

# State Papers Online

The Government of Britain, 1509-1714



**A ground-breaking online resource** for understanding two hundred years of British and European history



King Henry VIII © National Portrait Gallery, London

Queen Anne © National Portrait Gallery, London

# State Papers Online

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*State Papers Online, 1509-1714*, published in four seamless Parts, offers researchers a ground-breaking online resource for understanding two hundred years of British and European history, from the reign of Henry VIII to the end of the reign of Queen Anne.

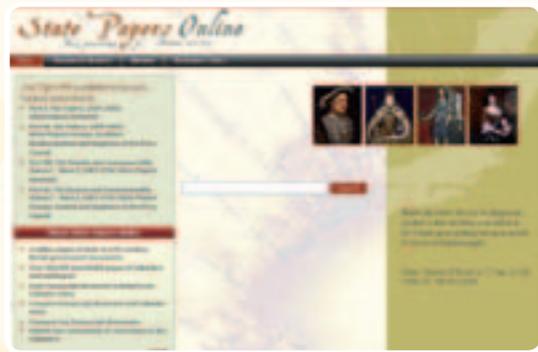
The largest digital manuscript archive of its kind, *State Papers Online* gathers together 16th- and 17th-century British State Papers and links these rare historical manuscripts to their fully text-searchable Calendars. As such, it radically transforms and simplifies the process of research, offering Early Modern scholars unprecedented access to the behind-the-scenes workings of the Tudor and Stuart governments.

The richness and variety of the documents offers researchers and students in-roads into understanding every aspect of Tudor and Stuart government and society both at home and abroad. *State Papers Online* is a crucial resource for original research, teaching, and learning in politics, society, economic and religious history in the 16th and 17th centuries and serves the following fields of study:

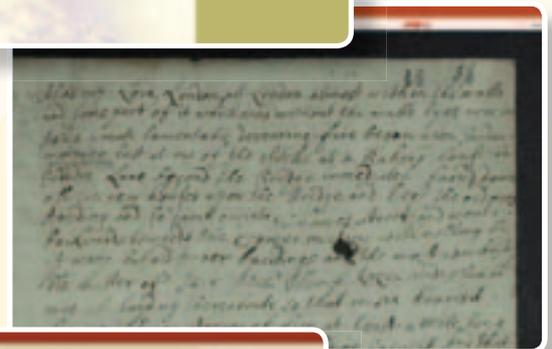
- Early Modern British and European History: diplomatic, political, social, cultural, local, legal, religious, kingship and queenship, exploration, travel and trade, and early empire
- Early Modern Literature
- Renaissance and Reformation Studies
- Tudor and Stuart Studies

## Only State Papers Online offers:

- Facsimile images of almost 3 million State Papers documents
- Direct linking between the facsimile images of the manuscripts and their individual Calendar entries
- Hyperlinking between all references in the Calendar Indexes and the Calendar entries
- The Irish Manuscript Commission series of Calendars of State Papers Ireland
- The manuscripts collections of Sir William Cecil (Lord Burghley), and his successor, Robert Burghley from The National Archives and the British Library (Lansdowne Collection) as well as the complete 24 volumes of the Calendars of the Cecil Papers in Hatfield House and the Haynes/Murkin transcriptions



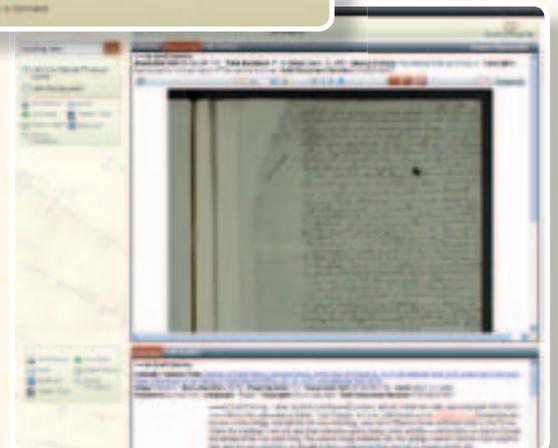
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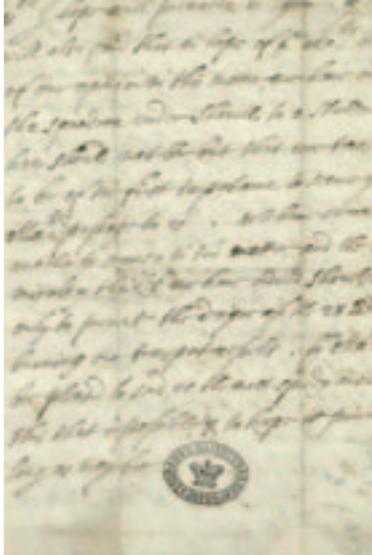
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Advanced search



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Mary II congratulates William III on his victory against her father, James II, at the Battle of Boyne, July 7 1690  
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Harangue of His Grace the Duke of Ormond, Viceroy of Ireland, 1663  
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Map of the Mediterranean, 1595 ©The British Library Board

## Content and coverage

*State Papers Online* contains almost 3 million pages of “domestic” and “foreign” papers – the equivalent of today’s documents from the Home and Foreign Offices and the Royal Archives. The range of documents is vast. Users can browse and search correspondence, reports, accounts, petitions, and parliamentary drafts from civil servants and provincial administrators, delving into events that defined the future course of state and society in Britain and the world. Every facet of administration, life and society is captured from the routine to the scandalous; from records of the resources of the Navy and lists of ships and their cargo to the detailed charges brought against criminals.

