

Valuable primary source material created for local audiences by local actors during a period of enormous global change

ABOUT THE ARCHIVE

Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories brings together material from within former British colonies and Commonwealth nations, alongside some similar content from former French and Portuguese territories, to provide valuable primary source material created for local audiences by local actors during a period of enormous global change. After the Second World War decolonization movements around the world gathered pace as new borders were set and new nations built, from the small port colony of Aden to the vast Indian sub-continent.

This archive allows insight into the variety of systems and modes of national and international political thought that became prominent in the twentieth century, including socialism, communism, anti-imperialism, regional independence movements, trade unionism, student activism, Pan-Africanism and many modes of constitutional democracy.

Scholars can explore the politics of this era of decolonization from a variety of viewpoints in terms of economic and social development, domestic politics and international relations, media and culture, labor history and strikes, civil rights movements and moments of political violence, as well as constitutions and manifestos penned by different parties and groups. Number of Pages: 250,000

Content Types:

Pamphlets and ephemera including political campaign material such as manifestos, press releases, conference documents, reports, letters, speech transcripts.



THE VALUE OF THIS ARCHIVE

- Brings together key collections that complement each other and allows a broader picture of political processes of and after decolonization, and the myriad ways in which former colonies and Commonwealth nations negotiated their own agency and their own futures.
- Places the changing politics of newly independent areas alongside those of other Commonwealth member states such as Australia, New Zealand and Canada, allowing exploration of global trends such as socialism or trade union movements.
- Newly digitised documents enable researchers to analyse and compare different political movements within a country, as well as the many forms of politics and activism engaged in the transition to self-rule across different nations and regions.
- With material from over 70 countries and territories these collections offer scholars and researchers a wide pool of resources from which to study local and regional issues in areas often under-represented in Western curriculums.

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESOURCE

Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories serves scholars in a variety of fields, including history, politics, international relations, transnational studies, area studies, anthropology and sociology.

WHICH COLLECTIONS ARE INCLUDED

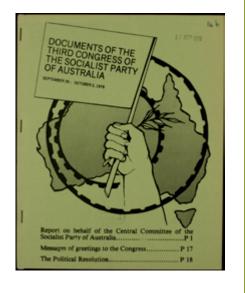
Sourced from three UK archives, the collections here represent material from over 70 countries or territories collected in the second half of the twentieth century. Together, these collections represent a wide array of perspectives and ideologies from politicians, activists, trade unionists, and other local actors addressing local and regional issues in a changing world. From independence struggles to environmental pressure groups, major issues of the twentieth century can be found represented here as they played out in different places around the world.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies

Source: Held at Senate House Library; items gathered by the Institute of Commonwealth Studies

The collection consists of over 10 000 items of ephemera from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, North and Central America, and Australasia and the Pacific. The material represents either Political Parties (manuscript numbers beginning 'PP'), Pressure Groups (manuscript numbers beginning with 'PG') or Trade Unions (manuscript numbers beginning with 'TU'). Alongside material produced in the regions for local audiences on local and national issues, there are items from international organisations, as well as broader perspectives represented through, for example, pan-African groups and regional trade unions.

The Institute of Commonwealth Studies political parties collection was begun in 1960-1961 but covers the years 1898-2017, with special emphasis being placed on primary material such as party constitutions, policy statements, convention reports and election manifestos. Since then, the main method of gathering material has been to appeal directly to political parties throughout the Commonwealth.



Marjorie Nicholson Papers from the Trades Union Congress Library

Source: Trades Union Congress Library at London Metropolitan University

This collection represents the subject files from the Marjorie Nicholson papers, mainly comprising research papers and background material documenting the work of the Trades Union Congress International Division in various regions covering the years 1935-1997.



Files include material focused on labour law, particularly the 1971 Industrial Relations Act; the Co-Operative movement in the UK and the Commonwealth, 1952-1991; TUC International Committee minutes and papers, 1958-1970; the International Labour Office, 1919-1964; colonial welfare and development, 1929-1946; and forced labour, 1953-1989, and covers areas including India, Africa and the Caribbean.

Papers of African Trade Unions, Nuffield College, Oxford University

Source: Nuffield College Library, University of Oxford

This varied collection presents papers and pamphlets from across Africa, reflecting trade union movements across the continent and their development between 1949-1969. The documents vary from constitutions to publications, press cuttings to legislation and manifestos to speeches. The material covers miscellaneous trade unions in various African nations including Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, Gambia, Angola,



Botswana, Eswatini and Sierra Leone. The main trade unions include the Railway African Union (Kenya), All African Trade Union Federation, Confedération Syndicale Africaine, Ghana T.U.C., Nigerian T.U.C. and Union Nationale des Travailleurs Sénégalais (Senegal).

WHO WAS MARJORIE NICHOLSON?

Marjorie Nicholson (1914-1997) worked in the International Development department of the Trades Union Congress from 1955-1972 as one of the few women working in policy development within the trade union movement. These papers relate to that time in her life, and her work on the book *The TUC Overseas: the Roots of Policy*, after her retirement. Graduating from Oxford University in the 1930s, Marjorie Nicholson became committed to the labour movement in the late 40s. Prior

to her work for the TUC she was a secretary at the Fabian Colonial Bureau, and she also stood three times as the Labour candidate for Windsor.

