ProQuest History Vault

This award-winning, continuously-growing digitized collection of manuscript and archival materials now has over 20 million pages in 51 different modules. During 2020, History Vault will grow to 56 modules and over 21 million pages. Created in partnership with renowned archival institutions, History Vault gives students and researchers a first-hand look at pivotal moments in history through the power of primary sources.

SOUTHERN LIFE, SLAVERY AND THE CIVIL WAR

Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Law and Order in 19th Century America, 1636-1880

This module documents the international and domestic traffic in slaves in Britain’s New World colonies and the United States, providing important primary source material on the business aspect of the slave trade. In addition to records on the slave trade, this module also includes letters received by the Attorney General on law and order in 19th century America. These letters cover the slave trade, general slavery matters including runaway slaves and rights of slaves, and other legal issues.

Slavery and the Law

This collection of petitions submitted to state legislatures and county courthouses 1775-1867 reveal amazing candor. Collected by Loren Schweninger from hundreds of courthouses and historical societies, the slavery petitions document the realities of slavery at the most immediate local level. Slavery and the Law also includes letters to the Attorney General on law and order in 19th century America. These letters cover the slave trade, general slavery matters including runaway slaves and rights of slaves, and other legal issues.

Southern Life and African American History, 1775-1915: Plantation Records

Southern Plantation Records document the impact of plantations on the American South and on the nation as a whole. The records illuminate business operations and labor routines, relations between masters and slaves, family affairs, roles of women, racial attitudes, and social and cultural life.

- Part 1 is sourced from South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina; Maryland Historical Society; Howard-Tilton Memorial Library at Tulane University; Louisiana State Museum; and the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries.
- Part 2 comes from the University of Virginia and Duke University. Major collections include the Tayloe Family Papers, Ambler Family Papers, Barbour Family Papers and Randolph Family Papers. Other collections document plantation life in Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland.

Confederate Military Manuscripts and Records of Union Generals and the Union Army

CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title, 2017

This module delivers manuscripts sourced from Virginia Historical Society; Louisiana State University; University of Texas at Austin; and the University of Virginia. As well, several previously unpublished collections of records include papers of spies, scouts, guides and detectives; records on military discipline from courts-martial; and records of the U.S. Colored Troops.

Slavery in Antebellum Southern Industries

This module opens a window on the slave's world that no other type of primary documentary evidence affords. While industry never rivaled agriculture as an employer of slave labor in the Old South, industrial enterprises kept excellent records, and they survived in depositories like the Duke University Library, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, and Virginia Historical Society. Slavery in Antebellum Southern Industries presents some of the richest, most valuable and most complete collections in the entire documentary record of American slavery, focusing on the industrial uses of slave labor. These collections document slave labor in industries ranging from mining to manufacturing to construction. They include company records; business and personal correspondence; documents pertaining to the purchase, hire, medical care and provisioning of slave laborers; descriptions of production processes; and journals recounting costs and income. The work ledgers in these collections record slave earnings and expenditures and provide extraordinary insight into the slave's life.

“Searching [History Vault] helped me to turn up materials I would never have found otherwise. ... History Vault also helped me to look at more records more quickly and thus to get a sense of what was typical and what was exceptional. Surveying many account books also helped me to find collections covering long periods of time. As I read from year-to-year, I could see how practices changed and also trace how they shaped the lives of individual enslaved people.”

— Caitlin Rosenthal, Assistant Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley
Reconstruction and Military Government after the Civil War

This module offers remarkable insight into the early Reconstruction period in the American South. The largest portion of the documents in this module consist of Records of the U.S. Army’s Office of Civil Affairs. Attempts to replace any civil officers who had served the Confederacy with loyal Union men are at the heart of the materials in this module. In addition, it contains letters from citizens to the military government on topics such as intimidation and violence, crime, voter registration, law enforcement, corruption and fair administration of the election process. Also included in this module are Letters Received by the Attorney General pertaining to law and order in southern states from 1871-1884 and records of the Freedmen’s Hospital and the Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company.

The Office of Civil Affairs records in this module were previously inaccessible to students and researchers and hold the prospect of allowing new research discoveries on a controversial era and important topics in American History.

Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century

This category consists of the NAACP Papers and Federal Government Records, Organizational Records and Personal Papers regarding the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century. Taken together, these ten modules offer an extremely strong combination of resources on the civil rights movement with major collections of records from the NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). The Library Journal selected the NAACP Papers modules as a Best Reference Pick in March 2015.


One of [History Vault’s] best features is the ability to search across the entire database. I would not have known to search for materials within the A. Philip Randolph Papers, for example, for Randolph was uninvolved in the VEP. And yet, through my keywords search, VEP-related materials popped up in his collection.”

— Evan Faulkenbury, Assistant Professor of History, SUNY Cortland
NAACP Papers

The NAACP Papers collection consists of 6 modules, containing internal memos, legal briefings and detailed activity summaries from national, legal and branch offices throughout the country. With a timeline that runs from 1909 to 1972, the NAACP Papers document the realities of segregation in the early 20th century to the triumphs of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and beyond. With these files, researchers can trace the major concerns of the NAACP from year to year; the major campaigns of the NAACP in areas like education, voting rights, anti-lynching legislation and criminal justice; and the amazing branch network of the organization. The Branch Department files contain detailed files on 34 states and 181 branches and branch activities reports from 571 branches in 48 states plus the District of Columbia.

The six NAACP Papers modules are:

- NAACP Papers – Board of Directors, Annual Conferences, Major Speeches, and National Staff Files (annual conference resolutions and speeches are excellent source for studying the major issues of importance to the NAACP from year to year)
- NAACP Papers – The NAACP’s Major Campaigns: Legal Department Files (featuring over 600 cases from 34 states)
- NAACP Papers: Special Subjects
- NAACP Papers: Branch Department, Branch Files, and Youth Department Files (offering excellent documentation on the local heroes of the civil rights movement throughout the United States)

African American Police League Records

Recent cases such as the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri and the Black Lives Matter movement have brought the issue of police brutality onto the front page. However, police brutality has a long and troubled history. This module documents how African American policemen in Chicago, beginning in 1968, attempted to fight against discrimination and police brutality by the Chicago Police Department and to improve relations between African Americans and police. Researchers will find a wealth of resources from the

WOMEN’S STUDIES

Margaret Sanger Papers

Margaret Sanger (1879-1966) was the principal founder and lifelong leader of the American and the international birth control movements. The Margaret Sanger Papers covers every aspect of the birth control movement, including the movement’s changing ideologies, its campaign for legitimacy and its internal conflicts and organizational growth. These papers also provide significant insight on the history of changing attitudes towards women’s roles and sexuality, and have significant research value to the fields of women’s history, social and intellectual history, medicine and public health, religion, and world economic development, among others.

Struggle for Women’s Rights, 1880-1990: Organizational Records

This module is comprised of records of three important women’s rights organizations: the National Woman’s Party (NWP), the League of Women Voters and the Women’s Action Alliance. The importance of the NWP as a women’s rights group fighting for the suffrage amendment and then supporting the ERA cannot be understated. The NWP’s activist approach and aggressive campaign for the right to vote was unique among suffrage organizations – and its use of nonviolent protest methods arguably set important precedents for later social movements pressing for equal rights. The NWP collection contains detailed correspondence and documentation of its voting rights efforts from 1913-1920. The League of Women Voters grew out of a rival organization of the NWP. This collection documents almost every facet of women’s involvement in U.S. politics from 1920-1974. The Women’s Action Alliance, established in 1971 as a grass-roots organization, concerned itself with issues such as employment, childcare, healthcare and education.

“A no serious account of the cultural and political revolution that underlay the 19th amendment is complete without
a reading of the National Woman’s Party Papers.”

— Mary Walton, Author of A Woman’s Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot
Women's Studies Manuscript Collections from the Schlesinger Library: Voting Rights, National Politics, and Reproductive Rights

Collections from the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe College consist of materials documenting voting rights, national politics and reproductive rights from national, regional and local leaders. National leaders featured in this module include Carrie Chapman Catt, Matilda Joslyn Gage and many others. Regional and local leaders represented include Harriet Burton Laidlaw, Helen Barten Owens, Clementina Rhodes Hartshorne and many others. On the topic of national politics, major collections include papers of Molly Dewson, Emma Guffey Miller, Sue Shelton White, Jeannette Rankin, and Jessica Weis. Collections on reproductive rights are the Schlesinger Library Family Planning Oral History Project and the papers of Mary Ware Dennett and the Voluntary Parenthood League.

