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THE FUTURE OF YIDDISH IN AMERICA

I WHAT WENT WRONG

A historical view

1. immigration: 1870-1908 1,850,000
2. German assimilationists
3. Socialist assimilationists
4. Amer civ. and public schools vs Jew education

B psychological and sociological

1. immigrant mentality
2. Yiddish press
 - a. fatalism
 - b. Abe Cahn
 - c. own death warrant
 - d. plain Yiddish
3. lack of foresight
 - a. no ideology
 - b. Yivo example
4. facts
 - a. Literarische Bleter
 - b. 1915: 605,000 - 1940: 403,000

II WHO NEEDS YIDDISH?

A language as an end

1. Jewish people need a Jewish language
2. Anglo-Jewish: self-deception
3. Yiddish cultural life in the world
 - a. press - worldwide
 - b. Yidisher Shrayber Farayn

C. libraries

d. remnants of theatre

e. cultural evenings: Warsaw Ghetto, Yizkor for soviet writers etc

B language as a means (not idol worship)

1. strengthen tie to Judaism - assimilation
2. values & weltanschauung
3. vehicle of Jewish expression

III THE FUTURE OF YIDDISH IN AMERICA

A academic future

1. list of universities
2. no living Jewish value
3. like Aramaic

B as a language of the people

1. Czernowitz 1908
2. assumes cultural pluralism

b. YIVO example
4. facts

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B as a language of the people

1. Czernowitz 1908

2. assumes cultural pluralism

3. against mainstream of Amer society

4. no social pressure

C. no future at all

D. cellular Yiddishism + the Yugendtruf

1. compromise

2. elementary & adult education

3. home supplements school (M. Sachs)

4. web of cells

5. could support Yiddish creativity

6. intellectual + minority movement
cross current