Through her work at the Bureau, she met and assisted significant figures such as India's Jawaharlal Nehru and Krishna Menon, Eric Williams from Trinidad, Hugh Springer from Barbados, Siaka Stevens from Sierra Leone, and other future Commonwealth leaders.



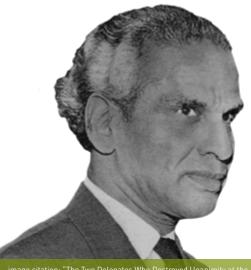
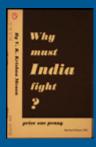


image citation: "The Two Delegates Who Destroyed Unanimity at the Suez Conference." Illustrated London News, 1 Sept. 1956, p. 328. The Illustrated London News Historical Archive, 1842-2003

SPOTLIGHT ON V. K. KRISHNA MENON (1896-1974)

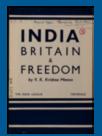
A close associate of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, V. K. Krishna Menon was an Indian politician and diplomat who played a key role in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule. Born in 1896 in Kerala, Menon began his career as a lawyer before becoming involved in the independence movement in the 1920s. Menon campaigned strongly for Indian independence, and even set up the India League in London in 1928 to rally support from the British public. Postindependence, Menon served as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and later as India's Defense Minister.

Documents related to individual:



Krishna Menon, Vengalil Krishnan, and India League. Why Must India Fight? 1940. TS Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: India PG.II.I.L.2. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories.

Find it here 🔶



Krishna Menon, Vengalil Krishnan, and India League. India. Britain & Freedom. [1942?]. MS Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: India PG.II.IL.1. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories.



Menon, Vengalil Krishnan Krishna. The Situation in India, by V. K. Krishna Menon. (1943). TS Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: India PG.II.L.11. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories.



SPOTLIGHT ON HUGH SPRINGER (1913-1994)

Hugh Springer was a strong advocate for worker's rights and played a leading role in campaigning for political independence in Barbados. Coming from a background in education, he first became involved in the labour movement in the 1930s and was a founding member of the Barbados Workers' Union in 1941, where he acted as the first General Secretary. Springer was also the General Secretary of the Barbados Labour Party and was elected to the House of Assembly in 1940. He left his work in Parliament in 1947 for a period to assume the role of Registrar of the University College of West Indies. In 1984, Springer was appointed as Governor-General of Barbados, where he served until 1990. After his death, Springer was named by Parliament as one of the eleven National Heroes of Barbados.

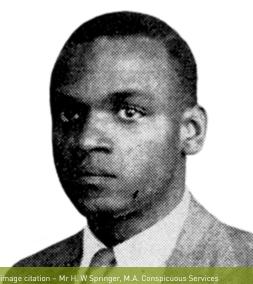


image citation – Mr H. W Springer, M.A. Conspicuous Services Hoyos, F. A., and Barbados Progressive League. The Story of the Progressive Movement: Achievements of a Decade. 1948

Documents related to individual:



Barbados - TUC & Background. 1909-1978. MS Marjorie Nicholson Papers from the Trades Union Congress Library Subject File 972.27. The Trades Union Congress Archive, London Metropolitan University. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories.





Hoyos, F. A., and Barbados Progressive League. The Story of the Progressive Movement: Achievements of a Decade. 1948. TS Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Barbados PP.BB.BPL.2. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories.





Barbados Labour Party. The Beacon. February 5-August 15, 1964. TS Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Barbados PP.BB.BLP.19a; PP.BB.BLP.19b. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories.



KFY THFMFS

A sample of just some of the primary sources available reveals the vast range of research possibilities using material from the archive:

Women's rights, including campaigns for social

equality and equal wages



National Union of South African Students.

The Oppression of Women: An Introduction. [1979?]. Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: South Africa TU.SA.NUSAS.29. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/NNNQGG758526320/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=2ddc8c48&pg=1



New Zealand Labour Party.

Fair Shares for Women: Women and Labour's 1995 Budget. [1995?].

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: New Zealand PP.NZ.LAB.126. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/EJJNOP048026115/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=8084e172&pg=1



New Zealand Labour Party. Women Are People Too! [1978].

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: New Zealand PP.NZ.LAB.58. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/SBMYZQ099872167/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=ada7b90c&pg=1



Mouvement Socialiste (Canada).

For a Socialist Quebec: Manifesto of the Movement for a Socialist. Independent and Democratic Quebec and for Equality between Men and Women, 1982.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Canada PP.CN.MS.6. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/HPRHMN526182000/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=3386b2ff&pg=1

Environmentalism and climate change, charting the increase in interest in environmentalism and conservation at a local and national level, particularly from the 1970s on



New Zealand Labour Party.

