International Relations and Military Conflicts
Explore First-Hand Accounts of World Events

International Relations and Military Conflicts consists of 8 modules spanning the period from the years immediately before the outbreak of World War I through to the end of the Vietnam War. This primary source material provides an excellent view of U.S. international relations during these important years. Equally important is that the records offer detailed information on the countries in which the U.S. diplomatic or military officials were stationed. As such, the collections are an excellent source for studies of individual countries or regions of the world. In addition, U.S. diplomats and military officials often reported back on international reaction to events in the United States, thereby providing an international perspective on important developments in the United States.

**U.S. Military Intelligence Reports, 1911-1944**

**Comprehensive documentation 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 attachés and their staffs reported on a wide range of topics from the countries in which they were stationed. The reports cover political and diplomatic affairs, including social and political unrest, the influence of propaganda and the press, and the rise and fall of the major political and military figures of the day. The intelligence reports include interviews with military and government officials, evaluations of political parties and movements, and eyewitness coverage and analyses of military action.

The **U.S. Military Intelligence reports** in this module come from military intelligence officers in the following countries: China (1911-1941); Japan (1918-1941); France (1919-1941); Germany (1919-1944); Italy (1918-1941); Argentina (1918-1941); Mexico (1919-1941); and the Soviet Union (1919-1944).

In addition to coverage of major political developments in these nations from 1911-1944, the U.S. Military Intelligence Reports contain two other important series. The first is the Biweekly Intelligence Summaries for 1928-1938. The intelligence summaries have special value because they reflect the U.S. military’s perception of world events from 1928 through 1938.

The second notable series is the Combat Estimates for Europe, 1920-1943 and The Western Hemisphere, 1920-1943. Prepared by the G-2 Branch of the U.S. Army, the estimates are of particular value in understanding the West’s recovery from World War I and the lead up to World War II. This unique information offers a vivid picture of the military, political, and economic posture of future allies and enemies while also revealing the strategic concerns of the United States.

See also: Trench Journals and Unit Magazines of the First World War from ProQuest

See the collection list under view title list at proquest.com/pdq/historyvault
U.S. Diplomatic Post Records, 1914-1945

Explore eyewitness accounts, interviews with leaders, and more

Diplomatic post records are kept at embassies or legations rather than in Washington. For many countries in the years before 1945, the post records, if they have survived, are excellent sources rivaling the State Department Central Files for coverage of important events. Diplomatic post records contain the incoming messages from Washington, retained copies of outgoing dispatches, locally gathered information, and background material on decision making.

Japan, 1914-1941: An exceptionally valuable English-language research collection on Japan and the Far East for the period from World War I to the start of World War II from the U.S. consulates, listening posts, and embassies in Japan as well as areas near Japan in China and Russia. The documents include reports not only on the internal affairs of Japan but also on foreign affairs, trade, international organizations, and the Sino-Japanese War.

Central America and the Caribbean, 1930-1945: Cuban records cover the first administration of Fulgencio Batista and the Sumner Welles mission of 1933 and subsequent diplomatic issues. El Salvador records document the regime of General Maximiliano Hernandez Martinez with his suppression of opposition groups, suspension of civil liberties, and limited success in agrarian and labor reform before his overthrow in 1944. Honduran records trace the manner in which General Tiburcio Carias Andino gained the presidency in 1932 after years of unrest and quickly assumed dictatorial powers. Records from Nicaragua document the regime of Anastasio Somoza.

