

Colonel Alfred Redl — Spy of the Century?

Michael Brodskiy

Professor: J. Burds

September 19, 2022

- Habsburg Empire preceding the 20th century
 - Franz Joseph became the emperor of the Habsburg Empire in 1848
 - Major defeats in France and Sardinia
- Alfred Redl the person
 - Lower class scholarship student, not aristocracy
 - Very eager to please and ambitious — homosexual favors, informant against fellow soldiers, discretion, advanced him rapidly
 - Fluent in Polish, Ukrainian, German, and Russian (after spending a year there in 1900)
 - Idolized by younger officers, although few knew him
 - Colonel Marchenko “Clever, reserved, concentrated, and efficient” versus “Greedy, but technically perfect Austrian spymaster”
- Recruitment by the Russians
 - Initial acquaintance with the Russians began sometime in 1901
- Redl’s Sloppy Style of Espionage
 - Exchange of information with Russians
 - Redl’s enormous debts
 - Extremely lavish lifestyle
 - Redl’s close call to almost being caught
- How did Redl affect the Habsburg Empire
 - Type of information betrayed to the Russians
 - Russian counterintelligence gained control of Austria-Hungary’s entire offensive and defensive espionage plans
 - Redl betrayed both agents of the Habsburg Empire and Russian agents
 - Huge psychological blow to Habsburg Empire