CHINA AND THE MODERN WORLD

Various Sources, China and the Modern World collections.
China and the Modern World comprises a series of digital archive collections sourced from preeminent libraries and archives across the world, including the Second Historical Archives of China in Nanjing, the UK National Archives, and the British Library. The series covers an important period of Chinese history—from the early 1800s to the late 1900s—when China experienced a radical and often traumatic transformation from an inward-looking imperial dynasty into a globally engaged modern nation.

Consisting of monographs, manuscripts, periodicals, photographs, maps, and other types of historical documents primarily in English with some in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, and Thai, China and the Modern World aims to present a repertoire of rare and never before digitized primary source collections that will facilitate the understanding and research of the various aspects of China during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Themes running through these collections include but are not limited to diplomacy, trade, politics, Chinese-Western communication and conflicts/wars, China’s relations with her neighbors in East Asia, South & Southeast Asia, and Inner Asia in the context of Western imperialism and colonialism, as well as China’s internal riots and rebellions, reform efforts, and revolutionary activities. Other interesting topics revealed by the series include Christianity and missionaries, translation & sinology, treaty ports and informal empires, Chinese emigration, and railway building, to name just a few.

Six modules have been released to date in China and the Modern World and Gale is expanding the series by tapping new archives, such as those relating to the history of Shanghai before 1949 and 20th-century Hong Kong. Should you have any ideas on improving the series or want to recommend any rare, China-oriented collections for digitization, please email me at liping.yang@cengage.com

With rare and unique content, trustworthy and extensive bibliographic information, and technology that fits the needs of today’s researchers, China and the Modern World is poised to revolutionize research into China and its international position in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

During the conceptualization and development of China and the Modern World, I have received enthusiastic and considerable support and advice from established scholars based in different parts of the world, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of them.

Subjects supported by the Series
- History of modern China
- Imperial history and colonialism in Asia
- Chinese diplomacy and foreign relations
- History of globalization
- International politics and trade
- Treaty ports and informal empires
- Chinese emigration and diaspora
- Translation and cross-cultural communication
- Sinology and missionary studies
- Border studies

To know more about our academic advisory boards set up for each module, please see individual product pages on gale.com/camw2022.
China and the Modern World: Missionary, Sinology and Literary Periodicals, 1817–1949
Source: various sources | Pages: 160,000

This archive presents a collection of 17 English-language periodicals published in or about China from 1817 to 1949. Among them are The Chinese Recorder, West China Missionary News, The China Review, The China Critic, The China Quarterly, and T’ien Hsia Monthly. Set within the context of such major historical events as the Opium Wars, the Taiping Rebellion, the Boxer Rebellion, the Revolution of 1911, the first and second Sino-Japanese Wars, and the Chinese Civil War, these periodicals illuminate the ideas of Chinese intellectuals and Western missionaries and diplomats about China, and, more importantly, their efforts to understand Chinese culture and transform China from an imperial dynasty into a modern nation. These figures include sinologists such as James Legge, Walter H. Medhurst, and Herbert Allen Giles, and prominent Chinese writers and scholars like Lin Yu-tang, Tsai Yuan-pei, Wen Yuan-ning, and Wu Lien-teh.

The archive also features a significant collection of documents and photographs on the founding and development of Christian higher education in China, including the establishment and growth into prominence of such institutions as Yenching University, the University of Nanking, Ginling College, Shandong Christian University, Soochow University, St. John’s University, Shanghai Baptist College, and the Canton Christian College.

Source: The Second Historical Archive of China | Pages: 270,000

The Maritime Customs Service of China (the Imperial Maritime Customs Service until 1912) was an international yet British-dominated (at senior levels) bureaucracy under successive Chinese central governments from 1854 to early 1950. As one of the most important and powerful institutions in China during the period, the Service engaged in a wide range of activities: assessing duties on Chinese trade, building and maintaining China’s lighthouses, mapping China’s coast and major rivers, combating smuggling, and policing rivers, harbors, and railroad lines. As China was embroiled in foreign wars and conflicts, a large part of the customs revenue was pledged to pay indemnities and to secure foreign loans. The Service further involved itself in China’s diplomacy, organized its representation at nearly 30 world fairs and exhibitions, and ran various educational establishments.