The Middle East, 1925-1944: Iran: documenting Iranian political, religious, economic, and military affairs. Topics covered include the Anglo-Persian Oil Company; the position of women in modern Persian society; Iranian Nationalism; the impact of Islam on Iran; relations with the Soviet Union; petroleum policy and foreign oil companies in Iran; and the politics of the Pahlavi regime. Iraq: Coverage includes the termination of the British mandate; establishment of the Iraqi Parliament; the granting of the first oil concessions; the turbulent series of military coups between 1936 and 1941; and the defeat of Rashid Ali a al Ghaialani's pro-Axis government by the British in 1941. Other topics explored in the reports cover Kurds; Anglo-Iraqi oil agreements; political unrest; anti-British feeling in the Iraqi Parliament; relations with the Soviet Union; and the position of Shites. Beirut: Valuable background on the area's troubled modern history includes documentation on the Druse Rebellion of 1925 against rule under the French Mandate; French military forces in Syria; Syrian nationalism; anti-Zionism; and the political situation in Lebanon. Jerusalem: The extensive reporting from the U.S. consulate is of particular value for students of Palestine and Israel. Much of the Middle East's modern history finds its roots in these years of conflict and transition. Reports cover the relationship between Palestine and other Arab states; British policy in Palestine; the Zionist movement; Communism; racial and religious disturbances in Palestine; Jewish-Arab relations; and Jewish and Arab national aspirations. Aden: Post Records for Aden focus primarily on events in neighboring Arabia; the political successes of Ibn Saud; British policy in Arabia; politics in Hejaz-Nejd; formation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; foreign affairs of Saudi Arabia; commercial oil production; religion; Saudi policies regarding trade and commerce; and U.S. interests in the Arabian Gulf.

Russia and the Soviet Union, 1914-1941: Among English-language resources for the study of the emerging Soviet state, none are more valuable and revealing than the confidential diplomatic files of the U.S. State Department. Thousands of pages document this pivotal quarter century, spanning the last days of czarist rule to the early campaigns of World War II. Records include the voluminous files from the U.S. listening post at Riga, as well as reports on foreign affairs from U.S. consulates elsewhere. Both are outstanding sources of information on a wide range of Russian and Soviet affairs. This collection includes official reports based on eyewitness accounts, interviews with political leaders, and translated government reports. Specific topics covered in the files include the Imperial Duma in 1915; events in Petrograd in 1917; the first meeting of the Soviet Congress in 1918; Communism and African Americans; Russian peasant policy in the early 1930s; and the beginning stages of World War II.

This module offers many different views of World War II from firsthand accounts of the innermost workings of the top level of military planning to the perspective of individual soldiers, the fate of civilian refugees in Europe and conditions on the U.S. home front.

Roosevelt’s Map Room Files is one of the major collections from the top level of military planning. It contains the confidential messages received in the Map Room from Roosevelt’s leading war-time contemporaries from around the world. Other Map Room files, such as the Map Room Conference and Special Files, include key conferences of World War II—Casablanca, Trident, Sextant, and Argonaut—as well as correspondence and memoranda on key Allied matters. Rounding out the Map Room collection are series on Army and Navy messages; military subject files on religion, espionage, sabotage, publicity, and Allied casualty reports; and files on ground and naval operations covering the Balkans, China-Burma-India, France, Italy, North Africa, the Pacific, and the USSR, and key operations such as Operation TORCH.

Records of the Joints Chiefs of Staff provide firsthand accounts of the innermost workings of military planning during World War II. The records consist of operational histories and reports, and military orders and plans covering the European Theater, the Pacific Theater and the Soviet Union, as well as correspondence and reports covering meetings of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Combined Chiefs of Staff.

U.S. Navy Action and Operational Reports document the Navy’s response and strategy in the nearly four years of battle in the Pacific following the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. After-action/operational reports constitute the early official records of the commanders involved, from fleet commanders up the chain of command to Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

The Office of War Information (OWI), America’s official propaganda agency during World War II, was established by executive order on June 13, 1942. Records are organized into two parts. The first part, the Director’s Central Files, consists of the files of Elmer Davis, OWI’s chief during World War II. These records document Davis’s most controversial actions as the head of OWI and delineate the conflicts over information strategy that arose among the agency, the Congress, the President, and the armed forces. Some of the richest documentation concerns race relations during World War II, especially focusing on African Americans and Japanese Americans. There is also report from 1943 on the Los Angeles Zoot Suit Riots. The second portion of the Office of War Information files focus on the Office of Policy Coordination, the branch of OWI that oversaw the propaganda war that was waged in Europe, Asia, and Africa to undermine enemy morale and cultivate a pro-American postwar climate.

