nonsense! Any child knows that there are not enough Jewish generals, or even officers, and especially non-

commissioned officers, to staff an army; at the outset a Jewish army will be fully Jewish only as to the rank and file. But that alone will be enough to bring in very large numbers and to inspire a great and high spirit. The only question is whether an additional 100,000 men (or probably many more) are needed in the field; and, if so, what will be the best way of obtaining the maximum number of recruits, and securing from them the maximum effort. And this settles the problem of the treasury. If 100,000 men, or more than that, are needed, they will have to be equipped, fed and trained—just as in the case of Poles and Czechs—at the Allies' expense, and it will make very little difference in the cost if they are styled an army. Secondly, while it is true that there is no Jewish State as yet, it is not quite exact to say that there is no Jewish treasury. It certainly exists as a spiritual but by no means negligible power, serving myriads of people in a score of countries, feeding a rather magnificent galaxy of social, educational and colonizing enterprises throughout all the continents. The formation of a Jewish army will mobilize its resources to limits never before suspected. It may yet prove extremely helpful in other connections also, especially if, simultaneously with the raising of the Jewish army, an all-Jewish civilian authority is recognized.

Outside the Allied countries, and the countries held or paralysed by the enemy (U.S.S.R. in-

cluded), there are more than six million Jews today whose dominating preoccupation, without any fear of overstatement, can be described as looking for some way to help in the destruction of the common enemy. About 1,200,000 of these Jews are males between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five. An especially interesting corner of the Jewish world is Palestine, whose male Jewish population of army age could of itself provide 100,000 men, a large proportion of whom are not only trained but fairly experienced in that old-fashioned kind of warfare which in the Middle East is not yet quite out of fashion. These are potential resources which it would be unwise to neglect, merely on numerical grounds, quite apart from their value as a moral factor in the war.

True, there is a widespread opinion (this is written in February 1940, and may no longer fit the case when the book is printed) that manpower is of no value in the sort of war which the Allies are facing. Here is a jesting remark which was recently overheard in fairly exalted quarters: "If the biggest neutral were to offer to come in we should be terribly embarrassed, for where could one find *Lebensraum* for him on the Western front?" But, joking apart, we must all realize that if the war is ever to develop in a direction leading up to real victory, it will have to follow a different line of development. This is not only a pragmatic necessity; it is also, and even more conspicuously, a moral necessity. Neutrals (and that still means

three-quarters of the anti-Nazi world) are beginning to lose immediate interest in the scanty news from the front. The daily budget of events on the seas and in the air, epic as it is in quality, lacks that grandeur of mass-effort without which there is no "war," but only a kind of exceedingly cruel and highly motorized guerrilla conflict. This may become embarrassing. Neutrality today is an expensive business; it entails considerable losses and enormous inconvenience: if counterbalanced by a passionate, breathless excitement over what is happening every minute in the great arena, all these drawbacks will be borne not only with patience, but even with a sort of grim satisfaction, for at heart every neutral is a sympathizer. But no sympathy can thrive on a diet of arid monotony. This explains why there are such obstinate relapses into peace talk, even from those neutrals whose wish to see Nazism crushed is every whit as ardent as our own: the quantitative pettiness of the incidents of this war, so strikingly out of keeping with the monstrous forces and the almost cosmic issues involved, saps their morale. There are, no doubt, very serious material reasons why this form of warfare has been allowed to predominate in the first stage of the conflict, and it certainly has been a godsend as permitting the accumulation of greater resources; but it cannot be permitted to continue longer than is strictly necessary and profitable.



These are doubtless very cruel thoughts, but they are consistent with human nature, and are probably shared, at the moment, by most of the peoples intimately affected. But even while the need for such monotonous warfare continues, its bromidic effect on the morale of the non-belligerent nations could be considerably counterbalanced if six million souls living in their midst had a concrete stake in the arena, instead of being concerned merely in the passive sense, as victims.

