

The Exhibition:

THE PLACARD WITH THE DATA ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS AND SPONZORS OF THE EXHIBITION

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3. THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC; SOME DATA ABOUT THE THIRD REPUBLIC
4. THE OVERTURE IN THE AFFAIR: THE ARMY IN THE THIRD REPUBLIC AND THE FOUNDATION OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE; THE OUTBRAKE OF THE AFFAIR AND ITS STAGES
5. THE DREYFUS FAMILY TREE; THE FIRST TRIAL AT THE COUNCIL OF WAR (Paris, 1894)
6. THE EXILE TO THE DEVIL`S ISLAND (1895-1899); THE SECOND TRIAL AT THE COUNCIL OF WAR (Rennes, 1899)
7. FROM THE MINUTES OF DREYFUS AND THE CORRESPONDENCES; THE FIRST SUPPORTERS AND ADVOCATES OF ALFRED DREYFUS
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The exhibition was prepared by the students of the Faculty of humanistic studies of the University in the Primorska region in Koper in the academic year 2007/2008 under the direction of mentors Taja Kramberger, PhD. and Drago B. Rotar, PhD. within the framework of subjects »Elements of the historical anthropology« and »Imaginarities, mentalities, exclusive ideology«.

THE DREYFUS AFFAIR

(1894-1906)

Maribor Synagogue, 5 September-19 November 2010



On the 22nd December 1894 the artillery officer Alfred Dreyfus was unjustly condemned for high treason; therefore a crisis broke out in France, which did not end till 1906. In the violent engagement, which background presents a powerful wave of anti-Semitism, the holders of republican and those of the old regime (monarchic) values exchanged several blows.

The Dreyfus Affair, which plays an important role in the history of France, was not bordered only in France. And what is more, it is also an important European event that on one hand is a sign of an uncontrollable outbreak of hatred against the Jews and the invigoration of the extreme Right, but on the other it formed republican

values, a critical intellectual and social equality (law, truth and society), and at the same time it was followed by deep social prejudices and collective invented stories. With a resolute appearance of Émile Zola on the side of Dreyfus` innocence the affair moves from a private and limited juristic sphere to a critical social sphere, into public.

The meaning of the Dreyfus Affair is nowadays invaluable: it reminds on the national deportment and on the revolt against each tyranny in the abstract *raison d'État*; it emphasizes the democratic values of the republic and the freedom of the individual as a constitutional category for the social cohesion and it presents the crucial meaning of the public sphere as a regulating space of confrontation and struggle for justice of each individual and each social group.

Chronology of the Dreyfus Affair 1894–1906

»Dreyfus is innocent, I take my oath for that. I even stake my honour and my life. At this solemn moment, in the presence of the court of justice which represents the human rights and in front of the jury, the emanation of the nation, before the entire France and the whole world I swear that Dreyfus is not guilty. And with everything I reached and the reputation I gained, by all the works that contributed to the expansion of the literacy in France, I swear that Dreyfus is innocent. Let everything tumble and let my works fall in ruins, if Dreyfus is not innocent! He is innocent.

It seems that everything turned against me; both chambers, civil and military authorities, public opinion; everything poisoned by the newspapers with a large circulation. There is only the idea, the model of truth and justice on my side. And I feel confident and calm, and willing to prevail. I didn't want my homeland to stay in lies and injustice. Accuse me here. One day France will thank me for saving its honour.«

Émile Zola

The statement to the jury (at trial against Émile Zola, 21 February 1898)

1859

9 October – the birth date of Alfred Dreyfus (Mulhouse)

1894

The beginning of August – Esterhazy writes the *bordereau*

6 October – lieutenant colonel d'Abboville, vice president of the 4th biro of general staff, accuses Dreyfus of writing the *bordereau*

15 October – Dreyfus is arrested and sent to the Cherche-Midi prison facilities near Paris

29 October – the commander du Paty de Clam, after several interrogations, informs in writing the general de Boisdeffre (the chief of general staff), that the evidences against Dreyfus, which the accusation stands on, are questionable.

22 December – in front of the court of war on the 1st trial, Dreyfus was accused of high treason (*haute trahison*)

1895

5 January – Dreyfus's military degradation

18 January – Dreyfus is sent to the Saint-Martin penitentiary on Île-de-Ré

21 February – Dreyfus is embarked on the ship for Îles du Salut

13 April – Dreyfus is sent to the penal colony at Devil's Island (Île du Diable) in French Guiana

1896

March – the document *petit bleu* is revealed

The beginning of September – Picquart acquaints himself with the secret document and realizes that the *bordereau* was written by Esterhazy

14 September – *L'Éclair* (anti-Semitic newspaper) publishes the article where they reveal the second secret document

1 November – lieutenant Henry begins to complete a forgery to additionally make the situation worse for Dreyfus

1897

20–29 June – Picquart meets with his lawyer Louis Leblois (subject: Dreyfus's innocence and Esterhazy's guilt)

1898

10–11 January – the process and acquittal of Esterhazy

13 January – Zola's open letter »J'Accuse ...!« (»I accuse ...!«) is published in Clemenceau's newspaper *L'Aurore*

12–13 July – Esterhazy is arrested and convicted for deceiving his nephew and sending the forged telegram to Picquart; Picquart is arrested and convicted for »revealing of confidential military documents«

18–19 July– Zola is convicted once again and to avoid the imprisonment he fled to England

24 August – Esterhazy in front of the court of inquiry

30–31 August – after the confession that he forged the documents, Henry finds himself in great distress and commits a suicide; the general Boisdeffre resigns

8 December – Picquart, convicted of fraud and the violation of spy law, wins on the Supreme Court, which drops the case

1899

3 June– the court annuls the verdict from 1894 and sends the Dreyfus case to the district court in Rennes. *Le Matin* interviews Esterhazy, who confesses to write the *bordereau*, but at the same time stresses that he was ordered to do so and this action was also familiar to the military commander and the secretary of war

9 June – Dreyfus leaves the Devil's Island and heads to France; Picquart was released from the imprisonment after 324 days

7 August – the beginning of the process in Rennes

9 September – the Dreyfus's second conviction (with »extenuating circumstances«)

20 September – the court in Rennes sentences Dreyfus to 10 years »with extenuating circumstances«

1902

29–30 September – Zola died of carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a stopped chimney at his home

1903

6–7 April – Jaurès demands the investigation of the *bordereau*

26 November – the demand for the revision of the Dreyfus's process

1904

3–5 March – the department for criminology decides to re-open the Rennes case

1906

12 July – the court of appeal annuls the verdict from Rennes

13 July – Dreyfus and Picquart are reinstated into the French army

21 July – Dreyfus is awarded »the Knight's Cross in the Legion of Honour« by École Militaire in Paris

15 October – Dreyfus, as a commander of squadron, was appointed for an artillery officer

1935

12 July – Alfred Dreyfus dies in Paris