

Social psychology symbolic interactionism assignment

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The great Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann wrote over a century ago: "Spiritual rottenness is no less horrendous than physical insecurity." He added: "The dangers of spiritual impoverishment were greatest exactly where external pressures were weakest or non-existent." Today, this quote speaks much more than in the past to the American Jews. While there are isolated cases of anti-Semitism there aren't real physical problems or many external pressures facing American Jews. The biggest problem is one of Jewish continuity.

There are only some programs succeeding in educating or exciting the next generation of American Jews. Judaism suffers an integration and demographic problem. Many Jews marry non-Jewish partners. This wouldn't be a problem if the non-Jewish partners converted, but many don't want to do it. But the worst is that the Jewishness is passed down maternally, so if a male Jew marries a female gentile, his descendants won't be Jews. That's why the population is growing so slowly and it barely even with the death rate.

Moreover, many Jews grow up without a full understanding of their heritage and religion. They lose their religious observance and thus cannot teach their children observances and so on. Couple the integration problems with low religious observance and you get a slowly declining population who is unaware of their religion. Trends What about the American Jews? In this following graphic we can see that Jewish people are more Democrat than the average population.