

**PAUL
NOVICK**

ZIONISM TODAY

**The Zionist Movement
Labor Zionism
Palestine Realities**

Questions
— and —
Answers

TEN CENTS

Published by
THE JEWISH BURO OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE U. S. A.
New York, 1936



ZIONISM TODAY

An analysis of the proceedings of the nineteenth Zionist World Congress held in Lucerne, Switzerland, August 20-27, 1935, and a review of present conditions in Palestine.

By PAUL NOVICK

1.

THE head of the political department of the Zionist Executive Committee in Jerusalem and the actual leader of the Zionist World organization, David Ben-Gurion, stated in his report for the executive committee at the 19th Zionist Congress in Luzerne:

"The year 1933 will assume a distinctive place in our history, similar to 1897 and 1917. In this year took place fundamental changes in the position of the Jewish people. Their existence in the Diaspora was definitely endangered." (*Kongresszeitung*, official stenographic organ of the Zionist Congress, No. 3, p. 4.)

Zionism has entered its third epoch. 1897—1917—1933.

Zionism has staked its cards on the endangered existence of the Jews in the "Diaspora," that is the existence of Jews in all lands other than Palestine.

This view is not *entirely* new. Since 1897 Zionism has thrived on persecution in the "Diaspora." Its growth was retarded whenever the Jewish masses fought for improvement in their respective countries. In the "epoch" of 1897 (Herzl Zionism) when Zionism based its major activities on the six million Jews of old Russia, land of revolutionary ferment, the movement made comparatively

little headway. The expected "exodus" to Palestine did not materialize. Zionism was still less successful in the 1917 epoch (Balfour Declaration) when the magnitude of the October revolution gave impetus to a revolutionary upsurge not only throughout Europe but the entire world. The Jews of Russia, Poland and other countries thought little of migrating to Palestine. Even those groups enthusiastic for the Balfour Declaration (an enthusiasm often artificially stimulated) evinced no desire to go. The era between 1917 and 1929 inclusive (with the exception of one year, 1925), saw relatively small emigration to Palestine.

However, since the Great Crash and its prolonged world-wide capitalist depression, its economic extermination and pogroms; particularly since the advent of Hitlerism in Germany, the epoch of "upbuilding" and "prosperity," the third epoch of Zionism began.

One of the delegates of the semi-fascist Judenstaat Party, which is strongly opposed to the Histadruth (Palestine Zionist labor movements, as well as Poale-Zion from various countries), engineer Strucker characterized this epoch as follows: "It was said here," he stated from the platform of the Lucerne Congress, "that history will have something to say about the role of Zionism *under the rule of the present executive committee.*" (That is, different from what delegates of the Judenstaat Party were saying.) "But there it will read: '*Under the rule of Adolf Hitler*' . . ."

Hitler was quite often mentioned at the 19th Zionist Congress, although very seldom attacked. The Judenstaat delegates on two occasions shouted derisively in the direction of the Histadruth delegates: "Heil Hitler." The Histadruth delegates answered in kind, shouting towards the Judenstaat people: "Schuschnig agents" (meaning, agents of Italo-Austrian fascism). This is the manner in which both wings voiced their sentiments in the epoch of 1933.

only motive behind the British Mandate. The "National Home" for the Jews which the Balfour Declaration was supposed to have had in view is merely an imperialist cloak. So are the promises British imperialism gave to the Arabs. Whoever attempts to build on such promises throws the life interests of the masses of the people into the vortex of *imperialist* interests.

3. By supporting the status quo of British imperialism and by building with the aid of British imperialists the relations between Jews and Arabs in Palestine can only be worsened.

The Communists are vitally interested in the peaceful pursuit and the productivation of the Jewish masses in Palestine. Communists do not consider the Jews of Palestine the "chosen people" but neither do they regard them as step-children. The interests of the Jewish masses in Palestine as everywhere, demand that imperialism, chauvinism and racialism be combatted. These interests dictate *unity and solidarity among Jewish and Arab toilers.*

Communists have nothing but contempt for the maneuvers of the British administration in Palestine in relation to the so-called Legislative Council. Were the Zionists to fight the Council because it is intended as a plaything of the British High Commissioner, they would have been commended for their stand. But Zionist leaders of all factions and shades are against *any* Council or Parliament, against *any* introduction of democratic self-government in Palestine. For this, they deserve the contempt of all real progressives and genuine democrats. The struggle of the Zionist leadership against the introduction of real democracy into Palestine is again bound to harm the interests of the Jewish masses, in and out of Palestine, who are vitally interested in the maintenance of democratic liberties and in the struggle against autocratic rule.

All talk of the Zionist leadership about improving its