Records of the Maritime Customs Service of China provides a uniquely valuable source for understanding Chinese trade and politics within the larger global economic context in the century-long period covered, through five different subcollections:

- Inspector General’s Circulars: confidential documents that formed a working set of instructions covering all aspects of customs work.
- Files of the London Office: the office acted as an agency of the Chinese Empire in Britain, responsible for liaising with British government and banks, and recruiting staff.
- Semi-official Correspondence with four selected ports (Shanghai, Hankow, Harbin, and Swatow): presenting a richly detailed and often much more personal view of national and local events than the formal despatches.
- Files on trade policing: consisting of communications between Superintendents and Customs Commissioners as well as files on the Shanghai River Police’s efforts to regulate waterways and combat opium smuggling.
- Records of the Customs Service during the Second Sino-Japanese War and beyond: covering the two parallel Customs Services active during the period, the collection of Wartime Consumption Tax and other issues.
China and the Modern World: Diplomacy and Political Secrets, 1869–1950
Source: British Library | Pages: over 226,000

China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China Part I, 1841–1951
Source: The National Archives, UK | Pages: 644,000 pages

Digitized from the CO 129 series of British Colonial Office files, this archive relates to Hong Kong as a British colony between 1841 and 1951 and provides essential reference material for researching the history of Hong Kong in the context of modern China and the British Empire in Asia, from the inception of the British colony in the 1840s to the early 1950s immediately after the founding of the People’s Republic of China.

This digital archive consists of original correspondence between the governors of Hong Kong and the Colonial Office, as well as letters and telegrams of other government departments and organizations, such as the Foreign Office, Home Office, and War Office. Chronologically, the archive covers four periods in the history of Hong Kong:

- Foundations (1840s–late 1800s)
- Revolution and Reform in China (1890s–early 1900s)
- The Interwar Years (1920s–late 1930s)
- War, Reconstruction and Revolution (1940s–1951)

It is noteworthy that this archive contains many records pertaining to the relations between China, Britain, and Japan during World War II. While the focus of the collection is on Hong Kong, a high proportion of the content is concerned with the history of modern China and her relations with her neighbours, such as Japan, and with Britain, covering most of the major historical events in the history of modern China, such as the Second Opium War, the Constitutional Reform, the Revolution of 1911, the general strikes of the 1920s, and the Second Sino-Japanese War.

China and the Modern World: Diplomacy and Political Secrets, 1869-1950 offers a valuable collection of primary source material carefully selected from the British India Office Records, covering Anglo-Chinese relations and the British interests in South Asia, Central Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia from 1869 to 1950.

Established by the India Act of 1858, the India Office was a London-based British government department responsible for overseeing the administration of British India after the liquidation of the British East India Company. The Burma Office was established as a separate agency from 1937 to rule British Burma until Burmese independence in 1948. The India Office itself closed in 1947 with the independence of India and Pakistan.

The files included in Diplomacy and Political Secrets consist of:

- Political and Secret Department Records, covering British India’s foreign policy and frontier affairs, including relations with China, Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan, Sikkim, Afghanistan, and Russia.
- The Burma Office Records, including the Burma Office Annual Files (1937–1945) and files on British Burma’s commercial, political, and military relations with China and other countries in the region.
- Records of the Military Department, including reports, notes, and intelligence on the people and places encountered by British armed forces in the region.

For more information or to request a trial, visit gale.com/camw2022
China and the Modern World: Imperial China and the West Part I, 1815–1881 and Part II, 1865–1905

Released in two parts, China and the Modern World: Imperial China and the West is digitized primarily from the FO 17 series of British Foreign Office Files held at the UK National Archives, providing a vast and significant primary source for researching every aspect of Chinese-British/Western relations during the nineteenth century, ranging from diplomacy and war to trade, piracy, riots and rebellions within China, international law, treaty ports and informal empires, the coolie trade and Chinese emigration, as well as translation and cross-cultural communication. The archive documents many significant historical events that are key to any student of Chinese history, such as Lord Amherst’s embassy to China in 1816, the Opium Wars of 1839–1842 and 1856–1860, the Taiping Rebellion (1850–1864), the First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895), the Hundred Days’ Reform in 1898, and the Boxer Rebellion (1900).