Women at Work during World War II: Rosie the Riveter and the Women's Army Corps

Women at Work during World War II consists of two major sets of records documenting the experience of American women during that era: Records of the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor and Correspondence of the Director of the Women's Army Corps.

The first set documents the Women's Bureau as an investigative agency and a source of public information and education to promote the welfare of wage-earning women. It also includes a detailed study on the treatment of women by unions in several Midwestern industrial towns, with additional documents on women's work in war industries pertaining to issues like equal pay and child care.

Women in the U.S. Military, Correspondence of the Director of the Women's Army Corps, 1942–1946 documents the women who joined and served in the Women's Army Corps (WAC, known as the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps [WAAC] from May 1942 until July 1943) during World War II. These documents provide insight on issues such as recruiting, public support for the WAC, personnel matters like discipline and conduct, education, gender roles and race.

Southern Women and their Families in the 19th and 20th Centuries, Holdings of the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1671-1979

Seen through women's eyes, studies of 19th century southern social history takes on new dimensions. Women's letters dwell heavily on illness, pregnancy, and childbirth. From them we can learn what it was like to live in a society in which very few diseases are well understood, in which death was common among all age groups, and infant mortality was an accepted fact of life. The years of the Civil War are particularly well documented since many women were convinced that they were living through momentous historical events of which they should make a record. After the war ended and the “new South” began to take shape, other women wrote memoirs for their children and grandchildren hoping to preserve forever their memories or to record the sacrifices and heroism they had witnessed.

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

American Indians and the American West, 1809-1971

Collections from the U.S. National Archives and the Chicago History Museum join first-hand accounts on Indian Wars and westward migration. Coverage of American Indians in the first half of the 20th century includes Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Records from the Major Council Meetings of American Indian Tribes. Researchers will also find excellent collections, many previously unpublished, on American Indians in the 19th century, with a focus on the interaction among white settlers, the U.S. federal government and Indian tribes.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR AND EARLY AMERICA

Revolutionary War and Early America: Collections from Massachusetts Historical Society

The success of the musical Hamilton has led to increased interest in this pivotal period in American history. This module on one of the most-studied periods in American history consists of 26 collections from the holdings of the Massachusetts Historical Society, the first North American historical society and the first library to devote its primary attention to collecting Americana. The collections digitized by ProQuest from the holdings of the Massachusetts Historical Society focus on the Colonial Era, the Revolutionary War and the Early National Period, with some collections extending into the Civil War era.

AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Thomas A. Edison Papers

Perhaps more than anyone else in U.S. history, Thomas Edison integrated the worlds of science, technology, business and finance. Now Edison’s life, work and vision are documented for scholars through rare laboratory notebooks, diaries, business records, correspondence and related materials.
Pinkerton's National Detective Agency Records

During its colorful 150-year history, Pinkerton's National Detective Agency, the oldest company of private investigators in the United States — founded by Allan Pinkerton in the 1850s — pursued some of the nation's most notorious criminals, like Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Jesse James, Alfred Brady, John Dillinger and countless others. This fascinating collection, digitized in History Vault from the Library of Congress holdings, includes files on some of the Pinkerton's most well-known cases. It offers exciting research opportunities in criminology, sociology, the history of law enforcement and labor relations.

Law and Society since the Civil War: American Legal Manuscripts from the Harvard Law School Library

Eleven collections from the Harvard Law School Library highlight Supreme Court Justices Oliver Wendell Holmes, Louis D. Brandeis and Felix Frankfurter; the first Black federal judge, William H. Hastie; and the high-profile Sacco-Vanzetti murder case. The Frankfurter Papers are of special note because they reveal how the Court approached the historic Brown v. Board of Education decision.

Progressive Era: Robert M. La Follette Papers

Congressman, Governor, and United States Senator, Robert Marion La Follette is one of the crucial figures of the Progressive Movement of the early twentieth century. This collection documents his early career in the political reform movement from 1879 to 1910.

During these years, La Follette emerged as the powerful leader of the reform coalition which was struggling with the state's large economic interests for control of the government. In 1901 the reformers won control of the state Republican party, and La Follette began the first of his three terms as governor.

