American Politics and Society
From the American Indians to Watergate
American Indians and the American West, 1809-1971

This module delivers collections from the U.S. National Archives and the Chicago History Museum, as well as first-hand accounts on Indian Wars and westward migration.

Researchers will find meaningful focus on American Indians in 20th century – a period typically not studied in as much detail as the calamitous 19th century – via two major archives: records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and records from the Major Council Meetings of American Indian Tribes. In addition, the module offers several other excellent collections on American Indian life and politics in the 19th century. Records of the Indian Division of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior highlight the tensions caused by the westward expansion of the post-Civil War years.

Closely related to this collection are several series of records covering post-Civil War U.S. Army actions in the West, including material from the Departments of New Mexico, Oregon, Northwest, and Columbia, as well as a fascinating series on the U.S. Army Department of Arizona’s 1886 campaign to track down and capture the Apache leader, Geronimo.

A series of records on Indian Removal to the West, 1832-1840 from the Office of Commissary General of Subsistence consists of letters and reports by Indian agents, other government employees, individual Indians, and other citizens.

Thomas A. Edison Papers (1850-1919)

More than anyone of his time, Thomas Edison integrated the worlds of science, technology, business, and finance; his work laid the foundation for the age of electricity, recorded sound and motion pictures. The life, work and vision of Edison are documented in rich primary-source content: laboratory notebooks, diaries, business records, correspondence and related materials, all easily searchable for scholars, students and faculty.

Immigration: Records of the INS, 1880-1930

Immigration: Records of the INS, 1880-1930 shows researchers the investigations made during the massive wave of U.S immigrants at the turn of the 20th century. The files cover Japanese and Chinese immigration to California, Hawaii and other states; Mexican immigration from 1906-1930; and European immigration. There are also extensive files on the Immigration & Naturalization Service’s regulation of prostitution, white slavery and suppression of radical aliens.

Law and Society Since the Civil War: American Legal Manuscripts from the Harvard Law School Library (1858-1976)

This module’s 11 collections from the Harvard Law School Library – going back as far as 1861 with the papers of Oliver Wendell Holmes – highlights three Supreme Court Justices, the first Black federal judge, high-profile cases, and insights into developing ideologies. The Papers of Louis D. Brandeis and Felix Frankfurter not only provide a behind-the-scenes view of the Supreme Court between 1919 and 1961, they offer revelations into how the court approached the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision.

See the collection list under view title list at proquest.com/pdpq/historyvault
Workers, Labor Unions, and the American Left in the 20th Century

This historic collection opens with the Strike Files of the U.S. Department of Justice, a remarkably complete record of the DOJ’s evolving policies of intervention in labor disputes and documentation on the major strikes from 1894-1920. Records of the Woodrow Wilson Administration consist of Papers of the National War Labor Board (NWLB), Papers of the President’s Mediation Commission, and records of the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations. The NWLB records provide a vivid look at the daily operations of private industry during a time of radical social change.

The Papers of the President’s Mediation Commission cover, among other events, the infamous 1917 deportation of Arizona miners affiliated with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) and the tumult among workers in the Chicago meat-packing industry. Government surveillance files of U.S. Military Intelligence Reports on radicals contain significant records of IWW strikes and organizing efforts during and after World War I. There are also files on anarchist, socialist, social democratic, and libertarian groups. Other collections in this module cover unemployment relief in the 1930s, farm tenancy, labor strife during World War II, and migratory labor in the 1950s and 1960s.

New Deal and World War II: President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Office Files and Records of Federal Agencies (1933-1945)

The centerpiece of this module is President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Office Files – considered the heart and soul of the administrative record of the FDR White House. They highlight the domestic and foreign concerns of the president and his administration. Roosevelt’s policies, responses to crises and plans for the future were all based on classified and non-classified information he received from all levels of government and the public. Major topics covered in the files are the Great Depression, the New Deal, America’s involvement in World War II, the internal workings of the Roosevelt administration, and FDR’s personal leadership style.

Several additional collections round out this module: FBI Reports of the Roosevelt White House; Civilian Conservation Corps press releases; records of the Committee on Economic Security; Department of Treasury records; and a special set of documentary records covering 50 important episodes and themes of the Roosevelt presidency.

FBI Confidential Files and Radical Politics in the U.S., 1946-1972

This module consists of records of the FBI and the Subversive Activities Control Board from 1945-1972. Highlights of this module include Director J. Edgar Hoover’s office files; documentation on the FBI’s so-called “black bag jobs,” as they were called before being renamed “surreptitious entries.” The most prominent subjects in “surreptitious entries” pertain to the Socialist Workers Party and the Weather Underground, both dating from the early 1970s. Another key collection in this module consists of the records of the Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB), the files of which constitute one of the most valuable resources for the study of left-wing radicalism during the 1950s and 1960s.

Of particular interest is the “Do Not File” file: records that were supposed to be destroyed on Hoover’s order. However, through intended and inadvertent exceptions, large portions of these files survived. The “Do Not File” material unmasks FBI policies and priorities at the highest level, the scope of the bureau’s investigations of subversives, the purposes of investigations of liberal and conservative activists, and the bureau’s relationships with other intelligence agencies.

American Politics and Society from JFK to Watergate, 1960-1975

This exceptional collection fosters deep understanding and critical thinking for researchers in many disciplines. Original documents from the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon presidencies join records from federal agencies to cover the biggest issues of the mid-century.

Kennedy files include documents from the 1960 presidential campaign and shed light on JFK’s platform via correspondence between the president and federal personnel, Press Secretary Pierre Salinger’s daily briefings, and transcripts of press conferences. A collection of digitized Associated Press wire copy on the assassination of President Kennedy rounds out the materials in this module. The Johnson administration collections chronicle the seven years of tumult and unparalleled change from the Civil Rights Bill of 1964 and the War on Poverty to civil unrest and fighting in Vietnam. Of particular note is the Confidential File from the Johnson White House Central Files. Nixon administration materials consist of Nixon’s White House files as well as a collection of the official transcripts of proceedings in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in the four major Watergate-related trials.
Unlock Key Primary Source Materials

ProQuest® History Vault is an unparalleled collection that continues to build over time, covering the full sweep of U.S. History from the American Revolution to the last years of the 20th century. Major content areas covered include not only American Politics and Society, but also International Relations and Military Conflicts, Women's Rights, Civil Rights and the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century, and Southern Life and Slavery.

American Politics and Society

- American Indians and the American West, 1809-1971
- Thomas A. Edison Papers (1850-1919)
- Law and Society since the Civil War: American Legal Manuscripts from the Harvard Law School Library (1858-1976)
- Immigration: Records of the INS, 1880-1930
- Workers, Labor Unions, and the American Left in the 20th Century: Federal Records
- New Deal and World War II: President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Office Files and Records of Federal Agencies (1933-1945)
- FBI Confidential Files and Radicalism in the U.S., 1945-1972
- American Politics and Society from JFK to Watergate, 1960-1975

International Relations, Military Conflicts

- U.S. Military Intelligence Reports, 1911-1944
- U.S. Diplomatic Post Records, 1914-1945
- World War II: U.S. Documents on Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Axis War Crimes, and Refugees
- Office of Strategic Services (OSS)-State Department Intelligence and Research Reports, 1941-1961
- Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969, Europe and Latin America
- Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969, Africa and Middle East
- Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969, Asia
- Vietnam War and American Foreign Policy, 1960-1975

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