World War II: U.S. Documents on Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Axis War Crimes, and Refugees

This module presents several major collections of records on World War II, including Franklin D. Roosevelt's Map Room Files, Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Records of the War Department Operations Division, U.S. Navy Action and Operational Reports, Records of the Office of War Information, Papers of the War Refugee Board, and Top Secret Studies on U.S. Communications Intelligence During World War II. These records are supplemented with smaller collections documenting U.S. planning and participation in World War II.

The White House Map Room, established in mid-January 1942 as the President's military and communications center, became his primary daily link with a war that was being fought simultaneously across two oceans and three continents. Message traffic involving every theater of war was funneled through this room just down the hall from the Oval Office. Fortunately, the swiftly accumulating files were meticulously organized by the naval aides in charge. Roosevelt's Map Room Files in this module are presented in six main series.

The first series, Map Room Messages of President Roosevelt, contains the confidential messages received in the Map Room from Roosevelt's leading war-time contemporaries from around the world—politicians, diplomats, and military commanders—organized by correspondent. Among the correspondents are Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin, Chiang Kai-shek, W. Averill Harriman, Mao Tse-tung, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Douglas MacArthur, Harry Hopkins, Patrick J. Hurley, Francisco Franco, King George VI, and Lord Mountbatten.

The second series, Map Room Conference and Special Files includes files pertaining to the key conferences of World War II—Casablanca, Trident, Sextant, and Argonaut—as well as correspondence and memoranda on key Allied matters.

Rounding out the Roosevelt Map Collection are series on Army and Navy messages; military subject files on topics such as 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 a firsthand account of the innermost workings of the top level 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.

Established in 1942, the Operations Division (OPD) of the War Department's General Staff was the mechanism through which Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall exercised his overall command, both in planning and execution. The Records of the War Department's Operation Division cover all theaters of the war.
In addition to the military documents, the files for Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East also contain materials on relations with peoples of various nationalities, especially the French, Arabs, and Italians.

The files pertaining to the war in the Pacific are especially strong on Philippines material. Of particular note are the formerly top secret files. These are often the strategic planning papers at the highest level, and as such, offer frank statements on issues being researched or debated by the War Department.

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. Besides illustrated battle narratives, reports contain data and analyses on organization and readiness as well as many appendices covering casualties and damage, ordnance expenditure, awards recommendations, excerpts from individual ship captains’ reports, and lessons learned.

The Office of War Information (OWI), America’s official propaganda agency during World War II, was established by executive order on June 13, 1942. OWI’s mandate was twofold: domestically, to coordinate information policy and control the news from the battlefronts for the home front; overseas, to engage in experiments in psychological warfare. The Records of the Office of War Information 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; include extensive materials on the major issues that confronted OWI during World War II; and delineate the conflicts over information strategy that arose among the agency, the Congress, the President, and the armed forces. Some of the richest

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areas of documentation involve the controversies that arose concerning 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. From August 1942 to December 1945, this office produced propaganda directives in its effort to undermine enemy morale and cultivate a pro-American postwar climate. These directives are reproduced in this module.

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. Papers of the War Refugee Board consists of reports and correspondence and other papers pertaining to the board’s policies, programs, and operations, including documentation on the cooperation with officials of American embassies and consulates and with independent rescue organizations, such as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the American Friends Service Committee. Perhaps the most moving series in this collection are the “Measures Directed Toward Halting Persecution.” These records include testimony of recently rescued Jews whose glimpses inside Europe were eagerly sought and recorded. Their accounts helped rescuers to estimate where the largest groups of Jews still lived and guess at the numbers held or killed in concentration camps.

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.

Beyond these major collections, this module contains several smaller collections that document other aspects of U.S. participation in World War II. These collections include FBI Files on Tokyo Rose, Papers of President Roosevelt’s Soviet Lend Lease Protocol Committee, records of the American War Production Mission in China, Map Room Messages of President Truman, Manhattan Project documents, Potsdam Conference Documents, and records from the trials of the major war criminals before the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg.

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Be sure to also check out Digital National Security Archive for online access to the most significant declassified primary documents in key areas of U.S. foreign and military policy since 1945. And, visit www.proquest.com for more complementary resources.
Collection List

World War II: U.S. Documents on Planning, Operations, Intelligence, Axis War Crimes, and Refugees

- American War Production Mission in China, 1944-1945, Part 1: Correspondence and Reports
- FBI Files on Tokyo Rose (Iva Toguri d’Aquino) released under the Japanese Imperial Government Disclosure Act
- Fuehrer Conferences on Matters dealing with the German Navy
- German Army High Command, 1938-1945
- Holocaust Refugees and FDR White House
- Information Control and Propaganda: Records of the Office of War Information
  - Part 1: The Director's Central Files, 1942-1945
  - Part 2: Office of Policy Coordination, Series A: Propaganda and Policy Directives for Overseas Programs, 1942-1945
- Manhattan Project: Official History and Documents
- Map Room Files of President Roosevelt, 1939-1945
  - Map Room Army and Navy Messages, December 1941-May 1942
  - Map Room Conference and Special Files, 1942-1945
  - Map Room Ground Operations Files, 1941-1945
  - Map Room Messages of President Roosevelt, 1939-1945
  - Map Room Military Subject Files, 1941-1945
  - Map Room Naval Operations Files, 1941-1945
- Map Room Messages of President Truman, 1945-1946
- Martial Law in Hawaii: The Papers of Major General Thomas H. Green, Judge Advocate General’s Corps, U.S. Army
- Nazi Conspiracy and Aggression: Opinion and Judgment
- OSS/London: Special Operations Branch and Secret Intelligence Branch War Diaries
- Papers of the President’s Soviet Lend Lease Protocol Committee: Correspondence, Cables, and Reports
- Papers of the War Refugee Board, 1944-1945
  - Part 1: Correspondence and Report Files, February 1944-September 1945
- Part 2: Project and Document Files, January 1944-September 1945
- Potsdam Conference Documents
- President Roosevelt's Response to the International Refugee Situation: The "M" Project
- Records of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Part 1, 1942-1945
  - European Theater
  - Meetings of the JCS and the CCS
  - Pacific Theater
  - Strategic Issues
  - The Soviet Union
- Records of the War Department’s Operations Division, 1942-1945, World War II Operations
  - Series A: European and Mediterranean Theaters
  - Series B: Pacific Theater
  - Series C: Top Secret Files
- Top Secret Studies on U.S. Communications Intelligence During World War II
  - Part 1: The Pacific Theater
  - Part 2: The European Theater
  - Part 3: Organization and Administration
- Trial of Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal Nuremberg ("Blue Series") November 14, 1945-October 1, 1946
- Trials of War Criminals before the Nuremberg Military Tribunals under Control Council Law No. 10 ("Green Series") October 1946-April 1949
- U.S. Navy Action and Operational Reports from World War II, Pacific Theater
  - Part 1: CINCPAC: Commander-in-Chief Pacific Area
  - Part 2: Third Fleet and Third Fleet Carrier Task Forces
  - Part 3: Fifth Fleet and Fifth Fleet Carrier Task Forces
- U.S. Office of Strategic Services, Foreign Nationalities Branch Files, 1942-1945
- World War II Combat Interviews (Armed Forces Oral Histories)

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