The writer does not by any means forget the various laws affecting neutrality. These laws exist, and they must be taken into account and treated with the utmost discretion. Yet we know by experience that the network of "don'ts" which these laws represent is both extremely sensitive and extremely elastic. Sweden and Italy are not belligerents, but a nucleus of Swedes or Italians with an active interest in the Mannerheim line can be imagined as existing in either country without really clashing with public sentiment. This example is of course not offered as a full analogy of the case which we are examining in the present paragraph: it is only an illustration of the feature just referred to as elasticity. On the other hand, the network of restrictions is very formidably sensitive; and this is one of the reasons why a Jewish army is a much more convenient entity than a Jewish legion in another people's army. The difference ought to be clear without further elucidation, but

may be made still clearer with the help of another illustration by analogy (once again, only a very superficial analogy): the case of propaganda. Anti-Nazi propaganda by the Allies would be resented even in pro-Ally countries; but anti-Nazi propaganda by Jews is regarded as natural. An appeal to the Jews to play a part in the conflict is bound to produce a great moral effect: it would be resented if its source were British or French, but as coming from a purely Jewish source it would be weighed in a different balance. The tragedy of Dispersion is, after all, not without a few redeeming features; inadequate enough on the whole, yet sometimes effective.

But the most serious argument in favour of a Jewish army as preferable to Jewish units under other flags is that of *numbers* and *élan*. The author, for more than twenty-five years, has been obstinately engaged in fostering what some have been pleased to describe as Jewish militarism, and has thus been in close contact with the type of Jewish youth whose mentality responds to the appeal of the bugle (and today this covers practically the whole young manhood of the race): and he can affirm, with the completest confidence, that while a call to join Jewish regiments under an Allied flag would attract thousands, whole over-crowded streets would be emptied in the rush for a Jewish army.

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## (b) THE "CIVIL HEADQUARTERS"

The writer avoids the term "Jewish Government" so as to avoid complicating his argument by offering a pretext for misunderstandings; and from this reticence arises the exasperating necessity of providing some sort of Ersatz-terminology, which is apt to sound rhetorical and artificial. As a matter of fact, there should be no room for any misunderstanding. No person in his senses could really imagine that a "government" of this kind implies, or would ever claim to imply, the right to give compulsory orders to Jewish citizens of the different countries over the heads of parliaments, cabinets and police. Least of all can such a fantasy be entertained when there already exists a precedent: the Polish Government in exile. This government does not attempt to issue decrees to the Poles in Poland, because they would be massacred if they obeyed; it does not claim any compulsory powers over Polish citizens who live outside Poland, even over those in the Allied countries. Yet it bears the title of "government," and *is* a government in a sense which is as important as anything in this war. If the Allies were to admit that a statehood destroyed *de facto* by bestial violence is non-existent in law, the admission would vitiate the very air we breathe. A statehood recognized by the comity of civilized nations cannot cease to be; it survives.

No analogy need be perfect in all details.

Fortunately for the Polish nation and the Czech, their lot is lighter than that of the Jews: they inhabit the territory for whose freedom they are fighting while the Jews are in dispersion. But the root of the analogy is sound: it is the principle that a destroyed nation is still a nation. And when a list of destroyed nations waiting for restoration has been officially drawn up, the homeless section of the Jewish people has a fair claim to a place on that list.

With regard to the Polish claim, its recognition is expressed in the title "the Polish Government." With regard to Czechoslovakia, the official title is "the National Committee." It does not matter what term is selected to describe the idea of *Senatus Populusque Judaeorum*. What does matter is the fact that there is a problem of immense importance to the world's health and peace, clearly distinct from all other problems, a problem which means literally life or death to five or six million people, and affects the fate of sixteen millions; that these men and women are just as anxious to help in solving their problem as any normal nation can be; and that they possess a total sum of moral and material power that can go a long way towards that solution, and ought to be given a chance to do so. All this constitutes, in its essential character and its magnitude, exactly what the dictionary calls a "nation," with "national" tasks before it. If other nations want to help, they must begin by inviting that Jewish entity to take a seat in the council

chamber, to discuss aims and ways and means. This is the only meaning of "a Jewish government" with which we are concerned at the moment: a "headquarters," a "leadership," an "executive," a "presidency," an "Authority" entitled to negotiate and to co-operate, not as petitioner but as partner.