The War Refugee Board was established by executive order to combat the Nazi campaign of persecution and extermination of people because of their race, religion, or political beliefs. Reports, correspondence, and other papers pertain to the board’s policies, programs, operations, and independent rescue organizations. Perhaps the most moving series in this collection is the “Measures Directed Toward Halting Persecution” testimony of rescued Jews.

Top Secret Studies on U.S. Communications Intelligence During World War II documents the important and difficult work by the Allied cryptanalysts in breaking enemy codes. Documents on the Pacific Theater cover the intelligence background of the Pearl Harbor attack, the role of radio intelligence in tactical operations and submarine warfare, and the role of intelligence in the victory at Midway. European Theater documents focus on submarine warfare, U.S. cooperation with the British and Soviets, and strategic bombing operations.

World War II Combat Interviews offer firsthand accounts from the perspective of the individual soldiers who participated in the D-Day invasion.

Several smaller collections document many other aspects of U.S. participation in World War II: FBI Files on Tokyo Rose, Manhattan Project documents, the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg, and more.
Office of Strategic Services (OSS)—State Department Intelligence and Research Reports, 1941-1961

Reports that helped shape U.S. foreign policy

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; now, as part of History Vault, the 3500+ reports in this module provide an excellent source for studying the major areas of the world from 1941 to 1961. These reports are not contained in the State Department’s foreign relations series or the armed forces’ official histories.

Reports on Asia focus on political, industrial, and military affairs of wartime Japan, the occupation of Japan by the U.S. following World War II, and the beginnings of the economic revitalization of Japan in the mid-1950s; the Nationalist-Communist struggle for China and Mao’s consolidation of power in the 1950s, independence for India; the Korean War; and the outbreak of war in Indochina.

Topics covered in the reports on Europe include the German war effort, occupation and division of Germany, reconstruction of Europe under the Marshall Plan, de Gaulle and the Fifth Republic, formation of the Common Market, and Soviet control of Eastern Europe.

A series of reports on the Soviet Union covers Soviet participation in World War II; the Cold War with the West; the death of Stalin; and the formation of the Warsaw Pact.

There are also numerous reports on the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America from 1941 through 1961. Major developments covered include Palestine, African nationalism as well as economic stagnation and famine, Communist movements in South America and U.S. intervention in Central America.
Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files, 1960-1969:

• Europe and Latin America
• Africa and Middle East
• Asia

American diplomatic reporting on developments throughout the world

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 a small sampling of the subjects covered by Confidential U.S. State Department Central Files on the turbulent 1960s around the world.

The U.S. State Department Central Files are an important source of American diplomatic reporting on political, military, social, and economic developments throughout the world in the 20th century. Concentrating exclusively on those files that have not been microfilmed by the National Archives or distributed by other publishers, the U.S. State Department Central Files in History Vault contain a wide range of materials from U.S. diplomats in foreign countries: special reports on political and military affairs; studies and statistics on socioeconomic matters; interviews and minutes of meetings with foreign government officials; court proceedings and other legal documents; full texts of important letters, instructions, and cables sent and received by U.S. diplomatic personnel; reports and translations from foreign journals and newspapers; and countless translations of high-level foreign government documents. The U.S. State Department Central Files also illuminate the internal affairs of foreign countries with files on political parties and elections, unrest and revolution, human rights, government administration, fiscal and monetary issues, labor, housing, police and crime, public health, national defense, foreign policy-making, wars and alliances, education, religion, culture, trade, industry, natural resources, and more.