Imperial China and the West Part I, 1815–1881 consists of volumes 1–872 in FO 17. The remaining volumes 873–1769 form the core of Imperial China and the West Part II, 1865–1905, which also includes seven volumes of law officers’ reports from FO 83. These FO 17 volumes comprise general correspondence between the Foreign Office in London and the British legation and consulates based in Peking, Shanghai, Canton (Guangzhou), Amoy (Xiamen), Swatow (Shantou), Hankow (Hankou), Newchwang (Yingkou), Chefoo (Yantai), Formosa (Taiwan), and many other Chinese cities or towns. Communications with Chinese officials and diplomats can also be found in the correspondence, often as enclosures. The archive also incorporates despatches from the British consul general at Seoul in Korea for the period 1890 to 1905.

Related Collections
NINETEENTH CENTURY COLLECTIONS ONLINE:
Asia and the West
This archive consists of a selection of records that present a political and social history of Western interaction with a number of Asian countries during the nineteenth century.
Maps and Travel Literature
The archive includes a myriad of maps representing the long nineteenth century.

ARCHIVES UNBOUND COLLECTIONS:
Archives Unbound presents topically-focused digital collections of historical documents that support the research and study needs of scholars, researchers, and students at the college and university level. A multi-disciplinary resource, collections cover a broad range of topics and periods in history.

- Shanghai International Settlement: Shanghai Municipal Council Reports, Minutes of Ratepayers Meetings, and Shanghai Volunteer Corps
- Shanghai International Settlement: Urban Planning and Development
- Service Lists and Reports of the Chinese Maritime Customs and Whangpoo Conservancy Board
- Papers of Old Shanghai: Social Shanghai: a Magazine for Men and Women
- Papers of Old Shanghai: Press, Education, Healthcare, and Charity
- Papers of Old Shanghai: Business, Banking and Insurance
- Papers of Old Shanghai: Societies and Clubs
- Papers of Old Shanghai: Miscellanies
- Papers of British Consulates and Legation in China, 1722-1951
- The Earl George Macartney Collection
- Minutes of the Shanghai Municipal Council
- Shanghai International Settlement: the Municipal Gazette
- The Papers of Ernest M. Satow
- Chinese Maritime Customs Service: The Customs’ Gazette, 1869-1913
- Policing the Shanghai International Settlement, 1894-1945
- Political Relations Between China, the US, and Other Countries, 1910-1929
- Political, Economic, and Military Conditions in China: Reports and Correspondence of the US Military Intelligence Division, 1918-1941
TEXTUAL ANALYSIS TOOLS
Identify and visualize patterns, trends, and relationships to explore content in new ways.

DOWNLOADABLE OCR
Keyword-search monographs, for a new level of access on all search results.

HANDWRITTEN TEXT RECOGNITION (HTR)
Gale has applied HTR to Hong Kong, Britain and China Part I and Imperial China and the West Part I & II in the China and the Modern World series. HTR allows handwritten documents to be full-text searchable, just as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) allows printed books, newspapers, and other works to be searched. This is revolutionary as it enables unexpected discoveries not possible from traditional finding aids.

IMAGE VIEWER
Zoom, rotate, and reverse to create a custom view in full-screen mode.

STAND-ALONE OR CROSS-SEARCH CAPABILITIES
Use the archive on its own or cross-search with other primary source collections to reveal connections that foster deeper understanding.

BUILD YOUR CONTENT SETS
• Use Gale Primary Sources archives
• Upload and use your own text files
• Download content sets for use elsewhere

CLEAN TEXTS FOR COMPUTATIONAL ANALYSIS
• Apply stop words to your analysis
• Use flexible options to target specific character removal
• Reuse configurations across Content Sets

ANALYZE CONTENT IN POWERFUL NEW WAYS
• Visualize data from up to 10,000 documents at a time
• Explore individual documents overlaid with analysis data
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China and the Modern World archives are available within the Lab, providing a new lens to explore these unique documents, and empowering researchers to generate world-altering conclusions and outcomes.
CHINA AND THE MODERN WORLD

Explore unique, first-hand accounts of the cultural interactions and conflicts that gave rise to today’s modern China with essential primary source collections for researchers of China in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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