

TIMELINE: Herzl Part 2 – The Dreyfus Affair

1894 Torn up military secrets are discovered in wastepaper basket of the German military attaché in Paris. They point to evidence of a French spy.

1894 In December, the French military convicts Captain Alfred Dreyfus as the spy, in large part because he is a Jew.

1895 On January 5, Dreyfus is publicly degraded in the courtyard of the Ecole Militaire in Paris. The crowd shouts “Death to the Jews!” Theodor Herzl, who covers the trial for his newspaper, observes the event.

1895 On April 2, almost exactly three months after the trial, in Herzl’s hometown of Vienna, elections bring to power an anti-Semitic party led by Karl Lueger.

1895 In May, Herzl writes what becomes his greatest work *The Jewish State* in which he sets down his plan for the answer to antisemitism – Jewish statehood.

1896 The Dreyfus Affair returns to the spotlight when a French officer, Georges Picquart, who is not Jewish, discovers the identity of the real spy, Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy.

1898 On January 9, the French military takes Esterhazy into custody. He is quickly acquitted.

1898 On January 13, famous French writer Emile Zola publishes *J’Accuse*, accusing the French military of a cover-up.

1899 Dreyfus is brought back from Devil’s Island in 1899 and re-tried. He is again found guilty. International outrage leads the French premier to pardon him.

1899 Herzl writes, “The Dreyfus case embodies more than a judicial error; it embodies the desire of the vast majority of the French to condemn a Jew.”