

Pamphlet: Anti-Semitism and the Struggle for Democracy

Extracted on Apr-18-2024 11:41:23

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the following terms.

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of African American History and Culture as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of African American History and Culture website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of African American History and Culture or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of African American History and Culture. See this project and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

Bulletin," they call upon the Negroes to follow the example of Hitler. Under Catholic auspices vicious anti-Jewish material is being circulated. Elements int he Christian Youth movement are also seeking to foment anti-Semitism. White Guard Russians, Japanese and Nazi agents are busy, striving to incite the Negroes against the Jews.

The "National American," and other anti-Semitic material which we spoke of in connection with East Harlem, are also being spread in Washington Heights, which has a large Irish-Catholic population. These instances which I have quoted reflect without doubt only a small portion of the attempt to foster hatred against the Jews in our area.

THE SOURCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Whence springs anti-Semitism? How do we explain its rapid rise today? Is it a plague against which nothing can be done, which in the scheme of things must eternally follow the Jews like an aura, unrelated to social conditions, unrelated to the struggle against fascism, as some Jewish leaders assert? Or does it stem from the Jews, as the Amsterdam News asserted in an editorial of August 27, 1938 - that "Anti-Semitism is regrettable, but the Jew himself is its author, insofar as it concerns the American Negro."

It has also been asserted that "The source of anti-Semitism everywhere is economic. That anti-Semitism is first of all a capitalist means to eliminate Jewish competitors; secondly, a means of confusing the broad masses, through a false issue, thus diverting their attention from the main enemy, the big exploiters."

The source of anti-Semitism is "economic," in the sense that it flows out

of the economic structure, which gives rise to political reaction. But can it be said that the aim of the reactionary fascist demagogues today in fomenting anti-Semitism is first of all to eliminate the Jewish competitor, or

is it their aim to use anti-Semitism as a weapon to deflect the indignation of the masses? Are not these two closely intertwined? Is not the main emphasis however upon the latter?

Take Italy, with its 40,000 Jews: is it first of all a means of eliminating the Jewish competitors? Or take South America, with a bare population of 325,000 Jews; is the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo alliance and its reactionary accomplices motivated first of all by a desire to eliminate Jewish competitors?

No one can deny, of course, that the predatory fascist bourgeoisie strives to expropriate weaker sections of the bourgeoisie. Experiences of Germany show how anti-Semitism was used by the ruling financial clique (Thyssen, Krupp, Vogler, etc.), as a mask to seize the property of the Jews. But of course, alongside of this was the object of making the Jews the scapegoats of the increasing difficulties facing the German people under fascism. To emphasize the elimination of the Jewish competitors as the primary aim of anti-Semitism, would constitute a serious hindrance to the mobilization of the broad democratic masses in the struggle against the anti-Semitism. How would it be possible, on such a basis, to show the broad masses that the fight against anti-Semitism is their fight, if we do not see or understand its real use as the chief international ideological weapon of reaction?

And further, can the term "economic" be used in the shallow, economicdeterministic, and vulgarized sense in which it is used above, as merely the question of competition: i.e., antagonism arising out of competition, as the economic divorced from the social, with which it is inextricably

Bulletin," they call upon the Negroes to follow the example

Under Catholic auspices vectors anti-lewish natural is Under Catholic angions visious astipposis natural to being devalued. Elements in the Christian Verth more-ment are also seeking to footest acti-femalies. White Gund Russians, Ipposese and Nail agons are borg, erro-ing to incite the Negroes against the Jone. The "Neirosal Awerisan," and other acti-femalie material which we spoke of in connection with East Barlers, see also

being spread in Washington Heights, which has a large Irish-Carbolic population. These instances which I have quoted reflect without doubt only a small parties of the attempt to famer hatted against the Jews in our are

THE SOURCE OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Where gring see Sersition! How do we caplain its mpd me today? In it a plages against which nothing can be done, which in the shows a which nothing can be done, which in the solives of things must creatly fol-low the Jess like as was, sarshed to social conditions, sarshind to the straggle against funders, as own Jessich loaders assert? Or date it man from the Jow, as the Am-erican Niews asserted in an effort of Angara 17, 1911— that "Anti-Sanstann is regrenable, but the Jew breath in its American Niews."

that "Aut-Sentine is represente, but the Jew hencel is six actual, insofer, as it concerns the American Negro." It has also been ascerted that "The source of ani-Sentine computers to excessive. This satisfeestive is found of all a capitalist means to eliminate Jewish competitions, secondly, as means of occlusing the broad masses, through a Date issue, thus diverting their stression from the main entang, the hig actual properties of the satisface of the satisface of the satisface.

emploters."
The source of anti-Semilion is "economic," in the source that it flows out of the economic structure, which gives rise to political reaction. But can it be said that the aim of the reactionary fuscist demagogues today in formerting anti-Scrutium is first of all to eliminate the Jewish competitor, or

is it their aim to use anti-Semitian as a weapon to defect the indignation of the masses? Are not these two closely intertwined? Is not the main emphasis however upon the

Take Indy, with its +0,000 Jewse is it first of all a means of chainzing the Jessish competions? Or take South America, with a bare population of \$15,000 Jews; is the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo alliance and its reactionary accomplices motivated first of all by a desire to eliminate Jewish competition?

No one can deny, of course, that the predatory fascist Mo one can duray, of course, that the predistry fusion bourgeoist endows to experying works arrained of the beargeoistic. Experiences of Germany show how assistences, Krepp, Veglet, etc.), as a make its axiss the propany of the Jews. Be of course, belongable of the sun the object of analog the Jews the secondary of the learning difficulties during the secondary of the Jews of Jews highlight of the Jews of the Jews of Jews highlight of the Jews of Jews of the Jews of Jews would consense a service hindrings to the meditation of the broad deservative means in the strangle against arti-Semisian. How would it be possible, on such a hast, to show the broad means that the fight against arti-Semisian is that fight, if we do not see or understood in real use as the chief international ideological weapon of reaction?

And further, can the term "conomic" be used in the shallow, economic deterministic, and vulgarised serne in which it is used above, as mentily the question of competitions tax, auragement arising out of competitions, and auragement arising out of competitions, and auragement arising out of competition, as the communic divorced from the accial, with which it is ineutripotent.

Marx declared that "In the social productions which bears beings carry on, they more than delains nistions, relations which are determined that in on any independent of their will; productive relations which are determined that in on any independent of their will; productive relations which correspond to a

interwoven? Of course not!
Marx declared that "In the social productions which human beings carry on, they enter into definite relations, relations which are determined that is to say independent of their will; productive relations correspond to a

5

Pamphlet: Anti-Semitism and the Struggle for Democracy Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers Extracted Apr-18-2024 11:41:23



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: https://transcription.si.edu
On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter

On Twitter: @TranscribeSI

Connect with the Smithsonian Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian

On Twitter: @smithsonian