## Reuniting the manuscripts

*State Papers Online* overcomes the fragmented experience of previous research on the Tudor and Stuart periods by re-uniting State Papers Domestic, Foreign, Borders, Scotland, and Ireland with the Registers of the Privy Council in the National Archives, Kew, and other State Papers now housed in the Cotton, Harley and Lansdowne collections in the British Library.

By searching across thousands of documents in one integrated environment researchers can, for the first time, apprehend the sheer scale, range and priorities of the Tudor and Stuart governments’ activities and concerns.

## An international resource

The global reach of the series offers researchers the scope to explore documents covering Britain’s diplomatic relations and trade with its European neighbours, the Ottoman Empire, Russia, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Numerous documents disclose how the dynamics of religious tensions and royal marriage alliances underpinned Europe’s politics and diplomacy. Users can read letters from Popes, Cardinals and bishops, Holy Roman Emperors, the Kings of France and Spain, as well as rulers, diplomats, counselors and agents from every other country in Europe.

## Streamlining research

*State Papers Online* expands the research possibilities for scholars offering multiple options for finding and viewing manuscripts to suit different research needs:

- Basic search and advanced search
- Useful and time saving limiters allowing users to limit results by date, reign, collection segment, Calendar or manuscript volume, language, illustrations and maps, or source archive
- Browse through a single volume of either Calendar or manuscripts, or jump from volume to volume

- View Calendar entry with manuscript image
- View two manuscripts or two Calendar entries side by side for comparative analysis
- Links from each manuscript to its Calendar entry with fully searchable Calendars
- View manuscript with a virtual note pad that allows users to make transcriptions, annotations and personal notes
- Magnify or rotate high resolution images
- Marked Items and Mark List
- Print, save or email manuscript folio links to colleagues
- Submit comments, corrections, or transcriptions for inclusion in *State Papers Online*

## For teaching and learning

- Introductory essays by the General Editors as well as essays by leading historians on key subjects, with links to the documents
- Additional research tools including lists of abbreviations, glossary, chronologies, details of dates, weights and measures, as well as holders of the main offices of government
- Key Documents – a selection of useful documents for teaching
- Links to online palaeography and Latin courses and other selected sites of value to users
- Image Library – a collection of contemporary portraits, illustrations and maps

## Advisory board

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Queen Elizabeth I, 1586 © The British Library Board

The execution of King Charles I, 1649 © The British Library Board

## Part I: The Tudors: Henry VIII to Elizabeth I, 1509–1603: State Papers Domestic

- Approx. 270,000 pages of manuscripts
- 114,000 fully-searchable Calendar entries

Part I delivers the complete series of State Papers Domestic for the Tudor era, encompassing every facet of early modern government including social and economic affairs, law and order, religious policy, crown possessions and intelligence. The collection is of immense value to researchers of religious history, chronicling social unrest in England as it pitched back and forth between the religious positions of its rulers; from the boy-king Edward VI's promotion of the Reformation, to Mary I's bloody reassertion of Catholicism and Elizabeth I's loyalty to Protestantism and enduring suspicion of Catholic plots.

### Key themes of Part I

- Henry VIII's relations with Europe
- The Reformation
- The Dissolution of the Monasteries
- Elizabeth I: Marriage and the Succession
- Voyages of Discovery of Drake, Gilbert, Hawkins and Frobisher
- Relations between the Crown and the nobility
- The rise and fall of the Earl of Essex
- The diplomacy of William Cecil and Francis Walsingham
- Royal succession

### Series:

- The National Archives, London: SP 1-7, 10-13, 15
- British Library: Lansdowne Collection Burghley Papers
- Calendars to all the above series and the Historical Manuscript Commission Calendars and Haynes/Murkin transcriptions of the Cecil Papers, Hatfield House

## Part II: The Tudors: Henry VIII to Elizabeth I, 1509–1603: State Papers Foreign, Ireland, Scotland, Borders and Registers of the Privy Council

- 520,000 pages of manuscripts
- 212,405 fully-searchable Calendar entries

Part II reunites the Foreign, Scotland, Borders and Ireland papers for the 16th century with the Registers ('Minutes') of the Privy Council for the whole of the Tudor period. Part II's comprehensive coverage of international diplomacy, colonial policy, commercial and maritime law, trade and industry and naval and military policy offers Early Modern historians key insights not only into the inner workings of the Tudor court but also into the courts of its foreign allies and enemies.

