The Dreyfus Affair

*Burn the witch! Drown the witch! Kill the witch!* Nowadays, witchcraft seems to be anachronistic and a topic of long gone history, like that of medieval England or early American colonization. However, unlike common perception, witchcraft is still being practiced by people with intentional purposes of falsely accusing and depreciating others. Like the unfounded allegations forged by Thomas Putnam in *the Crucible*, French governmental elites falsely accuse Alfred Dreyfus for committing espionage despite lacking substantial evidence. The Dreyfus affair, an epitome of modern day witchcraft, is the diabolical creation by the anti-Semitic staff to cast out Dreyfus, Jewish outsider. Their malicious scheme, bolstered by national wide anti-Semitism and growing nationalistic movements, provided the means to accomplish the following: solidify their positions, annihilate the Jews, and eliminate potential adversaries.

Following the termination of the French Revolution, immigrants from diverse nations poured in France to find opportunity in the resurging nation; Jewish immigrants were the dominant species of all. Their smooth assimilation and quick ascension in French society caused them to be targets of loathsome. Iconoclastic figures like Voltaire started sharing radical views; he claimed that Jewish people are nothing more than ignorant, filthy creatures. “In short, we find in them only an ignorant and barbarous people… most detestable superstition… most invincible hatred…” (Voltaire). His radical ideologue indoctrinated the minds of French people deeply and brought forth the Anti-Semitism in France.