La Follette's papers focus on his fight to reform corruption and injustice in the political system of the state of Wisconsin. They include correspondence with Andrew Carnegie, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, and other major figures.

Progressive Era: Reform, Regulation, and Rights

The Progressive Era, dating roughly from 1890-1920, was a reaction to the rapid industrialization and social and economic changes of the “Gilded Age” in the last two decades of the 19th century and the turn of the 20th century. Progressive Era reformers, as the name implies, believed in progress and their ability to improve society through a broad range of reforms. The efforts of these reformers created one of the great movements in American history. This module on the Progressive Era consists of 11 collections and documents a variety of the ways that the Progressive Movement attempted to improve the lives of the American people. The collections cover women's right to vote, the Standard Oil monopoly case, the efforts of journalist Henry Demarest Lloyd, the University Settlement Society of New York City, prohibition, reform of law enforcement, the Teapot Dome bribery case regarding petroleum reserves on government lands and regulation of food and drugs.

The collections can be effectively paired with many other History Vault modules to offer a wide range of documentation on one of the most important reform movements in American History. Other modules that go well with this content include: Immigration: Records of the INS, 1880-1930; Thomas A. Edison Papers; Struggle for Women's Rights, 1880-1990; Records of the Children's Bureau, 1912-1969; Progressive Era: Robert M. La Follette Papers; Labor Unions in the U.S., 1862-1974; Workers, Labor, and Radical Politics; and NAACP Papers.

“I marvel at the convenience and ease of use of this digitized collection from History Vault. To be able to conduct in an instant a search using specific terms, to download documents, and to do so from a laptop anywhere—this is modern research at its most convenient and efficient!”

— Nancy Unger, Professor of History, Santa Clara University

Photos of Robert M. La Follette courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society, La Follette on special campaign train, Image ID 2509 and La Follette speaking on wagon, Image ID 3562.
Progressive Era: Voices of Reform

This module joins the growing sets of records in History Vault on the Progressive Era, one of the major reform eras in American History. The collections in this module consist of the correspondence, writings, speeches, diaries and photographs of five leading members of the Progressive movement: John R. Commons, Charles R. Van Hise, Richard T. Ely, Edward A. Ross and Charles McCarthy. Individually and collectively, these men proved they were more than idealists by devising and carrying out major reforms to solve the problems caused by the growth of industrialization following the Civil War. This module offers valuable insight into both the theorizing and practical legislation of the Progressive Era.

Immigration: Records of the INS, 1880-1930

The massive immigration wave at the turn of the 20th century is investigated. Files cover Asian immigration, particularly Chinese and Japanese, to California and Hawaii; Mexican immigration 1906-1930; and European immigration. There are also extensive files on the regulation of prostitution and white slavery and on suppression of radical aliens.

New Deal and World War II: President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Office Files and Records of Federal Agencies

The centerpiece of this module is Franklin D. Roosevelt's Office Files, which highlight domestic and foreign concerns that were of special importance to the president. Additional collections include 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 set of documentary records on the Roosevelt presidency covering 50 important episodes and themes.

FBI Confidential Files and Radical Politics in the U.S., 1945-1972

Under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI investigated and tracked the activities of Communist groups, Communist-front groups and other radical organizations in the United States. Module highlights include Hoover’s office files; documentation on “black bag jobs,” as they were called before being renamed “surreptitious entries”; and the “Do Not File” collection – numerous records that were supposed to be destroyed but survived. These documents provide insight into FBI policies and priorities, the scope of 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

The strength of this module lies in documents from the Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon presidencies as well as records from federal agencies. Issues span women’s rights, environmental issues, urban renewal, rural development, tax reform, civil rights, space exploration, international trade, War on Poverty and the Watergate trials.

