

Jewish Culture

in AMERICA

*Weapon for Jewish
Survival and Progress*

by

NATHAN AUSUBEL

20 CENTS

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Weapon for Jewish Survival and Progress

By **NATHAN AUSUBEL**

New Century Publishers: New York

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nathan Ausubel is the author of *The Story of Yiddish Literature* (published serially by the *Morning Freiheit*) and *Superman: the Life of Frederick the Great*. He has compiled and edited an anthology of Jewish folklore for publication this year. He has translated Sholem Asch's *Mother* and has edited several volumes of the annual *Voices of History*. He was for some years a contributing editor of *New Masses*.

Published by NEW CENTURY PUBLISHERS, 832 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y.
January, 1948

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We Jews are called upon today to play a double role in the tragedy of our time: it is as Jews as well as Americans. By what acrobatic rationalizations can we avoid recognizing that we have that dual identity? Even if we wish to forget it the anti-Semites are sure to remind us of it. Of late the moral climate in our country has become hideous and even alarming. Jew-baiting, always the smoke-screen of reaction, is becoming more brazen and aggressive from day to day. Is that why the sleep of so many Jews has become troubled? Out of the bitter affliction of their people they have learned to recognize the leprous face of fascism even if it modishly tries to drape itself in unsullied democratic garments.

Today, on the broad stage of the world, is being enacted the drama of life and death for mankind. The two principal protagonists are reaction and social progress. It is the lust for profits pitted against human freedom—the atom bomb against civilization.

Reaction does not sleep; it has been busily mobilizing its intellectual lackeys, all its molders of public opinion. Can we afford to underestimate its alertness and resourcefulness? It has discovered, for instance, that like the atom bomb, bacterial warfare, and jet-propelled rockets, culture