Labour's Environment Policy: Achieving Sustainable Development. 1996.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: New Zealand PP.NZ.LAB.124. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/XAJGWS389697512/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=b8847e97&pg=1



Environment and Conservation Policy. 1975.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Australia PP.AT.LIB.83. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/GVBJIJ113626094/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=9aef58da&pg=1



National Union of South African Students

The Threat and Promise of Alternatives: The Environment and the Quality of Life. n.d.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: South Africa TU.SA.NUSAS.14. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/AXUPNJ274614282/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=2aabf2ac&pg=1



Liberal Party of Australia.

Protecting Our Environment, 1972. Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Australia PP.AT.LIB.42; PP.AT.LIB.46. Senate House Library, University of London. *Decolonization: Politics and Independence in* Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/TGEPPE214136705/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=805b8774&pg=1

The rise of trade unionism and individual labour movements in different regions



Gold Coast Teachers' Union Rules & Regulations. 1949. Papers of African Trade Unions: Ghana Trade Union Congress Box 4 R1. Nuffield College Library, Oxford University. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/HBRBCB836738252/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=d00d6cb1&pg=1



The Position of the UGTT on African Trade Unionism', Statement Made by Brother Ahmed Tlili, Général Secretary of the UGTT (Union Générale Tunisienne Du Travail) during His Press Conference. 7 Feb. 1960.

Papers of African Trade Unions: Supplementary Material Box 10 L1. Nuffield College Library, Oxford University. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/HSNPSL405352752/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=10cb965c&pg=1



Trade Union Training and What It Means for You and Your Union.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Australia TU.AT.ATUTA.2. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/RWASOJ196062249/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=d8d4dfae&pg=1

Hart, Richard, and National Labour Party (Jamaica).



'Keep Left': An Open Letter Proposing a Fight Programme for the Progressive Trade Union and Political Movement of Jamaica. 1963.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Jamaica PP.JM.SP.3. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/OCTXLI637351007/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=ac881397&pg=1



Education policies of different parties and the right to education for minority groups and women



South African Congress of Democrats.

Educating for Ignorance: The South African Congress of Democrats' View of the Bantu Education act. [1955].

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: South Africa PP.SA.SACOD.9. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/ZIKBYQ981033702/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=13fb2b79&pg=1

South African Committee for Higher Education, and National Union of South African Students.

A Candle in the Night: 'A South African Struggle for Education beyond Racial Fetters'. n.d.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: South Africa TU.SA.NUSAS.34. Senate House Library, University of London. *Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories*

link.gale.com/apps/doc/PONKMI952074490/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=91ce7b23&pg=1



National Union of South African Students, and Azanian Students' Organisation.

Education Charter Campaign: End Apartheid Education. n.d. Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: South Africa TU.SA.NUSAS.62. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/QIVB0I591683187/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=9112f9b7&pg=1



National Union of South African Students. Educating for Change. 1983.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: South Africa TU.SA.NUSAS.50. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/RCYAKF601791103/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=46404542&pg=1

Public Health appeals, campaigns, and attitudes to health services



Socialist Party (India).

People's Health. 1951. Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: India PP.II.SP.20. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/OZIFCM057107884/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=3c727787&pg=1



New Zealand Labour Party.

Health Where and When You Need It: New Zealand Labour Party Health Policy 1978. [1978].

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: New Zealand PP.NZ.LAB.44. Senate House Library, University of London. *Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories*

link.gale.com/apps/doc/GRZSCZ725625510/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=b38f3ce1&pg=1



Namibia Support Committee. Health Collective.

SWAPO Medical Kits Appeal. n.d. Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Namibia PG.SX.NSC.3. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/PGZAED587040344/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=694f66e9&pg=1



Liberal Party of Australia. New South Wales Division.

The Medical and Hospital Crisis: The Road to Nationalisation. 1984.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Australia PP.AT.LIB.NSW.19. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/FYCENF702801349/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=68d05b92&pg=1

International relations, particularly those of former colonial territories with the former imperial powers



African National Congress, and Labour Research Department. South Africa. Apartheid and Britain. 1970.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: South Africa PP.SA.ANC.306. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/PRCFWZ425030457/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=da20f38a&pg=1

Britain-Tanzania Society.



The Britain-Tanzania Society. 2000.

Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: Tanzania PG.TZ.BTS.1. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/CRIKYD017757867/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=7bdee8d4&pg=1



Krishna Menon, Vengalil Krishnan, and India League. India, Britain & Freedom. [1942?].



Political Pamphlets from the Institute of Commonwealth Studies: India PG.II.IL.1. Senate House Library, University of London. Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories

link.gale.com/apps/doc/QVWVFS414470264/ DPIT?u=webdemo&sid=bookmark-DPIT&xid=a0871c3a&pg=1

GALE DIGITAL SCHOLAR LAB

Decolonization: Politics and Independence in Former Colonial and Commonwealth Territories is integrated into Gale's cloudbased Text and Data Mining (TDM) environment, Gale Digital Scholar Lab. Researchers are invited to take their digital humanities scholarship on pathways to new discoveries with powerful analytical tools that enable enhanced storytelling through data. The Lab removes barriers to entry for researchers of all skill levels, with accessible, intuitive workflows that help users analyse content regardless of technical experience.





