



These notes represent a detailed interpretation of the professor's lecture. These notes are not a transcript of the lecture. TakeNote® is best used as a supplement to your own notes, not as a substitute.

Lecture Date: Monday, March 14, 2005

Announcements: The last Symposium Post has been pushed back to March 27th at 5 pm.

I. An Affair to Remember: The Dreyfus Affair and How it Changed the World

- A. In 1894, a French spy infiltrated the German embassy. While there, he found handwritten documents that contained French military secrets, which meant there was a traitor in the upper ranks of the French military.
1. Suspicion immediately fell on Alfred Dreyfus and he was found guilty twice before being exonerated.
 2. This affair is symbolic of the times, and demonstrates the rapidly diverging political spectrum with Liberals (anti-clerical, republican) and Right wing conservatives (Catholic, pro-monarchy) facing off.
 3. It also marks the rise of political anti-Semitism. The trial was not about who he was, but *what* he was: a Jew.

II. Background: Growing Divide

- A. France after 1848 was the Second Republic (1848-1852). It was very tumultuous, and divided between socialists and nationalists. This eventually led to the Second Republic's downfall.
- B. The fall of the Second Republic led to the Second Empire (1852-1870). Louis Napoleon II, Napoleon Bonaparte's nephew was Emperor. It ended with the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, when Germany united, and the Second Empire, which lost the war, was discredited. Bismark, the leader in Germany, used war against France to unify Germany.
- C. The Second Empire was replaced by the Third Republic (1870-1940). Many monarchists remained, and undermined the government. It was very "left vs. right" dominated.
- D. The Left: Liberalism.
1. Liberalism is a nebulous term, but best described as the belief that the individual is the most important unit of law.
 2. They fought for the expansion of the vote and the abolition of serfdom.
- E. The Rise of the Right
1. The Right wanted the restoration of the monarchy. It also tended to be xenophobic, which means to have a fear of foreigners. In this case, the concern was directed especially towards Protestants, Germans, and Jews.

III. The Dreyfus Affair

1. Soon after Dreyfus was arrested for treason, his "nationality" as a Jew became an issue. Because he was a Jew, he was considered an outsider.