Europe and Latin America

The 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. Topics covered in these files include incidents between U.S. and Soviet fishing boats in Alaskan waters; Cuban sugar industry; international reaction to the Bay of Pigs invasion; East-West tensions in Berlin; development aid from West Germany to developing nations; activities of the Organization of American States; settlement of the dispute over the Chamizal region in El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua; salt content of the Colorado River waters delivered to Mexico; anti-American protests in Panama; American military aid to Latin American nations; and meetings with Soviet leaders of the era, including Nikita Khrushchev.

Africa and the Middle East

The Africa and Middle East files document a number of fascinating issues. The Africa files cover the brutal civil war between Biafra and Nigeria in the late 1960s, the 1964 Rivonia trial of Nelson Mandela and seven leaders of the African National Congress, violent protest against the South African government coupled with police crackdowns on the resistance, the troubled relationship between the U.S. and the apartheid regime, and the first years of independence in Ghana and the Congo. The files on Egypt offer considerable detail on the Egyptian political structure which was dominated by Gamal Abdel Nasser in the 1960s. Political issues are also covered in extensive detail in the files on Iran, Iraq, and Israel. Documents on Iran follow Ali Amin’s tenure as prime minister and his succession by Asadollah Alam. In Israel, State Department personnel tracked developments in the Knesset (Israeli Parliament), the political fortunes of important members of the Israeli government, and the fragile security in Israel. The countries covered in this module are: Biafra/Nigeria; Congo; Egypt; Ghana; South Africa; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Lebanon; Palestine; Saudi Arabia; the Persian Gulf States (Aden, Bahrein, Kuwait, Muscat & Oman, Qatar, Trucial Sheiks); and Yemen.
Asia

Coverage of China, Japan and Vietnam highlight this module; other coverage includes Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos and the Philippine Republic. Major topics covered in the China files include the tensions between the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of China, the Two Chinas policy of the U.S., and the Cultural Revolution. In Japan, State Department personnel reported on student demonstrations, the activities of Japanese political parties, the 1964 Olympics, negotiations on Japanese import and export restrictions, issues pertaining to the Japanese Self Defense Force, relations with South Korea, the possible reversion of Okinawa to Japan, diplomatic meetings, and the Japanese fishing industry. In the Vietnam files, documentation on agricultural commodities shipped to Vietnam as part of the Food for Peace program will give researchers a sense of agricultural prices, currency rates, and the food supply during the war. State Department records on Vietnam also cover relations between Buddhists and the government, and U.S. military intervention and military assistance in Vietnam.

Vietnam War and American Foreign Policy, 1960-1975

A comprehensive view of actions and decisions as well as events on the ground

This exceptional resource covers U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia from the early days of the Kennedy administration to the evacuation of U.S. troops from Vietnam. Documents trace the actions and decisions at the highest levels of the U.S. foreign policy apparatus, as well as events on the ground in Vietnam, from the perspective of State Department officials, Associated Press reporters, and members of the U.S. Armed forces. The strong collections also highlight all of the most important foreign policy issues facing the U.S. between 1960 and 1975.

An extraordinary collection from a worldwide news leader

The Associated Press Saigon Bureau Records, reproduced from the AP corporate archives, constitute an extraordinary set of records on nearly everything the AP reported between 1960 and 1972, including the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters Peter Arnett, Malcolm Browne and Horst Faas.

Other important collections in this module include the following:

- Records of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV)
- U.S. Armed Forces in Vietnam
- Records of the U.S. Marine Corps in the Vietnam War
- Vietnam Documents and Research Notes Series: Translation and Analysis of Significant Viet Cong/ North Vietnamese Documents
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 International Relations and Military Conflicts, but also American Politics and Society, Women’s Rights, Civil Rights and the Black Freedom Struggle in the 20th Century, and Southern Life and Slavery.

**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

**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 Radical Politics in the U.S., 1945-1972
- American Politics and Society from JFK to Watergate, 1960-1975

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