
An essential primary source collection for researching the post-WWII history of Hong Kong and its interactions with the world during the era of the Cold War.

DATE RANGE: 1965–1993
FILES SELECTED: FCO 40 | 2,980 Files | FCO 21 | 56 Files
SOURCE LIBRARY: The National Archives, UK
ESTIMATED PAGE COUNT: 400,000

Clash between HK striking tram workers and police officers on 30 August 1967 | 《人民画报》1967年8月
A DIGITAL PRIMARY SOURCE ARCHIVE ESSENTIAL TO RESEARCHING THE MODERN HISTORY OF HONG KONG

Digitized primarily from the records of British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO 40), this collection continues where Hong Kong, Britain and China Part I, 1841–1951 left off, and documents the process of Hong Kong manoeuvring, surviving, thriving, and transforming into a modern international metropolis and financial centre in the wider context of the Cold War.

VALUE OF THE ARCHIVE

Consisting of all declassified volumes--that are directly related to Hong Kong and those that affect all British colonies or territories--from the National Archives classes FCO 40 and 21, China and the Modern World: Hong Kong, Britain and China Part II, 1965–1993 provides scholars with essential reference material for researching Hong Kong and its interactions with mainland China, UK, US, Taiwan, and other parts of Asia. It will appeal to students and researchers around the world, particularly in Asia Pacific, Britain, Europe, and North America, who are engaged in researching the twentieth-century history of China, Britain and British Commonwealth, and Sino-British relations during the era of Cold War.

While the focus of the collection is on Hong Kong, a high proportion of the content relates well to the history of modern China and her relations with her neighbours (e.g., Japan) and the West (Britain and the US), covering many historical events such as the Vietnam War, Cultural Revolution, tensions across the Taiwan Strait, China’s reform and opening-up, and negotiations on the return of Hong Kong to China.

Types of documents include manuscripts, photographs, clippings, and ephemera. HTR (Handwritten Text Recognition) will be applied to all relevant documents, allowing users to search for handwritten as well as printed text within the documents. Gale will also create item-level metadata from scratch for all the selected volumes from FCO 40 and 21 to further enhance the research experience of scholars.

Key topics covered

- The labour disturbances and riots of 1966–1967
- Social reforms of the 1970s
- Response to the Vietnam War and influx of Vietnamese refugees
- Espionage and intelligence operations
- Police corruption
- Reactions to Chinese political and economic events
- Anxieties about the city’s future
- Negotiations and preparations for the city’s handover to China.

SUBJECTS SUPPORTED:

History of Hong Kong and China, Cold War and international relations in the Far East, colonialism and decolonization, Anglo-Chinese relations.

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