Students for a Democratic Society, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and the Anti-Vietnam War Movement

Key collections offer new opportunities for research on the 1960s through the lens of two influential anti-war organizations. In its heyday, Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) emphasized participatory democracy, community building, and creating a political movement of impoverished people. As U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War escalated, SDS became involved in the anti-war movement, before splintering and disbanding by 1970. Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) organized major national protests, which catapulted VVAW to a position of leadership within the antiwar movement. The VVAW survived to the end of the Vietnam War by focusing on veterans’ benefits and, after 1987, on the Agent Orange health issue. In addition to the SDS and VVAW collections, this module contains documents of 10 other anti-Vietnam War organizations.
Records of the Children's Bureau, 1912-1969

Though it’s one of the lesser-known federal agencies, the Children’s Bureau is one of the richest sources for understanding American society and social welfare. The Bureau’s correspondence, research reports, radio scripts, brochures, bills and laws, court hearings and speeches represent the largest collection of primary material for the study of the family and the health and well-being of children in the 20th century; as well, they throw a fascinating light on the way welfare policies affected women.

American Politics in the Early Cold War—Truman and Eisenhower Administrations, 1945-1961

The Cold War takes center stage in the Truman files on international relations, and the stalling of Truman’s Fair Deal program are documented in the files that pertain to domestic concerns. The Eisenhower files focus on national defense, Cold War preparedness, the Soviet Union, economic issues, and tariff negotiations. With the publication of this module, History Vault will include, in different modules, White House files for the presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt through Richard M. Nixon.

Temperance and Prohibition Movement, 1830-1933

The temperance and prohibition movement constituted an important element in American political life and its significance as a vital force in American social history during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This module contains records and publications of the principal organizations which sought to reduce and ultimately to eliminate the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages in the United States. The two largest organizational collections in the module are the Anti-Saloon League of America (A.S.L.A.) and the records of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (W.C.T.U.) The papers of individuals prominent in the movement are included as well.

Japanese American Incarceration: Records of the War Relocation Authority, 1942-1946

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry into World War II in December 1941, the Roosevelt administration decided that for reasons of “military necessity,” the government would evacuate all persons of Japanese heritage from the West Coast states. The Records of the War Relocation Authority document the day-to-day running of the 10 relocation camps from 1942-1946. The collection is organized by relocation center. Records include reports and correspondence on issues such as security, education, health, vocational training, agriculture, food, and family welfare.

FIVE YEARS DEPRESSION!
Both Old Parties Have Failed
VOTE SOCIALIST

WORKERS, LABOR UNIONS, AND RADICAL POLITICS

Labor Unions in the U.S., 1862-1974: Knights of Labor, AFL, CIO, and AFL-CIO

Unique, important documentation on the growth and transformation of four major labor organizations takes history, business and other research topics in exciting new directions.

- In the 19th century, the Knights of Labor was the first national labor force to recruit women and African Americans as a matter of policy, to organize throughout the country, and to attempt to unify industrial and agrarian workers. This module presents the papers of executives Terence V. Powderly and John W. Hayes, which span the life of this powerful organization.

- In 1886, the founding convention of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) elected five men to lead an organization of fewer than 200,000 members. AFL records illuminate years of strikes and boycotts, competition with rival organizations, political developments, antitrust laws, pensions, and the direct election of U.S. senators; plus internal AFL matters such as membership, relations with international and local unions, and state labor federations.

- The CIO was at the center of labor activism from 1935 to 1955 – years characterized by mass organizing, nationwide strikes, and bitter ideological and political conflict. The records in this module consist of Minutes of the Executive Board of the CIO and the papers of Adolph Germer, a longtime member of the United Mine Workers and a leader in the formation of the CIO. Records that document the AFL-CIO in this module consist of State Labor Proceedings for 1885-1974 with the 1955-1974 portion of the records pertaining to the AFL-CIO.
Socialist Party of America Papers

Of the many socialist organizations born during the late 19th and 20th centuries, the Socialist Party of America was perhaps the most well-known. With the Socialist Party of America Papers, students will find valuable primary sources for the study of the labor movement, civil rights, anti-war activities and the history of the “American left.” The Socialist Party of America Papers provide an exceptional historical overview of the Socialist Party of America as it struggled to gain support and realize its goals. Documents in the collection include correspondence, position papers, memoranda, financial records, pamphlets and broadsides, and leaflets. This outstanding collection is a must for historical research into American Socialism, labor and leftist thought in the 20th Century.