The writer does not lose sight of an obstacle whose obstructive force is as formidable as its moral value is negligible: its name is snobbery. There is a certain bureaucratic mentality which is sure to be shocked and angered, as at an unheard-of impertinence, by the suggestion that Jews are no longer content with the rôle of petitioners and pretend to be fit for the dignity of peers. The battle against this kind of snobbery will have to be fought some day; and now, perhaps, better than later. To begin with, it is extremely unfair to forget who is the chief sufferer in the whole drama, and the respect due to misfortune. But even apart from this aspect of the matter, which the sort of mentality in question may fail to see, the snobbery itself is overwhelmingly devoid of any shred of justification. There is no need to engage in a contest of abstract claims to superiority, to ask one's opponent "who wrote the Bible," only to be confounded by the question "where is your Shakespeare?" There are peoples innocent of either Bible or Shakespeare who are yet eminently fitted for partnership in statecraft: the Jews, then, are surely qualified for such partnership. It would be



strange if any nation were to claim, on behalf of its upper strata, as compared with those of the Jewish people, any marked superiority in brains, learning, statesmanship and experience of statecraft, or in colonizing genius, to say nothing of the readiness and ability to back ideas with sound finance. There is no harm in asserting superiority where it is real, and it is proper to reject pretences that have no reasonable basis; thus, it would only be right to reject a claim to a "Jewish" seat on the Allies' General Staff (if such were made at the present moment), for this is a field in which we are learners. But on the political plane, where we have not more to learn than to teach, such obstruction would be an example of cheap and empty snobbery, and a handicap to the success of the common cause. It must be resisted with all the forces of reason, and rejected with all the scorn which it deserves. When overcome, it will probably be discovered that it was the only serious obstacle to a step which would be obviously sensible and useful: the recognition of a supreme organ of world-Jewry as a full partner in building up the world of peace.

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### (c) THE STATE

The whole of this book has been devoted to this subject; here it will suffice to recapitulate the main points of the argument.



## THE JEWISH WAR DEMANDS

The Jewish State is a true and proper war aim. Without it, the ulcer that poisons Europe's trouble cannot be healed: for without it there can be no adequate emigration of the millions whose old homes are irretrievably condemned; without it there can be no equality; and without this, no peace.

There must be an organ of international authority to devote itself, from now on, to the study of this problem, and the preparation of the scheme, or the schemes, to be laid before the future Peace Conference. If that organ is the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, it must be rebuilt and reinforced in agreement with Jewish authorities, and instructed to abandon the prescription of partial remedies and concentrate on the problem of the Jewish State.

There can be no preliminary limitations as to the various geographical projects which this body may have to examine before it makes its choice. It must be instructed to investigate any plan which presents, *prima facie*, the essential features of a serious solution: if necessary, it must consider every province of what we have called the Fata Morgana Land. But the first item on its agenda must be the examination of the Palestine plan. This is a fair proposal, which excludes nothing except any attempt to steal a march in either direction.

It will be for the Jews to prove what is, after

all, not difficult to prove: that the Palestine plan, with all its drawbacks, is—apart from all other considerations—the only one that is practicable.

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(d) THE COVENANT OF EQUALITY

Should the Jewish problem, by some miracle, entirely disappear from the face of Europe, it would still probably require a couple of generations to establish real equality of rights between members of different ethnical groups sharing the same territories. There was a time when people believed that such equality could be efficiently “guaranteed” anywhere, simply by a mention in a legal document. There still are statesmen who pretend to believe this. Yet no sane adult can really share such optimism so far as Eastern or Central Europe is concerned. That zone is not among the areas where the miracle can be performed, unless it can be enforced by some ever-present and tangible reminder of supreme compulsion.

The unlimited sovereignty of nations will have to go by the board, at least in Europe, if civilization hopes to survive. Statesmen seem to be realizing this gradually, and there is much less opposition to the theory than might have been expected; though it may be a different matter when it comes to practice. Yet there still lingers in most minds a schoolboy illusion that only in international

affairs need sovereignty be qualified by certain concessions; "internal" sovereignty can remain unrestricted without any danger to its neighbours. Translated into the language of experience, this means that as long as Nazism was preached and practised only in Germany, there was no real danger to her neighbours. This is nonsense. The sphere of any nation's "internal" interests which do not in any way affect other nations is extremely restricted, and it is becoming smaller day by day. No one will suggest that the abstract and logical conclusion should be enforced to the limit, so that everything done or suffered in Greece should be everybody's business in Portugal, and *vice-versa*. But the division of affairs, from the standpoint of mutual safety, into external and internal is a schoolboy's concept. If your neighbour's drains are bad it is your concern, and you must have the right to call in the police.

