

The Dreyfus Affair: A Turning Point in French Society and Politics

The Dreyfus Affair was a major scandal that shook France in the late 19th century. It began with the wrongful conviction of Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish army officer, for treason.



The Dreyfus Affair in French Society and Politics

by Eric Cahm

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Dreyfus was accused of selling military secrets to Germany. The evidence against him was flimsy, but he was convicted anyway. The verdict was a miscarriage of justice, and it sparked a wave of anti-Semitism in France.

The Dreyfus Affair divided French society. Some people believed that Dreyfus was guilty, while others believed that he was innocent. The affair became a national obsession, and it was debated in newspapers, magazines, and public forums.

In 1898, the writer Émile Zola published an open letter in the newspaper L'Aurore. The letter, which became known as "J'Accuse", accused the French government of covering up the truth about the Dreyfus Affair. Zola was tried for libel, but he was acquitted.

The Dreyfus Affair finally came to an end in 1906, when Dreyfus was exonerated and reinstated in the army. The affair had a profound impact on French society and politics. It exposed the anti-Semitism that was rampant in France at the time, and it led to a number of reforms in the French justice system.

The Dreyfus Affair: A Timeline

* **1894:** Alfred Dreyfus is arrested for treason. * **1895:** Dreyfus is convicted and sentenced to life in prison. * **1898:** Émile Zola publishes "J'Accuse". * **1899:** Dreyfus is retried and again convicted. * **1906:** Dreyfus is exonerated and reinstated in the army.

The Dreyfus Affair: Key Figures

* **Alfred Dreyfus:** The Jewish army officer who was wrongly convicted of treason. * **Émile Zola:** The writer who published "J'Accuse" and helped to expose the truth about the Dreyfus Affair. * **Georges Clemenceau:** The French prime minister who finally exonerated Dreyfus.

The Dreyfus Affair: Impact on French Society and Politics

The Dreyfus Affair had a profound impact on French society and politics. It exposed the anti-Semitism that was rampant in France at the time, and it led to a number of reforms in the French justice system. The affair also helped to shape the development of modern French political thought.



The Dreyfus Affair in French Society and Politics

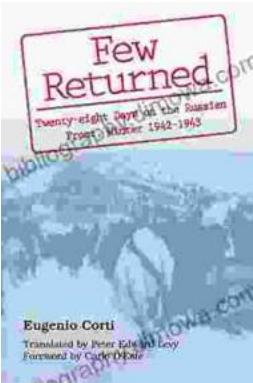
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