1880's and 1890's antisemitism in newspapers and journals

*Civiltà Cattolica* = Jesuit journal in Rome, established in 1850– informal Vatican paper – every article cleared by papal secretariat of state. 
*L'Osservatore Romano* = official Vatican paper.
*La Croix* = French Catholic press of the Assumptionist* congregation. readership in Paris 170,000; north – another 100,000.
La Bonne Presse = largest Catholic publishing house in France; published *La Croix* and others.
*La Libre Parole, L'Intransigeant, Le Pèlerin, L'univers* = antisemitic newspapers.

*The Roman Catholic Assumptionist order revolutionized pressure group media ... vigorously advocated for traditional Catholicism ... most modern technology and distribution systems, with regional editions tailored to local taste. Secularists and Republicans recognized *La Croix* as a great (greatest?) enemy, especially when it took the lead in attacking Dreyfus as a traitor and stirring up antisemitism.

1880's
The Jews -- eternal insolent children, obstinate, dirty, thieves, liars, ignoramuses, pests and the scourge of those near and far . . . managed to lay their hands on . . . all public wealth . . . and virtually alone they took control not only of all the money . . . but of the law itself in those countries where they have been allowed to hold public offices . . . [yet they complain] at the first shout by anyone who dares raise his voice against this barbarian invasion by an enemy race, hostile to Christianity and to society in general.” - 1880 *Civiltà Cattolica*. Typical of articles in *Civiltà Cattolica* and articles in similar periodicals throughout Europe in late 19th - early 20th. (K p136.4)

“Oh how wrong and deluded are those who think Judaism is just a religion, like Catholicism, Paganism, Protestantism, and not in fact a race, a people, and a nation! . . . For the Jews are not only Jews because of their religion . . . they are Jews also and especially because of their race.” *Civiltà Cattolica* 1880 (K pg 137)

1890's
To summarize, wherever in European christendom there are Jews who enjoy civil equality, journalism, press and education either are subject to their monopoly or have to suffer under the pernicious influences of their anti-Christian bent. *Civiltà Cattolica* October 1890
Let us not speak of France. In general, all of the republican newspapers which are printed there stem from Jewish hotbeds. ... entirely Jewish is the pornographic and irreligious press which sullies the country and has no equal in any civilized place. And as Judaism has control of the daily newspapers and books there, thus it has control of education also, in such a way that the majority of the texts being imposed on the elementary schools have been compiled by Hebrews... Civiltà Cattolica – 1890

Traitor: The corollary of this situation is that the Jew nowhere has his fatherland, i.e., the land of his fathers, and therefore that corollary is the patriotism of which he permanently boasts and for whose apostle he passes himself off, but only in order to reach his goal of ruining and devouring the nations which have accorded him the right of citizenship. A bold imposture....1890 Civiltà Cattolica

(quotes from La Civiltà cattolica Series XIV, Vol. VII, Fascicule 961, 23 October 1890)
“One day, a Jew steals secret documents; the next day the same Jew grimaces as he sells papers to a German. The homeland is to be found wherever the money is good.”... La Croix 1894

“Jewry... has rotted out everything... it is a horrid cancer... The Jews are vampires... leading France into slavery;... whether the order be to rob, corrupt, or betray our country, the Jew always leads the charge...”...“The frightful Jews, vomited up into France by the ghettos of Germany, can barely jabber our language.” La Croix, 1894

“ Our society has already been punished, but its suffering is not at an end- our treasures, our banks, our papers, our railroads, , and our army are caught in the spiderweb of Judaism” La Croix 1894 179.2 soul