Workers, Labor Unions, and the American Left in the 20th Century: Federal Records

Key collections emphasize the interaction between workers and the federal government. The Wilson Administration Files consist of Papers of the National War Labor Board, Papers of the President’s Mediation Commission, and Records of the U.S. Commission on Industrial Relations. Government surveillance files consist of U.S. Military Intelligence Reports on radicals and Department of Justice investigations of the Industrial Workers of the World, the Communist Party and the use of military force by the federal government in domestic disturbances. Other collections cover unemployment relief, farm tenancy, labor strife during World War II, and records on migratory labor in the 1950s and 1960s.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MILITARY CONFLICTS

World War I: British Foreign Office Political Correspondence

Early records in the collection describe the political situation in European countries on the outbreak of the war, as reported by military attaches and diplomatic and consular personnel. These early records also cover the financial position of the warring countries and even anti-war sentiments in 1914.

The documents also examine the technological innovations of World War I, particularly in air and naval warfare. Additionally, this formerly confidential correspondence covers a wide range of other wartime issues, such as birth rates, the role of women in the war, food supply, Zionism, and the Vatican.

The files conclude with detailed coverage of various peace efforts and the armistice, as well as postwar issues such as redrawing the map of Europe, and the consequences of the war for Germany.

U.S. Military Intelligence Reports

U.S. Military Intelligence Reports offer comprehensive documentation of developments and events in the key nations of the world during the period from World War I to the final campaigns of World War II.

After World War I, the U.S. military developed a sophisticated intelligence gathering capability. Concerned with much more than strictly military intelligence, American military attaches and their staffs reported on a wide range of topics, including the internal politics, social and economic conditions and foreign affairs of the countries in which they were stationed.

This module contains reports for China, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Argentina, Mexico, Soviet Union, Biweekly Intelligence Summaries and Combat Estimates.

U.S. Diplomatic Post Records, 1914-1945

The State Department Diplomatic post records consist of correspondence and reports from American diplomats stationed around the world. Diplomatic post records are those kept at the embassies or legations rather than those kept in Washington. These materials contain the incoming messages from Washington, retained copies of outgoing dispatches, locally gathered information and background material on decision making. The following countries or cities are represented in this module: Japan; Cuba; El Salvador; Honduras; Nicaragua; Iran; Iraq; Beirut; Jerusalem; Aden; Lebanon; Russia; and the Soviet Union.

World War I: Records of the American Expeditionary Forces, and Diplomacy in the World War I Era

This module offers extensive documentation on the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) during World War I as well as materials on U.S. intelligence operations and the post-war peace process. AEF documents consist of correspondence, cablegrams, operations reports, statistical strength reports and summaries of intelligence.
World War II: U.S. Documents on Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Axis War Crimes, and Refugees

The collections in this module document the innermost workings of the top level of military planning during World War II in President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Map Room Files and Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Office of War Information Papers contain information on the U.S. home front, as do records on the internment of Japanese civilians. World War II Combat Interviews offer firsthand accounts from the perspective of the individual soldiers who participated in the D-Day invasion. The Papers of the War Refugee Board provide documentation on the fate of civilians in Europe with a special focus on Jewish refugees. Other collections in this module include FBI Files on Tokyo Rose, Manhattan Project documents, Potsdam Conference Documents, and records on lend-lease.

Creation of Israel: British Foreign Office Correspondence on Palestine and Transjordan, 1940-1948

These files are essential for understanding the modern history of the Middle East, the establishment of Israel as a sovereign state, and the wider web of postwar international world politics. Early records in the collection focus on events in Palestine, Britain’s policy toward Palestine and how the situation in Palestine affected relations with other nations. The files also survey the contours of Arab politics in the wider Middle East. Since the interests, rivalries and designs of various Arab leaders were often played out with reference to Palestine, the documents provide insight into the complex and sometimes bloody Arab world. In the 1947-1948 period, this module explores the tensions within Anglo-American relations over the creation and recognition of Israel as a sovereign state. A large section of the material is devoted to United Nations deliberations on the Palestine question. The records also illuminate the political, philosophical and personal fractures within and between both the Jewish and Arab communities from 1940-1948.

Office of Strategic Services (OSS)-State Department Intelligence and Research Reports, 1941-1961

During World War II and the first decade and a half of the Cold War, the Office of Strategic Services and the State Department assigned leading scholars to write special, classified reports about Asia, Europe, the Soviet Union, Latin America, and Africa. At the time, the reports helped to shape U.S. foreign policy decisions, and, now, as part of History Vault, the over 3,500 reports in this module provide an excellent source for studying the major areas of the World during the period from 1941 to 1961. These reports are not contained in the State Department’s foreign relations series or the armed forces’ official histories.

