1. Record Nr. UNINA9910456876703321 Autore **Begley Louis Titolo** Why the Dreyfus Affair matters [[electronic resource] /] / Louis Begley New Haven, : Yale University Press, c2009 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-282-35349-7 9786612353499 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (208 p.) Why X matters Collana Disciplina 944.081/2 Trials (Treason) - Political aspects - France Soggetti Antisemitism - France - History - 19th century Electronic books. France History Third Republic, 1870-1940 Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- One. "If they haven't been ordered to convict him, he will be acquitted this evening" -- Two. "The past is never dead" -- Three. "What do you care if that Jew stays on Devil's Island?" -- Four. "The truth marches on and nothing will stop it" -- Five. "Dreyfus was rehabilitated, Picquart became minister of war, and nobody said boo" -- Cast of Characters --Chronology -- Notes -- Index In December 1894, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, a brilliant French artillery Sommario/riassunto officer and a Jew of Alsatian descent, was court-martialed for selling secrets to the German military attaché in Paris based on perjured testimony and trumped-up evidence. The sentence was military degradation and life imprisonment on Devil's Island, a hellhole off the coast of French Guiana. Five years later, the case was overturned, and eventually Dreyfus was completely exonerated. Meanwhile, the Dreyfus Affair tore France apart, pitting Dreyfusards-committed to restoring freedom and honor to an innocent man convicted of a crime committed by another-against nationalists, anti-Semites, and militarists who preferred having an innocent man rot to exposing the crimes committed by ministers of war and the army's top brass in order to

secure Dreyfus's conviction. Was the Dreyfus Affair merely another

instance of the rise in France of a virulent form of anti-Semitism? In Why the Dreyfus Affair Matters, the acclaimed novelist draws upon his legal expertise to create a riveting account of the famously complex case, and to remind us of the interest each one of us has in the faithful execution of laws as the safeguard of our liberties and honor.