Owing to the international reach of the State Papers, users will find hundreds, in some instances thousands, of documents partly or completely written in non-English languages including, but not limited to, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Latin and Spanish.

### Key themes of Part II

- Mary, Queen of Scots: captivity, trial and execution
- French wars of religion between Catholics and Huguenots (1562 – 98)
- 1541 Act raising Ireland into a Kingdom annexed to the Crown of England
- Henry VIII's 'rough wooing' of Scotland
- England's defeat of Philip II of Spain's Grand Armada in 1588
- Beginning of 80-year war between Spain and the Netherlands in 1566
- England's relations with the Barbary States, Denmark, Flanders, France, Genoa, Holy Roman Empire, German States, Hamburg and Hanse Towns, Holland and Flanders, the Italian States and Rome, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Savoy and Sardinia, Sicily and Naples, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Tuscany and Venice

### Series:

The National Archives, London: SP 46, 49, 50-53, 59-63, 65, 66, 68-71, 75, 77-85, 88, 89, 91, 92, 94-99, 101-106, 108, and PC 2 British Library: Selected documents from the Cotton, Harley and Yelverton Collections



Funeral procession of Queen Elizabeth I, 1603 © The British Library Board

“Few resources stand out as ‘game changers’, but *State Papers Online* will surely be one of them. It is a technological marvel, and its completion will help to open up entirely new avenues of scholarship. *State Papers Online* will make researchers’ lives a great deal easier, enrich the studies of generations of students, and ultimately transform the field of early modern studies.”

**Dr Jason Peacey, Senior Lecturer in Early Modern British History, University College London**

### **Part III: The Stuarts: James I to Anne, 1603–1714: State Papers Domestic**

- Approx. 1.2 million pages of manuscripts
- 270,000 fully-searchable Calendar entries

State Papers Domestic for the Stuart era is the richest primary source archive of its kind to cover national affairs in the 17th century. The manuscripts and accompanying Calendars are vital to any scholar’s understanding of this turbulent century of civil strife, revolution and regicide.

The clandestine world of espionage and treason emerges in numerous documents describing plots and assassination attempts; three volumes of the State Papers are dedicated to the Gunpowder Plot alone. Reports of military manoeuvres and accounts of battles bring the English Civil War sharply to life while sobering testimonies capture the public’s experience of disasters like the Great Plague and the Great Fire of London.

#### **Key events covered:**

- The Coronation of James I
- The Gunpowder Plot
- The Coronation of Charles I
- The English Civil War
- The trial and execution of Charles I
- Declaration of England as a Commonwealth
- Oliver Cromwell’s reign
- Restoration of the monarchy
- The Great Fire of London
- William of Orange’s invasion of England
- The Coronation of Anne

#### **Series:**

The National Archives, London: SP 8, 14-18, 20-22, 24-34, 44

### **Part IV: The Stuarts: James I to Anne, 1603–1714: State Papers Foreign, Ireland and Registers of the Privy Council**

- Approx. 900,000 pages of manuscripts
- 38,000 fully-searchable Calendar entries

Part IV completes the Papers of the Stuart period and contains volumes of State Papers from, to and about all the countries of Europe. Many of these countries have lost their own collections from this period increasing the rarity and value of these British State Papers. All the great international themes of the 17th century play out in document after document making them an essential resource for not only British but European History: marriage alliances, revolutions, wars and treaties, trade and commerce and, crucially, religion.

Researchers can browse and search the letters exchanged between the monarchs and rulers of Europe, Russia and the Ottoman Empire, the reports of ambassadors and members of the trading companies, as well as treaties and other documents of trade. By disclosing European rulers’ relationships with each other and offering confidential accounts of court life as seen through the eyes of ambassadors Part IV provides researchers with exciting new avenues into exploring and understanding 17th-century international diplomacy, politics, law, religion, travel, trade and colonial expansion.

#### **Key Themes:**

- Barbary piracy
- Christian IV of Denmark and rivalry with Sweden
- Collapse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth
- End of the Dutch Revolt 1609
- English Civil War 1642–1651
- English and Scottish colonisation in the Plantations of Ireland
- European Colonisation of the Americas
- Great Turkish War 1662–1699
- Impact of Spanish Colonial wealth
- Marriage alliances
- Power struggles between Protestant and Catholic countries and states
- Scientific Revolution
- Thirty Years’ War 1618–1648
- Wars of the Three Kingdoms

#### **Series:**

The National Archives, London: PC 1, 2, 4, 6,

SP 45-47, 54, 57, 63, 64, 65-67, 71, 75-82, 84-93, 94-99, 101-106, 109, 110





Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520 © The British Library Board

*State Papers Online* is crucial for understanding the political, social, cultural, religious and economic landscape of the Tudor and Stuart periods, offering original historical manuscripts across the entire spectrum of domestic and foreign affairs. As such *State Papers Online* is a core resource for any student or researcher studying and publishing in Renaissance, Reformation, Restoration and Enlightenment studies. Institutions can purchase the series as a whole or order a part - or any combination of parts - in the series.

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