ABOUT THE ARCHIVE

Refugees, Relief and Resettlement: Forced Migration and World War II chronicles the plight of refugees and displaced persons across Europe, North Africa, and Asia from 1935 to 1950. This collection brings over 550,000 pages of government documents, relief organization files and refugee reports, memoranda, and correspondence that together document the causes, effects and responses to refugee crises before, during and shortly after the Second World War.

Number of Pages: approx 550,000

Content Types: government documents, relief organization files, refugee reports, memoranda, and correspondence

ADVANCED SEARCH FEATURES

With this archive we are introducing four bespoke Advanced Search limiters to assist in the research process.

Refugee Population: The nationality, religious or ethnic background, or political affiliation of the refugee group described in the document.

Place of Departure: The location from where the refugee or refugees embarked or originated. The location name is based on how it is referenced in the document, so more than one place may be mentioned by its historical name.

Place of Destination: The location where the refugee or group of refugees was headed. The location name is based on how it is referenced in the document, so more than one place may be mentioned by its historical name.

Current Location: The location of the refugee or group of refugees at the time the document was created. The location name is based on how it is referenced in the document, so more than one place may be mentioned by its historical name.
THE VALUE OF THIS COLLECTION

The global history of refugee crises throughout the twentieth century remains largely untold through primary sources. This archive brings together material from across four esteemed sources to convey this history.

Access to this archive makes it possible for researchers to unravel the complex history of forced migration during this critical period in the twentieth century at every level, from the logistical details concerning the migration and resettlement of those in flight to the political challenges faced by refugee populations and national governments during and after the war.

Documentation offers a first-hand record of the response of governments to various crises and shifts in policy; a chronicling of the aid work undertaken by NGOs and charities seeking to provide relief and aid in resettlement; and a recognition through individual narratives of the daily reality of the refugee experience.

This archive enables researchers to examine not only the plight of those forced to resettle inside and outside their national borders but also the many types of refugee situations that arose, from voluntary evacuations and the internment of individuals in displaced person (DP) camps to whole population transfers and the return of forced laborers.

Refugees, Relief and Resettlement: Forced Migration and World War II represents an ambitious first step in a series of titles that will explore the global history of forced migration from the late nineteenth century through the mid- to late twentieth century.

A MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESOURCE

Refugees, Relief and Resettlement: World War II and Forced Migration serves scholars in a variety of fields, including global, military, and diplomatic history; public health, sociology, economics, political science, religion, and area studies (Jewish, Asian, African, and European studies). A sample of just some of primary sources available reveals the vast range of possibilities for scholarship for the study of Global, Military, and Diplomatic History

- U.K. Delegation Proposal on Refugees and Displaced Persons under Article 17 of the Draft Austrian Treaty
- Repatriation of Dutch Prisoners of War from Odessa

Review of Key Issues in Sociology and Economics of Refugeeism

- Provision of Clothing and Pocket Money for Refugees
- Financial Arrangements for Displaced Persons

Examination of Public Health and Its History

- Agreement for the Health and Sanitary Control of Displaced Persons in the Far East during Repatriation
- Feeding of Refugees in Government Spain
WHICH COLLECTIONS ARE INCLUDED?

Records within Refugees, Relief and Resettlement: Forced Migration and World War II cover the entire "war theatre," from evacuations in Burma and mass migrations within central and Eastern Europe to the displacement of North African populations and resettlement of refugees in Latin America. Records are drawn from the foreign and colonial office files from The National Archives, UK, the U.S. State Department from the National Archives Records Administration (NARA), the British India Office collection from the British Library, and the archives of World Jewish Relief. They provide researchers detailed insights into the complicated and shifting landscape across Europe, Asia, and Africa during and following World War II.

Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1938-1950 | The National Archives (Kew, UK)

This collection provides a broad swath of English-language material that maps refugee situations before, during, and shortly after World War II. Researchers will find content on the establishment of temporary displaced person camps, the relocation of prisoners of war, the repatriation of populations to their home territories, the displacement of local populations who served colonial administrations, and much more. This collection emphasizes, above all, the political aspects of addressing the refugee crisis during and in the wake of the war.

Refugee Files from the Records of the Foreign Office, 1938-1950 | The National Archives (Kew, UK)

This collection draws on records dedicated to refugee matters spread across the files of the Foreign Office. These records highlight the work of the various departments within this government division and includes work of policy groups and individuals’ correspondence. This collection allows researchers to explore the myriad political, diplomatic, and economic issues raised by efforts to address the mass displacement of the millions of refugees during this period. Of special interest will be the direct comparison scholars can make to materials from the U.S. State Department’s own initiatives.

Refugee Records from the Public and Judicial Department Collections of the British India Office, 1939-1952 | British Library

This collection provides insight into a unique form of refugee relief and resettlement, as a colonial power transformed India, its largest Asian colony, into a refugee way station for expatriate citizens and allies. The files of the British India Office document the evacuation of civilians from Hungary, the Balkans, Russia, Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Cyprus, Palestine, Indochina, Thailand, Burma, Hong Kong, and China to India.

