

Look
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Anti-Semitism in the United States

Jew hating is a contagious plague which menaces the liberties of every American

By LEWIS BROWNE

A plague is spreading in the United States, the plague of anti-Semitism. Centuries ago the Black Death crept out of central Asia and fatally infected the blood of half the inhabitants of Europe.

Today something which might be called the Brown Death has seeped out of central Europe and has poisoned the minds of no one knows how many Americans.

Carriers of this plague are not rats bearing infected lice but demagogues mouthing infernal lies.

They whisper them in committee rooms, insinuate them over the radio, roar them in meeting halls, bawl them on street corners.

Of late, thanks to certain members of Congress, they have been able to circulate them in the mails, without even paying postage!

Discrimination—Since 1654

All this is something new in America. To be sure, there has never been excessive affection for Jews in this country. The average American has looked askance at Jews ever since the first boat load of them arrived on these shores back in 1654. That attitude, however, is easy to understand.

The Jews were "different." They had a religion of their own, traditions of their own, to some degree even an outward appearance of their own. They constituted a minority, and no minority—here or anywhere else—has ever been accorded much love.

From the start the Jews were merely tolerated in this country. Though politically the equals of all other citizens, socially they were always considered inferior.

Swank hotels occasionally refused to accept them as guests, and fashionable clubs regularly denied them membership. They were sub-

jected to discrimination by certain landlords, many employers, most professional boards and nearly all private schools.

But these were relatively minor torments. These evidences of discrimination pained the Jews and made them smart—in more senses than one. But they were not fatal.

What is more important, those who inflicted the torments did not intend them to be fatal. They did not intend them even to be torments. Those people were nice—but choosy. They did not hate Jews. They simply did not like them.

But what is spreading now is quite different—different not alone in degree but in kind. What used to be a casual prejudice is becoming a murderous animosity. More and more people are being bitten by rabid demagogues and infected with a ravaging Hebrewphobia.

The Nazis Planned It

There can be no doubt as to how it all started. The disease was brought here from Nazi Germany. Here's the proof: Organized anti-Semitism was almost unknown in this country until 1933. But see how the situation changed, once the Nazis came to power in Germany. Immediately, anti-Semitic organizations sprouted all over America.

This was no mere coincidence. All along, the Nazis had had their eyes on this country; for they had known they would have to reckon with it in all their plans. One of their chief theoreticians, Dr. Friedrich Schoeneman, wrote:

"The United States has become more than ever the determining factor of our political existence."

So the Nazis lost no time in going to work on us.

First they went to work on the German element in the population,

for there they thought to encounter little opposition. But they were fooled. Most of the immigrant Germans living in this country showed no desire to be "co-ordinated" by Hitler's emissaries.

On the contrary, they—and especially their children—fought against it hard. They insisted that they were living in America now and they wanted to be American. Swastika organizations did arise among them, but they were able to attract only the riffraff—and little even of that.

This naturally disappointed the Nazis. But they quickly discovered numerous crackpots and racketeers of old American stock ready to damn democracy and hail dictatorship. Here and there they unearthed

even an apparently sober and honest man willing to do the same.

So they "contacted" these individuals. In some instances they provided them with funds—but only rarely, for this was neither prudent nor really necessary.

Most of the time, the Nazis were content to furnish merely counsel and literature, of both of which their government seemed to have an inexhaustible supply.

The Lie Technique

A special press association, World Service, had been set up in Germany, and America was made one of the chief outlets for it. Vast quantities of bulletins, pamphlets, posters and magazines were sent



A German sound truck: "We tolerate no sabotage of the Fuehrer's reforms,"

says the banner. In the cartoon a skeptical German says, "But . . ." and points to the intelligentsia, the upper classes, the Jews and Catholics as saboteurs.

here through the open mails. In addition tons of leaflets, too scurrilous to get by our postal inspectors, were smuggled in from German ships.

And virtually all this literature harped on the Jews. No matter what the subject under discussion, be it the Versailles Treaty, modern art, the grief of Sudeten Germans or the plight of the American Indians, invariably the Jew was somehow dragged in as the villain.

It was a grotesque trick; but that was just why the Nazis kept using it. They had discovered—and proved, in Germany—that people were far more prone to fall for a grotesque trick than a subtle one.

Apparently they had not been wrong. Proof? At the present time there are said to be at least 800 or-

ganizations in this country devoted to spreading Hitler's plague of lies about the "guilty Jews."

Something will have to be done about that—and quickly. Not just for the sake of the Jews. For the

sake of America. If you doubt it, consider what that plague did to Germany. Did it harm only the Jews there? Of course not. Eventually it laid the entire German population low. Hitler used anti-



EDITOR'S NOTE: Lewis Browne was asked to write this article, not only because he is a Jew, but because he is a world-famous historian and authority on religions and cultures. That he can be objective toward attacks on his people is evidenced by his judgment on Lindbergh (see next page). That he is objective toward the Jews has been frequently proved in such of his books as "That Man Heine," "Blessed Spinoza," "Since Calvary," "This Believing World," "The Graphic Bible" and "How Odd of God [To Choose the Jews]." His most recent book is "Something Went Wrong."