Nazi Looting Art and Assets: Records on the Post-World War II Restitution Process

This module focuses on the diplomatic, legal and political maneuvering during and after World War II regarding German art looting in Europe, recovery of cultural objects dispersed during World War II, efforts by the U.S. and other Allied Powers to prevent the secreting of Axis assets, claims from victims for financial or property restitution from the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), other claims cases, and meeting minutes and background materials regarding the Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold.

Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969

Student demonstrations, political unrest, coups d’etat, assassinations, political trials, meetings and visits of foreign leaders, economic and agricultural assistance, disputes over the use of international waters, international trade, military conflicts - these are just some of the subjects covered by Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files on the turbulent 1960s around the world. Concentrating exclusively on those U.S. State Department Central Files that have not been microfilmed by the National Archives or distributed by other publishers, this collection contains a wide range of materials from U.S. diplomats in foreign countries: reports on political, military and socioeconomic matters; interviews and minutes of meetings with foreign government officials; important letters, instructions, and cables sent and received by U.S. diplomatic personnel; and reports and translations from foreign journals and newspapers.

History Vault’s U.S. State Department Central Files on the 1960s are offered in three modules, organized by geographic region of the world: Europe and Latin America; Africa and the Middle East; and Asia.
Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969, Europe and Latin America

Countries covered in the Europe and Latin America module are: Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany); Germany (focusing on Berlin); Soviet Union; Cuba; Mexico; Panama; and Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969, Africa and Middle East

The countries covered in this module are: Biafra/Nigeria; Congo; Egypt; Ghana; South Africa; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Lebanon; Palestine; Saudi Arabia; and the Persian Gulf States (Aden, Bahrein, Kuwait, Muscat & Oman, Qatar, Trucial Sheiks); Yemen.

Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969, Asia

The countries covered in the Asia module are: China, Far East (general), Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Philippine Republic and Vietnam. The files on China, Japan and Vietnam make up the largest portion of this module.

Vietnam War and American Foreign Policy, 1960-1975

This module features the records of the Associated Press’s Saigon Bureau. Over 40 years ago, as Saigon was falling to the communists and the U.S. was evacuating Vietnam, Peter Arnett saved the records of the AP’s Saigon Bureau and brought them back to the United States. Until ProQuest scanned them and digitized them in History Vault, they were never before available to the public. Other key collections in this module include records of the Military Assistance and Advisory Command, Vietnam (MACV); General William Westmoreland Papers, and National Security Files from the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford administrations.

CIA Cold War Research Reports and Records on Communism in China and Eastern Europe, 1917-1976

This module consists of two major series of records: CIA Research Reports from 1946-1976 and records collected by Raymond Murphy on Communism in China and Eastern Europe from 1917-1958. Beginning in 1946 with reports of the CIA’s predecessor, the Central Intelligence Group, CIA Research Reports reproduces over 1,500 reports on eight areas: Middle East; Soviet Union; Vietnam and Southeast Asia; China; Japan, Korea, and Asian security; Europe; Africa; and Latin America. This series deals with international questions and biographical reports, offering profiles of relatively unknown leaders.

The Murphy Collection provides information on war recovery efforts, international aid, and the formation of countries and substantial information on the Chinese Communist Party.

“Vietnam War and American Foreign Policy, 1960–1975” and “American Politics and Society from JFK to Watergate, 1960–1975” are sister modules revealing two faces of a tumultuous era: American foreign and domestic policy. Whether together or apart, these modules provide researchers with “a fascinating look into American government decision making and the reaction of the American people to those decisions. Highly recommended.”

— J. Stoehr, CHOICE

Give your students a comprehensive view into American history with these complementary primary-source collections:

- American Civil War Letters & Diaries
- American Periodical Series
- Digital National Security Archive
- Historical Statistical Abstracts of the United States
- North American Indian Thought & Culture
- ProQuest Congressional
- ProQuest Historical Newspapers
- Trench Journals and Unit Magazines of the First World War
- Women and Social Movements in the U.S.

Deepen research and learning in history with access to a mix of content, including video, ebooks and more:

- Academic Video Online
- American History in Video
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