Archives of the Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief, 1933-1960

The records of the British Fund for World Jewish Relief document the organisation's role in aiding refugees from Nazi oppression and survivors of the Holocaust. This collection opens a window onto the inner workings of a leading NGO in addressing the refugee crisis that enveloped the Jewish populations of Europe pre- and post-World War II.

Refugee Records from the War Cabinet, the Colonial Office, the Home Office and the War Office, 1935-1949 | The National Archives (Kew, UK)

This collection looks at records related to refugee matters outside of the Foreign Office. In particular, researchers will discover the unique role played by such divisions as the Colonial Office, Home Office, and War Office in response to the refugee crises. These materials shed light on the global nature of the history of forced migration in this period, with a special emphasis on the extraction of refugees from and resettlement of refugees in the United Kingdom and British territories during and just after the war.

Records of the Department of State Relating to the Problems of Relief and Refugees in Europe Arising from World War II and Its Aftermath, 1938-1949 | National Archives (United States)

Records from this collection address two difficult problems facing the United States from 1938 to 1949: the first of these was how to handle relief measures in a Europe in the throes of political conflict and war; the second concerned how to deal with refugees displaced by persecution and fighting and unable to return home in the war’s aftermath. The State Department’s interest and involvement with relief efforts represented in this collection began before the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939 and continued after the war ended in May 1945.
KEY THEMES

Camp Life
The abstract numerical and logistical aspects of refugee relief and resettlement cannot mask the grim reality of the daily experience—for both the refugees who lived within the camps and the individuals and agencies tasked with administering them. Government and NGO responses to and administration of camps across the world can be understood through ration supply lists, expenditure statements, organisational charts, internal minutes and other documentation. A more on-the-ground understanding comes from camp reports and first-hand accounts that examine all aspects of camp life, including health, employment, discipline and schooling, giving a real sense of what it was like to live in these environments. By exploring refugee voices alongside administrative voices, the full story can begin to be unearthed.

The Plight of Children
Children were often the first evacuees because they were the most helpless—and the easiest to place. With government and NGO documents discussing topics such as the rescue effort of Jewish children following Kristallnacht and the evacuation of children overseas, offers to host refugee children, and the first-hand accounts that were critical to gaining support for refugee efforts, including translated accounts from child refugees of the Spanish Civil War, and accounts from child survivors of the Holocaust, Refugees, Relief and Resettlement allows researchers to explore the experience of children as refugees through a range of different lenses.

The Flight of Jewish Refugees
With the Nazis and European collaborators having targeted their extermination and no “home country” to rejoin, Jewish refugees posed a special challenge to the world community. For example, Operation Oasis was one of the key events in the British effort to prevent the SS Exodus from bringing Jewish refugees to Palestine. British authorities ultimately re-routed its passengers to the British zone of Germany, where they were forcibly removed from the ship and put in displaced person camps. The archive also highlights the many unofficial negotiations to discuss Jewish refugee settlement location possibilities including in Angola, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Mindanao, New Caledonia, Dominican Republic, and Venezuela.

Resettlement and Repatriation
With so many displaced persons in need of some form of resettlement, there is a sad inevitability to the emphasis on numbers: the counting of resettled individuals, food stocks, health supplies, housing units, available workers, and—as always—financial resources. This collection abounds with this kind of data. Maps can be used to understand the movement of refugees, the numbers of people who were deported, expelled or otherwise transferred from their homes, and the distances they travelled. Key statistics and data can be understood through charts and tables, which divide refugees and resources into easily measured, if often impersonal, groups. Domestic and foreign policies can also be explored using the government documents in the archives. Operation Westward Ho, for instance, was an effort to bring unmarried, childless European refugees to Great Britain as ‘European Voluntary Workers’, while Operation Caravan was implemented to deal with the mass-migration of German civilians fleeing the Russian-occupied zone of Germany.
In combination with powerful search technologies, *Gale Primary Sources* brings the thoughts, words, and actions of past centuries into the present. For nearly two decades, we have been preserving and extending access to scholarly research materials and content from prestigious source libraries through our ground-breaking digitisation program.

To advance research even further, the data from these archives, including *Refugees, Relief, and Resettlement*, can be explored in new ways using *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*, a cloud-based research environment that allows students and researchers to apply natural language processing tools to raw text data (OCR) from Gale’s Primary Sources in a single research platform.

**CREATE CONTENT SETS**

The *Gale Digital Scholar Lab* gives users the ability to create custom content sets containing as many as 10,000 documents. Users can search across their library’s *Gale Primary Sources* holdings and seamlessly select documents to be added to their custom content set.

**ANALYSE CONTENT SETS**

Users can analyse and interrogate the data with the text analysis and visualisation tools built into the Lab. Digital humanities analysis methods include: Named Entity Recognition, Topic Modelling, Parts of Speech Tagger, Sentiment Analysis, Ngrams and Document Clustering.

**MANAGE AND SHARE**

Users’ content sets remain saved in the *Gale Digital Scholar Lab* allowing them to manage their research for long term projects. Users can publish their outputs with confidence retaining all intellectual property rights and are free to share analysis outputs.

The *Refugees, Relief, and Resettlement: Forced Migration and World War II* archive is available within the Lab, providing a new lens to explore these unique documents, and empowering researchers to generate world-altering conclusions and outcomes.