China and the Modern World: Diplomacy and Political Secrets
1869-1950

China and the Modern World: Diplomacy and Political Secrets brings to academics and researchers valuable material from the British India Office Records held at the British Library. Newly scanned records from the Political and Secret Department, the Burma Office (created as a separate entity in 1937) and the Military Department, are now available for the first time as a digital archive, covering British interests in Asia and Anglo-Chinese relations from 1869-1950.
ABOUT THE ARCHIVE

Through intelligence and diplomatic mission reports, correspondence, official diaries, memoranda, pamphlets, gazetteers and maps, this collection offers a panoramic insight into British interests in Inner (Central) and South East Asia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, particularly relating to frontier regions between China and British India, such as Xinjiang (Chinese Turkestan), Tibet and Yunnan, and events on the Myanmar (Burma) - China border. The material also covers the rivalry between Britain and Russia in the regions covered ("the Great Game") and the regional impact of global events. More importantly the collection follows the relationship between China and Britain through major events from the aftermath of the Opium Wars, Boxer Rebellion of 1899-1901 to Sino-British cooperation in the Second World War.

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*Previously named ‘China from Empire to Republic’

ARCHIVE SNAPSHOT

Approximate Size: 226,000 pages
Year of earliest document: 1869
Year of last document: 1950
Language: English

SUBJECTS SUPPORTED

• Western Imperialism and Colonialism in the Far East
• Chinese Politics and Diplomacy
• Global and international relations
• Sino-British relations from the mid-19th to mid-20th centuries
• Border studies and politics
• Ethnic minorities in China and its bordering regions
• The Silk Road and trade history

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