

What Does Patriotism Mean to You?

American Jews and World War I (1917-1918)

Discovering
American
Jewish History
Through
Objects

01 THE LAW AND THE LAND

If the government has the power to enforce laws in its locale, then its laws are law, for the principle is that the law of the land is law.

אם השלטון הזה יש בו כח לעשות חקים בעירו דינו דין
דקיימא לן דינא דמלוכתא דינא.

Rashba Responsa 1.612

WHAT I LOVE 08

I love hot dogs, like any other American. I love football like any other American. But I don't love segregation. I don't love riots. I don't love oppression. I don't love gender slander. And I just want to see people have equality that they deserve.

Michael Bennett, NFL defensive end, August 13, 2017

02 LET'S ALL BE AMERICANS NOW

— What do you think it meant to "be American now?"

But you'll agree / That, now is the time, / To fall in line. / You swore that you would so be true to your vow, / Let's all be Americans now.

"Let's All Be Americans Now," lyrics and music by Irving Berlin, Edgar Leslie, and George W. Meyer, 1917

03 REMEMBER...

We, who came from Europe, came here looking to America as the promised land. I came believing that liberty was a fact. And when we today resent war and resent conscription, it is not that we are foreigners and don't care, it is precisely because we love America and we are opposed to war.

"We Don't Believe in Conscription," speech by Emma Goldman delivered at the Harlem River Casino, New York City, May 18, 1917

04 THIS IS THE WAR

— Have you ever made a personal sacrifice for something you believe in?

Remember this is not a war — it is the war. It is the contest of the ages, which we and our allies together can make the last human holocaust, if we be mighty in war and even mightier in the generousities and magnanimities of peace. Your sons have taken up arms not to slay, but to bring the hope of unbroken life to countless generations unborn.

"What are we Fighting For?" radio address by Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, November 1918

ESPIONAGE ACT 07

Whoever... shall willfully make or convey false reports or false statements with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the United States or to promote the success of its enemies and... shall willfully cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, refusal of duty, in the military or naval forces... or shall willfully obstruct the recruiting or enlistment service... shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than twenty years, or both.

Espionage Act of 1917, passed by Congress on June 15, 1917

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR SHOT 06

Raise a glass to freedom / Something they can never take away / No matter what they tell you.

"The Story of Tonight," Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Hamilton: An American Musical*, 2015

TWO AMERICAS 05

Very few Americans, and this includes very few Jews, wish to believe that the American Negro situation is as desperate and dangerous as it is. Very few Americans, and very

few Jews, have the courage to recognize that the America of which they dream and boast is not the America in which the Negro lives. It is a country which the Negro has never seen. And this is not merely a matter of bad faith on the part of Americans.

James Baldwin, "Negroes Are Anti-Semitic Because They're Anti-White," *The New York Times*, April 9, 1967



Poster, *United Behind the Service Star*
National Museum of American Jewish History, 2006.1.1162
Peter H. Schweitzer Collection of Jewish Americana

— How can you "raise a glass to freedom" in your own life?