

EDITORIAL

AN ELEMENTAL LESSON IN GEOGRAPHY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MR. MORRIS HILLQUIT, an advocate of restriction of immigration who is the Socialist party candidate for Congress in the Ninth District, alluding to the Socialist Labor Party campaign in the District, stated at his ratification meeting in Thalia Theatre on the 10th instant, that “the question of Asiatic exclusion is being injected into the Ninth Congressional District,” by the Socialist Labor Party.

Mr. Hillquit is a gentleman of such exalted veracity that when he says “the question of Asiatic exclusion is being injected into the Ninth Congressional District” by the S.L.P. he means it; he believes what he says. Is he prevaricating to cover up his tracks? Oh, no! He is guiltless of any such double-dealing. He is conscientiously convinced of the immaculate truthfulness of his utterance. A man may be truthful, as far as he knows, and yet utter an untruth, through his ignorance. This is the case with Hillquit the Truthful. He is truthful, but his geography is mixed—as hideously mixed as, according to Mr. Guy Miller, another leading guy of the S.P., the products of the mixture of “backward” and “frontward” races would be.



MORRIS HILLQUIT
(1869–1933)

If Hillquit the Truthful is right, then Europe must be in Asia; and Commissioner Bingham, when he manufactures statistics to make out the Jewish immigrants a criminal class, is simply fastening crime upon Asiatics.

Now it happens that Europe is not in Asia, and, consequently, that Jewish immigrants are not Asiatics.

Where does Asia lie?

Asia lies between the Pacific Ocean to the East; the Indian Ocean to the South; and, to the West, the Urals and Caucasus, the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmora, the

Mediterranean, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea.

Where does Europe lie?

Europe lies between the Urals and Caucasus, the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmora to the East; the Mediterranean to the South; and the Atlantic to the West.

Europe is outside of the boundaries of Asia. Europe and Asia are in distinct divisions of the earth. The people of Asia are Asiatics; the people of Europe are Europeans. The Jews whom Commissioner Bingham is trying to keep out of the country with statistical slanders, and whom Mr. Hunter, another fellow-worker with Hillquit the Truthful, correctly designates as “Polish, Roumanian and Russian Jews,” and whom he also would bar admission to the country,—these Jews come from Europe, hence are Europeans, and are of the “hordes of Europe” that Mr. Guy Miller let loose against at and without protest from the S.P. national convention.

The falsity of Hillquit the Truthful’s statement is not intentional. How unintentional the falsity is may be judged from the circumstance that Hillquit the Truthful is himself a comparatively recent arrival from Russia. Were Russia in Asia, and Russian Jews Asiatics, Hillquit the Truthful would be the first to purge the country of his “undesirable Asiatic contamination.” Such are the tangles into which lack of elemental geography regularly catch even the best of men.

In order to save Mr. Hillquit in future the distress of such ugly entanglements the above lesson in elemental geography is philanthropically bestowed upon him free, gratis and for nothing.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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