Semitism as a smoke screen to hide his real purpose. Once he got enough of his people raving and tearing at Jewry, he took over all Germany.

And that is why he has been so intent on spreading the plague here in America. That is why all his native admirers here are intent on spreading it among us.

Their strategy is plain. First, the Christians against the Jews; then, the Protestants against the Catholics; then, the whites against the Negroes; and on and on.

Once they have caused enough disruption and distraction, they will be free to attain what they really want—revolution. The danger is clear. Either this plague is halted, or our way of life is doomed.



Robert Noble of Los Angeles basks in the smiles of admiring women.



Charles Lindbergh is delighted by cheers of an America First rally in New York.

"Jews are leading us to war," are they? Let's take a look at Doctor Gallup's poll

Here is a case history of an anti-Semite. This man is a shoddy, small-time "promoter." But his is a case in point—although almost the least important I could cite—because the woods of America and the city slums have begun to crawl with creatures of his kind.

The man's family name is Coker, but in Los Angeles he is Robert Noble. He is in his forties, under-sized, almost pretty, abnormally spirited and incredibly glib.

He comes of good stock: His father was a clergyman; an uncle was vice-president of a nationally established business.

As a youth, during the First World War, he joined the U. S. Navy but deserted, and was imprisoned. Later, in Pittsburgh, he burglarized telephone booths, was convicted and sentenced to two years on parole.

From Tonics to Panaceas

Around 1933 he showed up in Los Angeles, peddling medicine by radio. He soon discovered, however, that Los Angeles people seemed more willing to support fake social schemes than to buy patent medicines. Whereupon he figuratively doffed his physician's smock and donned a prophet's robe. He began to hold meetings at which he stomped and roared before hundreds, even thousands, of listeners.

Just what he stomped and roared about was not always clear. Now it was Upton Sinclair's "Epic" movement; now, Huey Long's "share-the-wealth" plan; now, his own "Fourth Cycle, Inc." At various times he plugged half a dozen different old-age-pension schemes.

Whatever happened to be the most rabble-rousing social cause of the moment, he was for.

Now It's Anti-Semitism

And now, significantly, he has taken up anti-Semitism! On Oct. 17, 1941, having been subpoenaed by the California State Legislative Committee on Un-American Tendencies, Mr. Robert Noble proudly proclaimed: "Yes, I'm for Hitler!"

He added, moreover, that he approved most of Hitler's acts.

"Then you favor persecuting the Jews?" he was asked.

"I am not at all squeamish about what Hitler has done to the Jews," Noble replied.

There you have a typical carrier of the Nazi Brown Plague.

When he left, a throng of elated followers crowded at his heels and shouted: "We're for Lindy!"

Author Lewis Browne tells what inspires nonentities who peddle anti-Semitism—and he offers a rule for judging the Lindbergh outburst

As for the Lindy whom Noble's followers hail, there is—as yet—insufficient evidence to convince me that he is a conscious anti-Semite. But what counts is the effect of anti-Semitic talk, not the motive. The effect is all too clear. Charles Lindbergh is feeding a contagion. He and all who echo his words are spreading a deadly plague.

Can it be halted? Yes. We must make it a crime to foment race hatred. Mr. Willkie offered that sug-

gestion. Such a law would not infringe free speech. It would not forbid us to criticize a man because of his politics, or his social notions or even his religion. Those are more or less voluntary attributes and open to change. That is why we ought al-

ways to be free to say what we please about them.

But a man cannot change his grandmother. Therefore any attack on him on account of his ancestry is palpably vicious. It cannot move him to make himself over. All it can do is stir others to hound him. So it ought to be prohibited by law.

But we must do more. We must build up a resistance to noxious myths and contagious lies.

One Lie Nailed

For example, right now we are being told that the Jews are a major factor in dragging this country into war. Well, let's subject that to a little factual scrutiny.

In the first place, if the charge were true, it would follow that war spirit would be strongest where Jews are most numerous. Is it?

The last Gallup Poll report I have seen lists Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas, Colorado, Arizona and Wyoming as the 10 most "interventionist" states.

In all of these, the proportion of Jews (a mere 0.7 of 1 per cent) is less than one fourth what it is in the 10 most "isolationist" states!

Moreover, New York, with by far the greatest density of Jewish population (17.5 per cent), is midway between the two extremes.

The conclusion is obvious. The presence of Jews has no influence whatsoever on the general sentiment for—or against—war.

Examine all the rest of the charges now being whispered or shouted against the Jews. Invariably, they are either hoary superstitions or deliberately concocted lies. And—get this straight—they are being repeated now as part of a plot to destroy not just the American Jews but the American spirit.