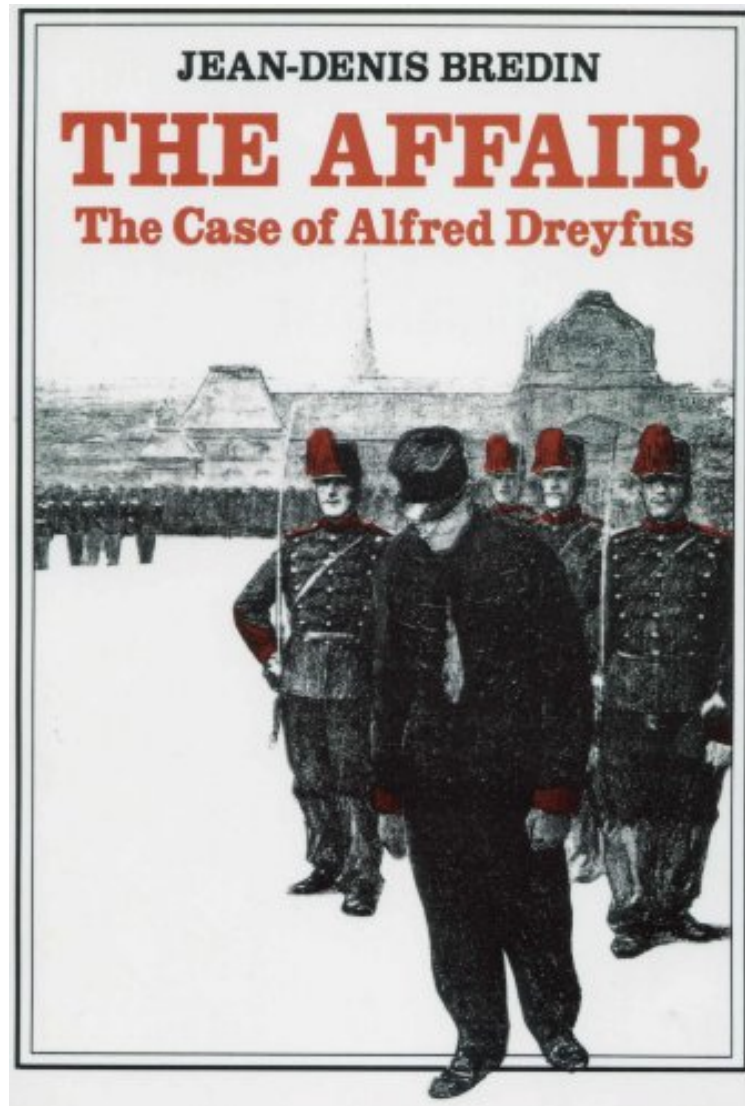


[Free] The Affair: The Case of Alfred Dreyfus (English Edition)

The Affair: The Case of Alfred Dreyfus (English Edition)

Von Jean-Denis Bredin

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Von Jean-Denis Bredin : The Affair: The Case of Alfred Dreyfus (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Affair: The Case of Alfred Dreyfus (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Required reading?Von Timothy R. O'NeillI first read a concise account of the Dreyfus affair in William Shirer's "Collapse of the Third Republic," where it was treated principally as the story of the "incredible irresponsibility and venality of the Paris press." From Shirer's account, I found it hard to understand how so much willful stupidity and

dishonesty could endure for so long and survive so many assaults by reason. Bredin makes the answer all too clear. Of the principal players in this horror show, Dreyfus himself comes across as painfully ordinary -- perhaps because the speed of his court-martial, degradation, and incarceration on Devil's Island left him arguably the least informed Frenchman on the details of his conviction. The bitter image of Dreyfus, incommunicado in a stucco hut while France was tearing itself apart, is clearest and most poignant for me. It is also the story of incredibly amateurish and unprofessional intelligence services leading France and Germany ever closer to disaster by their ludicrous escapades. But the stories of the incredibly frivolous Maximilian von Schwartzkoppen, who tore up secret correspondence and threw it into a wastebasket to be emptied by a concierge in French service, or the crude and duplicitous Hubert Henry are small potatoes indeed in the general panorama of madness on the eve of a new century in the City of Light. Bredin also makes clear the isolation of a few honest men -- Henri Picquart, Emile Zola, and a few statesmen -- in a turbulent riot of righteous scoundrels, conspiracy theorists, and terrified politicians (sound familiar?). Also made a little -- but not much -- more comprehensible by Bredin is the stubborn unwillingness of the officers of the French Army -- even those who knew or suspected details of the fraud that had sent Dreyfus into exile -- to countenance the simple admission of error and restoration of justice that would have done credit to French institutions. But senior officers had woven a tangled web of lies that finally bound them in rote denial, and may ultimately have prepared the way for disasters that eventually devoured the Republic. Read this book, and read it carefully. Then watch an investigative report on television, and check out the background for yourself. It's scary.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Comprehensive Von Customer The Dreyfus Affair had ramifications which ring into the late 20th century. This book gives all of the facts and details. There is not much *feeling* for the characters, but this is history and not historical fiction.

Kurzbeschreibung On an autumn morning in 1894, Captain Dreyfus was summoned to appear for a routine inspection; instead, as he took down a letter dictated by a senior officer, he was summarily accused of high treason. So began a twelve-year series of events that included his imprisonment on Devils Island, the publication of Emile Zola's passionate *J'accuse*, the Rennes retrial, and the pardon and final rehabilitation of 1906. As the Dreyfus case turned into the Affair, the history of a single military career came to display the conflicts that were tearing France apart: military defeat, anti-Semitic furor, and the place of traditional values in a country still reeling from the turbulence of the French Revolution. Told with an historian's insight and a novelist's skill, *The Affair* makes fascinating and informative reading about one of the most celebrated episodes in modern history. There have been many books about the Dreyfus Affair, but Jean-Denis Bredin's book is one of the best of them: lucid, well-organized, informed by a fine sense of drama. John Gross, *The New York Times* [a] critically acclaimed study Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* If one is limited to a single book about the Dreyfus case and its consequences, this should be it. Bredin has told this story with precision, passion, and a vivid sense of character. *The New York Times* of Books A brilliant and fascinating book. What is most remarkable about *The Affair* is the skill and sensitivity with which the author places it in its essential historical setting. It is also a gripping though terrible story superbly told. *The Atlantic* This is the most judicious and absorbing account to date of the Dreyfus Case. *The Boston Globe* This is certainly the best book on the Dreyfus case now available in the English language. *San Francisco Examiner* Bredin is crystal clear in his gripping narrative of the complex case. His tapestry glows with all the color of the Belle Époque and its extravagances. *Chicago Sun-Times* There have been other books on the Affair, but I can't imagine any of them coming even close to Bredin's work. He is brilliant at placing the myriad elements of the Affair in context with verve and lucidity. It should be a model for future historians. *San Francisco Chronicle*

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