How the world will settle this delicate problem is not the subject of this book: but as the main obsession of us all will be to avoid another war, it is not unreasonable to assume that some device will be found for keeping under joint neighbourly control such "internal" affairs as have a more or less direct and tangible bearing on the danger of war. Nor is the world likely to forget that supervision without a threat of coercion does not work. There will be devices for supervision; and there will be devices for immediate, quick and probably

very painful coercion in case of default. For instance: if there should be demilitarized zones, and if the owner of one of these should attempt to rearm it unawares, his action will probably be treated as a *casus belli* and answered by some kind of armed occupation, or worse. This is not an attempt to guess at the terms of the future Covenant: it is only intended to emphasize the assurance that the present storm will not be allowed to subside without the provision of some absolutely practical, efficient, and automatic machinery for knocking out anyone who begins to lay a powder train before he has had time to carry it much farther.

And the writer believes that among those "internal" matters that have a direct and tangible bearing on the danger of war, the treatment of ethnical or religious minorities is among the most important. A hundred years of European history have proved this. No claim of sovereignty can be allowed to protect a breach of the covenant of equality; any step in that direction is equivalent to laying a train of gunpowder; the machinery of compulsion must be set in motion, and the culprit knocked out.

To have such eminent power, the covenant of equality must fulfil two conditions among others: it must be terribly solemn, and it must be fully and carefully reasonable.

"Solemn" means that there should be no interpolation of equal rights "clauses" or "paragraphs"

in treaties dealing with other matters. None of those other matters can have one-tenth of the awful toxic power of the minorities problem; no chapter dealing with the former can possess one-tenth of the vast prophylactic importance of provisions affecting the latter. Nor is there, among all the problems of international or "internal" statecraft, any problem so complicated, any that requires such attention to detail and such penetrating foresight as this. A special session of the Peace Conference should be entirely devoted to this one problem: and there should be a separate Covenant of Equality.

But the Covenant must also be "reasonable." A law is unreasonable if it prescribes things which ordinary human nature cannot tolerate, or disregards conditions which, despite the best average will of the average obedient citizen, will render it exceedingly difficult for him to obey. Equality cannot be enforced where, by the nature of things, it is bound to degenerate into its opposite. Let us take an imaginary illustration: the case of Ruritania. The country is inhabited by two races. The Broadheads, the majority race, are decent people, but slow-witted; the Longheads, in a 20 % minority, are equally decent, but very quick on the uptake. The principle of equal rights is unimpeachably respected throughout the country, in every walk of public and of private life. Among its other applications, bi-lingual candidates are preferred



for most government or municipal offices. The Broadheads are painstaking and diligent, but are unable to speak anything but Broadhead; the Longheads are excellent linguists. On the strict basis of equal opportunity and the principle of "the best man wins," regardless of craniometry, it is invariably the Longhead candidate who takes the honours. The result, after twenty-five years of this régime, is that 75 % of the best jobs in government or municipal employ has been captured by the Longheads; and it is practically the same in trade and the professions. The Broadheads ask: is this fair? Should people to whom God has refused the gift of tongues be penalized? Should there not be some kind of proportionality in the enjoyment of equal rights?

A reasonable Covenant will take this into account. "Equal opportunity and the best man wins" does not cover the whole problem of equal rights; it has perhaps even very little to do with the real essence of that problem. Jockeys, to be really equal to one another in a race, are weighed and weighted; golfers are given varying handicaps. A covenant of equality must ensure that, while the twenty Longheads get their full twenty loaves—and not nineteen—the eighty Broadheads get their eighty rations, and not seventy-nine.

Whether such a Covenant, however perfect, can work the miracle and produce such a state of affairs as will effectually prevent friction, is a query



which only the future can answer. Some people doubt it, and believe that the only real solution of the minorities problem is a redistribution of the races over the surface of the earth, i.e. the mass evacuation of all scattered minorities. This may be an exaggeration. There are minorities which, though cut off from their ethnical mainland, still form mono-ethnical "islands" or enclaves, or at least villages of their own, so that it is, so to speak, only on market-day that they have to rub shoulders with the majority people. Or there may be cases where both races are more or less congenial, and "good mixers" mutually, so that if left alone and given time they might be encouraged to intermarry, or simply to forget the insignificant difference. The Covenant must foresee all that can be foreseen: time alone will show if the problem can be solved.

But the Covenant must be reasonable, and its authors cannot expect the impossible to happen: in particular, they cannot expect Jewish equality in East-Central Europe to be anything but a lie unless their colleagues, the other statesmen at the other session of the Peace Conference, establish the Jewish State.