We know well that the Jew was the inventor of our anti-Christian laws, that he put them on the stage like the puppetmaster, concealed behind a curtain, pulls the string which makes the devil appear... you don’t have to be a great scholar to understand that law which removes the crucifix from hospitals and schools comes from the same Pharisee who ... persuaded people to vote for the death of Jesus. The subtle alliance of all the makers of the anti-Christian laws, with the powerful Dreyfus syndicate, leaves no room for doubt. Destroy the army, destroy the religious order and let the Jew reign! That is the goal. La Croix, Jan 28, 1898
The real mistake was not the judicial error conceived by Dreyfus’ coreligionists but the granting of the rights of citizenship to Jews in the eighteenth Century Revolution. *Civiltà cattolica* (quoted in *Soul of France*, p 207)

A majority might have cheered the Jesuit journal *Civiltà cattolica* for asserting that the real mistake was not the “judical error” trumped up by Dreyfus' coreligionists* but the granting of the rights of citizenship to Jews … (BW pg 207)

*refers to “A Judicial Error” by Bernard Lazare.

La Croix called for the expulsion of the Jews in France. The Jew was “ … the enemy within, inassimilable, irreducibly opposed to our traditions, our way of life …” *La Croix* (BW p207)

“Waldeck, lawyer to Eiffel and Dreyfus, is presiding over the Witches' Sabbath just to save an ignoble Jew” fumed *L’Intransigeant* (BW p 221).

1897 Jews, Freemasons, socialists … were all to be combatted “ for the defense of civil society and of the cross of Jesus Christ,” declared Henri Delassus, a canon specially honored by the pope, in his diocesan weekly, *La Semaine religieuse*. “Anti-Semitism must be part and parcel of Catholicism.” (FB pg 247)

1898
"Masonry and Judaism sprung up together to combat and to destroy Christianity …” Feb 1898 *L’Osservatore Romano* (BW p205)

“… the Jewish race, the deicide people … brings with it everywhere the pestiferous breath of treason. And so too in the Dreyfus case … it is hardly surprising if we again find the Jew in the front ranks, or if we find that the betrayal of one's country has been Jewishly inspired and Jewishly executed …the Jew was created by God to serve as a spy whenever treason is afoot …” *Civiltà cattolica* during Zola's trial (1898) (FB p 216)

In 1898 the Vatican newspaper *L’Osservatore Romano* published this broadside:

“Jewry can not longer be excused or rehabilitated. The Jew possesses the largest share of all wealth, movable and immovable …. The credit of State is in the hands of a few Jews. One finds Jews in the ministries, the civil service, the armies and the navies, the universities and in control of the press … If there is one nation that more than any other has the right to turn to anti-semitism, it is France, which first gave their political rights to the Jews, and which was thus the first to prepare the way for its own servitude to them. *L’Osservatore Romano*. 1898
But the most dramatic action was that pursued by the Augustinian Fathers of the Assumption, thanks to the Maison de la Bonne Presse [Catholic publisher, umbrella for many periodicals, newspapers], a formidable arsenal at the service of Catholic thought and which, as of 1897, devoted an essential portion of its publication to the struggle against the Jews. In 1897, *Le Pèlerin* was appearing in editions of 40,000 copies, while *La Croix* printed more than 170,000.* *La Croix*, which called itself the “most anti-Jewish newspaper in France,” as well as the numerous publications surrounding it, derived from the “renewal of the Affair” as of December 1897 a new source of fury. At that point the anti-Semitism of the Bonne Presse was to know no bounds. In February 1898, Abbé Loutil, a normally moderate columnist, entitled an editorial devoted to Zola, “Disembowel Him!” ... *La Croix* would take a full page to reproduce a poster: “Judas Dreyfus has sold France... The Jews have snatched, sullied, and destroyed everything... Let us unite to smash Jewish omnipotence and boot the Jews out of France.” July, 1898 *La Croix* (B p 289.2)

*To those newspapers may be added the provincial *Croix*, nearly a hundred publications adapted for regional audiences and spreading the Assumptionist ideology.

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K = *Popes Against the Jews* by David I. Kerstner  
FB = *The Soul of France* by Frederick Brown  
B= *The Affair* by Jean-Denis Bredin